

MTSU



Clinical Student Athletic Training Manual

Clinical Assignments

All admitted students are assigned to a clinical instructor on a semester or yearly basis. Assignments are determined by NATA-CAAHEP accreditation standards. All clinical supervisors are approved clinical instructors (as of spring 2000) and have been trained through an approved course by the NATA Education Council.

Students enrolled in ATHT 3000, 3001, 3002, & 3003 must be directly supervised by their clinical instructor. When students have successfully completed ATHT 3000, 3001, 3002, & 3003 they can be indirectly supervised by their clinical instructor and assigned to a semi-independent clinical assignment.

After a student has been advised and has registered for classes, the student will complete and submit a class schedule to their clinical instructor and athletic training program director. Class schedules should not allow for class conflicts between the hours of 1:00 PM -6:00 PM Monday-Friday. Special class scheduling should be discussed and approved by the program director prior to registration.

- Each student will be assigned to a clinical instructor and setting before the start of each semester. Prior to the start of the semester or at the very latest prior to end of the first week of the semester students will be given a clinical schedule.
- All students are to report to their clinical instructor the week before classes begin to introduce themselves and to discuss their assignment with their instructor. The instructor will orient the student to the setting and will provide clinical expectations of the student.
- If a student needs time-off from their clinical assignment they must get approval from their clinical instructor. Request for time-off must be done at least one week in advance.

Fair Practice Work Act

*Student athletic trainers are not to serve in the capacity of a certified staff athletic trainer. They are not to act in the capacity of managers or secretarial support staff. They are not to be asked or expected to perform duties that compromise their educational experience.

Dress Code and Personal Conduct

Student athletic trainers will always observe good practices of personal hygiene and appearance. They will serve as role models to the athletic community in their physical health and in their daily behavior as guided by the ethics of the National Athletic Trainer's Association.

Student athletic trainers should always maintain a paramedical, professional, and working relationship with clinical instructors, athletes, coaches, and peers. Socialization with athletes during clinicals is discouraged.

Personal Conduct

- students are not to miss classes due to their clinical assignments unless previously approved by the student's individual professor/instructor
- students will only perform those duties and skills they are qualified to perform based upon their successful completion of ATHT 3000, 3001, 3002, & 3003 and the discretion of their clinical instructor
- all students will be on-time to their clinical placement wearing their athletic training attire and be prepared to begin their clinical duties.
- if a student is going to be late to their assignment they are to telephone their clinical instructor
- all students will be expected to follow the rules and regulations of the athletic training room, athletic training program and those of the clinic or sport assignment.
- there will be no bearing of weapons including knives
- students are to help the team physician when needed.

Professionalism

- students will never discuss an athlete's injury with anyone other than the athlete and athletic training staff. Never discuss the injury of one player with another player. If an athlete asks about another athlete's injury refer them to a staff athletic trainer. **WHAT YOU SEE & HEAR HERE..STAYS HERE!!!**
- never question or criticize team physicians, staff athletic trainers and other student athletic trainers in front of athletes. If you have questions choose the proper time and manner in which to ask the physician or staff athletic trainer
- never talk to the media refer them to the head athletics trainer
- never question a coaches decision concerning game strategy or practice techniques (if you have a concern with a coach, discuss it with your clinical instructor)
- do not discuss an athlete's injury or care with their parents, refer them to the head athletics trainer or your clinical instructor

Personal Appearance

- cleanliness and good personal hygiene will be a common practice
- all facial hair will be groomed and clean unless otherwise determined by your clinical instructor
- there will be no visible body piercing other than ear piercing (ear piercing woman only)
- there will be no visible tattoos unless the student is admitted into the program with an existing tattoo that is visible
- there will be no radical hair colors or hair styles

Dress Code

After a student has been successfully admitted to the program they are required to purchase a professional attire package which includes 2 polo shirts, warm-up suit, sweat shirt and medical fanny pack. In addition to the professional attire package students will be given additional clothing on a yearly basis.

*Student who are candidates for the program will be given athletic training program T-shirts that must be worn at all times during their pre-program clinical rotations.

- clothes will always be clean, pressed and in good repair
- MTSU athletic training T-shirts or polo shirts will be worn daily (if a team gives a student a shirt that shirt may be worn during practices only)
- shoes will have no holes and they will be flat bottomed (i.e.tennis shoes, loafers)
- colors of shorts/pants/sweats/skirts shall be black, khaki, brown, white, gray or blue
- no blue jeans will be worn during clinical assignments.
- shorts/skirts will be of mid-thigh length
- sock must be worn and color-coded with uniform
- only MTSU hats/caps will be worn
- no MTSU athletic training attire will be worn in establishments that serve alcohol

Event Dress Code

- students assigned or who volunteer to assist in MTSU athletic events must wear the MTSU athletic training polo shirt and MTSU athletic training shorts, sweat suit, or other dress pants, shorts, skirts as approved by your clinical instructor.
- *If a student athletic trainer is associated with an indoor event (i.e. basketball, volleyball) they may wear dress clothes as approved by their clinical instructor.
- students assigned to high school settings may wear the school or clinic polo shirt with matching pants/shorts for events

Rules when Traveling with Teams

While traveling with teams students:

- must work under the direct supervision of a certified athletic trainer either an MTSU athletic trainer or athletic trainer at host site.

- locate the host athletic trainer and introduce yourself
- report all injuries, treatments or problems to the athletic trainer or head coach with whom they are traveling
- provide a full written injury and treatment report to their clinical instructor upon return from the trip
- carry treatment authorization, treatment protocols, medical cards, important telephone numbers and insurance information
- if assistance is needed the student will ask the available certified athletic trainer or team physician
- obey all rules of the head coach they are traveling with including curfew

Special Events

Student who volunteer or are who assigned to special events outside those hosted by MTSU athletics they will:

- follow all procedures developed by the medical staff of the special event
- represent MTSU and the athletic training program in the utmost professional manner
- be on time for the event
- wear MTSU athletic training attire unless the medical staff of the event provides uniforms
- refer to themselves as a first-aid responder rather than a student athletic trainer

MTSU Athletic Training Room Rules and Regulations

- *report all injuries/illnesses to clinical instructor/head athletics trainer
- *answer the telephone in a professional manner by saying “Hello MTSU athletic training room can I help you?”
- *do not attempt to use any equipment unless you have been properly trained to do so
- *keep the athletic training room clean and tidy at all times
- *if after looking in supply room supplies are needed report it to an athletic training staff member
- *any equipment that is in improper working condition shall be reported to a staff athletic trainer
- *there will be no eating in the athletic training room

There may be times that a clinical assignment will require the student to perform duties during the weekends. Students will be informed of weekend requirements during the orientation to the clinical setting and or one week prior to the weekend assignment.

*Students assigned to high schools, clinics and other settings will follow the rules and regulations of that setting.

All student athletic trainers are subject to drug testing.

Professional Responsibilities

- students will keep current certification in CPR and First-Aid. Students who do not will not be assigned to or will be released from their clinical assignment. CPR and first-aid re-certifications will be provided by the program but students must pay a required minimal fee.

- students will attend an HBV/HIV lecture every year provided by the program. Students who do not attend these sessions will not be assigned or will be released from their clinical assignment.

Clinical Evaluations

Students will be evaluated by their clinical instructor twice during the course of their clinical assignment (mid-term and final). Students will be evaluated for their professional behavior and clinical skills. Students' clinical skills will be evaluated based upon their level in the athletic training program. The student's clinical instructor will discuss the evaluation prior to forwarding the evaluation to the athletic training program director. The student, clinical instructor and program director will get a copy of the evaluation. One time each semester the program director will meet with each student to discuss their clinical evaluation. Clinical evaluations will be counted towards part of the student's clinical grade in ATHT 3000, 3001, 3002, & 3003, summer internship and senior field experiences.

Consequences of Policy Violations

If a student does not abide by the said rules and regulations of the MTSU athletic training program the following will occur:

1st Offense: The clinical instructor will meet and talk to the student and send a letter to the athletic training program director indicating the violation.

2nd Offense: The student will meet with the clinical instructor, athletic training program director and department chair to further discuss the violations. This may result in a suspension from the clinical athletic training program.

3rd Offense: The student will be released from the clinical athletic training program.

Achievement

“Push yourself to places you’ve never been,
to achieve heights you’ve never attained.”

