Athletic Training Education Program
Pre-Professional Observation Assignment

Athletic training education is constantly evolving. In order to make new students more aware of the commitment and effort involved in becoming an entry level athletic trainer, the Athletic Training Education Program in the Department of Health Science has instituted the Pre-Professional Observation Assignment. The Pre-Professional Observation Assignment allows the pre-professional student to more fully realize the roles, duties, and responsibilities of the athletic training student in the professional phase of the program. This experience also permits the pre-professional student to meet and interact with the program’s clinical instructors and to see the wide variety of clinical experiences available.

Requirements:
All pre-professional students are required to complete a total of three days of observation at a variety of clinical sites with certified athletic trainers and senior students of the campuses of California University of Pennsylvania or Clarion University of Pennsylvania. A day consists of pre-practice/practice/post-practice or pre-game/game/post-game. The pre-professional student has the entire Spring semester to complete the observation requirement. The observation will be documented on the provided clinical observation form (see below) and while observing, the pre-professional student will complete an interview with the certified athletic trainer or senior athletic training student.

The pre-professional phase student will be enrolled on the Blackboard site under “My Organizations”. This site contains observation opportunities and contact information for the ATC’s and senior athletic training students. Any questions about the Pre-Professional Observation Assignment Policy or for additional information, please contact the Program Director.

Pre-professional students attending observations are to introduce themselves to the staff and professional phase students and take an active interest in the activities at the site.

Pre-professional students are reminded to dress in a professional manner suitable to the clinical environment of the particular setting while completing observation hours. Students will wear khaki pants or shorts, tennis shoes, and a plain or CalU/Clarion U shirt in university colors (black, red, white, or gray).

While on each observation, the pre-professional student will conduct an interview with the professional that they are observing. The required questions are listed below, as well as the student must develop five additional interview questions. Print each interview sheet to take to your observation experience. Record the interview and observation experience making sure that the ATC/senior student signs and dates the sheet. The student will then type a reflection of the interview that includes the pre-professional student’s thoughts and views on the question responses. All initial interview sheets and typed reflections will be turned in with the official ATEP application that is due in May.
Pre-Professional Student Observations

Pre-Professional Student Name___________________________________________________

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time In</th>
<th>Time Out</th>
<th>ATC/Student Name Printed</th>
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**To the ATC/Senior Student:** do not sign the observation unless the pre-professional student has completed a “day” of observation. A day consists of pre-practice/practice/post-practice, pre-game/game/post-game or a full rehabilitation session.
ATC’s Interview Questions

1. What is one thing you believe the profession of athletic training lacks and how can it be changed?

2. How do you separate work from personal life?

3. What are some ways you manage your time?

4. Have you ever dealt with a confrontational coach or athlete and if so, how did you deal with that situation?

5. If you could start as a freshman in college all over again, what would you do differently in your athletic training major?
ATC’s Interview Questions

1. What is one thing you believe the profession of athletic training lacks and how can it be changed?

2. How do you separate work from personal life?

3. What are some ways you manage your time?

4. Have you ever dealt with a confrontational coach or athlete and if so, how did you deal with that situation?

5. If you could start as a freshman in college all over again, what would you do differently in your athletic training major?
Senior Student Interview Questions

1. How do you manage your time between clinical, classes and personal life?

2. What is one thing you like about athletic training and what is being offered to you?

3. What is one thing you dislike about athletic training and how can it be changed?

4. How do you separate, if all, being an athletic training student and your personal life?

5. In what direction would you like to see the profession of athletic training head?

6. How have you begun to prepare for the certification test, if at all?

7. What advice could you give to help increase my chance of being accepted into the professional phase of the athletic training program?