Appendix C: Technical Standards

University of Connecticut Athletic Training Program Technical Standards

Athletic training is a mentally, physically, and psychologically demanding healthcare profession. The University of Connecticut Master of Science in Athletic Training Program (MSAT) is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled. An objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a broad spectrum of individuals engaged in physical activity including but not limited to the following domains, risk reduction wellness and health literacy, assessment, evaluation and diagnosis, critical incident management, therapeutic intervention, healthcare administration and professional responsibility.

The technical standards set forth by the Athletic Training Program establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level athletic trainer and meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted to the UConn Master of Science in Athletic Training Program. The UConn MSAT student must be able to function effectively in various educational clinical situations and communicate effectively with peers, instructors, staff, patients, and health care team members. The following standards are essential functions, and candidates for selection to the Athletic Training Program must demonstrate:

1. The mental, emotional, and intellectual capacity to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate concepts, and problem solve to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgments and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm.

Criteria: a) At least 2 years of full-time college coursework with a minimum GPA of 3.0, b) a 3.0 in pre-requisite courses

2. Sufficient postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, and coordination to perform appropriate physical examinations using accepted techniques; and safely and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment and treatment of patients. In any case where a candidate's ability to complete and interpret physical examinations is compromised because of motor skills, the candidate must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to assess and treat patients.

Criteria: a) Completion of a standard physical and signature page by a health care provider, b) ability to perform CPR and First Aid [American Heart Association BLS Provider documented with

certification completion]. Students will complete all necessary paperwork and submit to the Office of Clinical Placement Coordination (OCPC).

3. The ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds; this includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate judgments and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the English language such that they can communicate effectively in oral and written form with all members of the health care team. Criteria: a) Satisfactory performance in the application requirements as reviewed by AT faculty. AT Faculty will consider the recommendation letters, cover letter and interview for this criterion.

4. The ability to record the physical examination results and a treatment plan clearly and accurately. Criteria: a) Satisfactory performance in the application essay

5. Affective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care. Criteria: a) Satisfactory performance as defined by recommendation letters and as reviewed by AT program faculty

The UConn MSAT student must be able to maintain composure and act in an effective manner quickly and efficiently in unpredictable acute emergency situations and therefore have:

6. The mental capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress. Criteria: a) Satisfactory performance as defined by recommendation letters and as reviewed by AT program faculty

7. Flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations. Criteria: a) Satisfactory performance as defined by recommendation letters and as reviewed by AT program faculty

In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted into the program. On occasion, reasonable accommodation may be required by otherwise qualified individual candidates to meet the technical standards specified below. Requests for accommodations will be granted if the requests are reasonable, do not cause a fundamental alteration of the Athletic Training Program, do not cause an undue hardship on the University, are consistent with the standards of the Athletic Training Program, as facilitated by the University of Connecticut Center for Students with Disabilities. For more information regarding the University's policy and procedures for accommodating students with disabilities contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building, Room 204, or via phone at 860-486-2020 or email csd@uconn.edu [website: http://csd.uconn.edu/].

Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the BOC certification exam.

**Note: The student must inform and provide documentation to the program director (Dr. Diakogeorgiou) of any changes in health status, which can impact on the ability to meet the technical standards as described above. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action. If a student experiences a change in health status, which may affect the ability to meet the technical standards as described above, they may follow the registration and accommodation request process with the Center for Students with Disabilities to determine whether they can continue to meet the technical standards as listed above.

University of Connecticut Athletic Training Program Technical Standards

Signature Page

Candidates for selection to the University of Connecticut Athletic Training Program will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards or that they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet the standards.

It is the responsibility of a student with a disability, or a student who develops a disability, who requires accommodations to meet these technical standards, to self-disclose to the University of Connecticut Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) and request accommodations. The student must provide documentation of the disability and the specific functional limitations during the registration process with CSD. In conjunction with the Athletic Training Program, CSD will help a student who states he/she could meet the program's technical standards with accommodation and confirm that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws.

The University of Connecticut will determine whether the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation; this includes a collaborative review of whether the accommodations requested are reasonable, taking into account whether the accommodation would jeopardize clinician/patient health or safety, or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all coursework, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential to graduate.

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards of selection listed above and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards, with or without accommodation. I understand my admission and continuation of this program is contingent on meeting these standards and failure to do so may deny admission or I may be separated, discontinued, or dismissed from the program

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Applicant Name (Printed)

_____ _____

Signature of Applicant