

## **Athletic Training Fact Sheet**

### **ATHLETIC TRAINING**

- Athletic Trainers are Board Certified Health Care Providers educated in the Prevention, Immediate Care, Evaluation, Treatment and Rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions related to physical activity.
- Athletic Trainers possess the skills, knowledge and abilities to care for acute and chronic musculoskeletal and neuromuscular injuries to pre and post-surgical conditions, potentially life-threatening and disabling injuries and medical conditions.
- Athletic Trainers are employed in sports medicine clinics, physician offices, secondary schools, colleges and universities and professional sports teams, hospitals, industrial/commercial settings and the military.
- 602 Certified Athletic Trainers (ATC) are in Washington State. A minority of ATC's have dual credentialing (i.e. ATC/MD, ATC/RN, ATC/PT, and ATC/CSCS).
- National salary survey shows secondary schools and college ATC's make an average of \$38,000 and an average of \$42,000 for those employed in clinical positions i.e. cost-effective.
- 44 states regulate the practice of Athletic Training-33 at the level of Licensure.

### **ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALLING**

- Individuals seeking a career in the profession of Athletic Training must attend an accredited four (4) year college or university, and complete an Athletic Training curriculum based educational program.
- Three (3) Athletic Training curriculum educational programs in Washington are Whitworth College, Eastern Washington University and Washington State University.
- Seventy (70) percent of all credentialed athletic trainers have a master's degree or higher.
- To use the title Athletic Trainer, Certified (ATC) one must pass a legally defensible, reliable and valid three (3) part (written, written simulation and practical) entry-level examination administered by a private national certifying agency-the Board of Certification (BOC).
- To retain certification, ATC credential holders must obtain 75 hours of medically related continuing education credits every three (3) years and adhere to a code of ethics.

### **THE ATHLETIC TRAINING STATUTE**

- Does not expand Athletic Trainers' practice--it defines and codifies the current practice of Athletic Training based on Athletic Training educational and credentialing standards.
- Will not mandate the hiring of an Athletic Trainer, or prevent or restrict the practices, services, or activities of any person regulated in this state from engaging in the profession or occupation for which such person is regulated.
- Athletic Trainers' would work through designated Authorized Health Care Practitioner direction
- Seeks to utilize the BOC examination as the state licensure examination. This decreases cost to the state and allows consistency with ATC's moving into or out of the state.
- Creates an Athletic Training Board consisting of four (4) Athletic Trainers and one (1) public member.
- Establishes credentialing requirements, renewals, fees and temporary practice permits consistent with RCW 18.130 and RCW 34.05 and ensures all Athletic Trainers will be subject to the Uniform Disciplinary Act (RCW 18.130).
- Sets standards and accounts for reciprocity of Certified Athletic Trainers entering into Washington State for educational purposes or work.