

RENEWED.
RECHARGED.
READY.



Your Guide to CPC Renewal and Pathfinder

Lindsy McLean Presented with the BOC Visionary Emeritus Award

During the BOC volunteer reception at the NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo, the BOC presented a very special honor — the BOC Visionary Emeritus Award — recognizing exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication and lasting impact on the athletic training profession. Congratulations to our winner, Lindsy McLean, AT Ret.

Often called the father of certification, McLean saw what the profession needed before most realized it. In the late 1960s, when questions about standards and qualifications began to surface, McLean stepped forward not for recognition, but because it was the right thing to do.

He didn't just advocate for credentialing, he built it. He became the first chair of the Certification Committee and helped lay the groundwork for the national certification exam we know today. From that foundation grew a system of state licensure and national recognition that protects the public and the integrity of our profession. Simply put: every Athletic Trainer practicing today owes something to the vision and action McLean set in motion.

He was a pioneer, a tireless advocate and a mentor to generations. From San Jose State to the University of Michigan, to the 49ers and the 1968 Winter Olympics, McLean never stopped championing athletic training and its future.

Whether he was creating the AT Retired credential to honor the careers of veteran professionals or mentoring students who would become leaders in their own right, McLean led with humility, conviction and clarity of purpose. He never chased accolades, only progress.

McLean's work still shapes every corner of the athletic training profession. Please join us in recognizing a trailblazer whose legacy continues to elevate us all.







Mollie Pillman
Executive Director

WELCOME TO NATA'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The BOC looks forward to collaborating with Executive Director Mollie Pillman and her team to continue advancing the athletic training profession.

"I'm committed to working together to provide one strong, unified voice for the profession, representing every Athletic Trainer. When we speak and act as one team, we're most effective and can achieve great things."

- Mollie Pillman



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brian Conway, LAT, ATC

We are witnessing extraordinary progress for athletic training, not just in what we do, but in how we define ourselves as a profession. With the upcoming launch of our new certification renewal program, Continuing Professional Certification (CPC) Renewal, we've taken a bold step forward. Beyond merely a change in process, it's a reflection of a field that is renewed, recharged and ready for the path ahead.

This transformation means every Athletic Trainer will have access to a certification experience that's modern, meaningful and built to evolve with their practice. It ensures that the skills and knowledge of our professionals remain at the forefront, directly impacting the quality of care we deliver and the outcomes our patients deserve. It raises the standard for our profession as well as the communities, teams and organizations that rely on us.

None of this advancement happened in isolation. It's the result of countless hours invested by dedicated BOC volunteers, industry experts and strategic partners who shared a vision: to elevate athletic training to new heights. Together, we built a program that reflects both the science and the heart of our work, and together, we've positioned our profession for what comes next.

As we step into this new era, let's embrace a collective renewal of our purpose, a recharge of our passion and a commitment to the path ahead — one that strengthens each of us as professionals and, most importantly, enhances the lives of those we serve.

The future of athletic training is bright, and it begins now, with all of us.

With deep appreciation, Brian Conway

BOC BEGINS WORK ON PRACTICE ANALYSIS, 9TH EDITION

This year the BOC began development of the Practice Analysis, 9th Edition (PA9), a cornerstone project for the athletic training profession.

WHAT THE PRACTICE ANALYSIS DOES AND WHY IT MATTERS

The practice analysis defines the knowledge, skills and abilities expected of Athletic Trainers (ATs) entering the profession. It sets the standards of practice, outlines the domains of athletic training, includes an entry-level job analysis and reviews current literature. Beyond serving as the blueprint for the BOC certification exam, the practice analysis also guides the development of continuing education (CE) programs by identifying the most relevant content areas.

Because athletic training practice evolves, the BOC updates the practice analysis approximately every five years. This regular update ensures the exam reflects current practice and also meets the requirements of the BOC's accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

INSIDE THE PA9 DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

PA9 is led by a task force of experienced ATs who meet regularly over the course of a year. Their first task is to

develop a nationwide survey designed to measure the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for entry-level practice. This survey is then distributed to ATs to complete, providing critical input from the profession.

Once survey responses are analyzed, the task force reviews the results and recommends any needed changes to the domains, tasks or knowledge/skill statements in PA9. When the BOC board approves the new practice analysis, its findings will be used to update the BOC exam blueprint—including the weighting of domains—and inform future CE requirements.

This careful, collaborative process ensures that certification standards remain current and continue to reflect the evolving demands of the athletic training profession.

AT INPUT

Be on the lookout for the PA9 survey in Spring 2026. The BOC values your input, and if you receive the survey, we encourage you to complete it. Your feedback is vital to supporting the profession.



Complete Your CE Renewal Requirements with Confidence

Certification renewal requirements are due Feb. 2, 2026 at 5 p.m. CT.

All Athletic Trainers (ATs) must meet their certification renewal requirements by Feb. 2, 2026, 5 p.m. CT. This includes paying your 2024 and 2025 annual certification maintenance fees (plus any late fees), reporting continuing education (CE) activities, uploading a current emergency cardiac care (ECC) card/certificate and confirming the required statements in your CE reporting form.

By taking action early, you avoid last-minute stress, keep your certification secure and demonstrate professionalism. Follow this streamlined action plan to finish ahead of schedule:

LOG INTO YOUR BOC PROFILE AND CHECK THE "MY TO-DO LIST" FOR OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- Log into your BOC profile.
- Use "Pay (Year) Cert Maintenance Fee" to clear all outstanding fees.
- Select "Enter/Submit CE Activity" to access your CE reporting form. Once started, your CE reporting form will stay in a "Pending" status until submitted.
- Tasks disappear from the "My To-Do List" once they're complete.

REVIEW "STEP 1: CEU SUMMARY"

Your "CEU Summary" shows:

- Reporting period dates.
- Total CEUs due.
- Entered CEUs with real-time updates.
- A breakdown of Categories A, B, C and D.

DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR CATEGORY A CERTIFICATES

Each Category A certificate should include: your name, BOC Approved Provider name, program title, BOC Approved Provider logo, statement of credit, completion date and CEU eligibility.

- Missing the logo or statement of credit? Contact the BOC.
- Missing your name or course details? Contact the BOC Approved Provider for an updated certificate.

USE "A - APPROVED PROVIDER CE" FOR CATEGORY A PROGRAMS FROM BOC APPROVED PROVIDERS

The "Quick Entry" tool lets you quickly enter CE programs offered by BOC Approved Providers.

- Search by the specific session title (not conference name, if listed individually).
- Match certificate details exactly.
- Use the last day attended as the completion date.
- Report only the CEUs you actually participated in.

- Use 'A Other Approved CE' to add other qualifying Category A CE Click "Add" at the top.
- Select the correct "Activity Type" and continue

UNDERSTAND CATEGORIES B, C AND D

Use the "Add" button in each tab to enter programs.

- Category B: Professional and scholarly activities
- Category C: Post-certification college or university coursework
- Category D: Non-BOC Approved Provider programs

EDIT OR DELETE WITHIN EACH CATEGORY TAB

Need to make a change? Use "Edit" or "Delete" directly within the category tab where the program was entered. All Category A CEUs can be edited or deleted from the A- Other Approved CE tab.

RECHECK THE CEU SUMMARY AFTER ENTRY

Once all CEUs are entered, revisit "CEU Summary" to verify totals. If your submitted vs. applied numbers differ, check that completion dates fall within the reporting period.

KEEP "STEP 2: ECC DOCUMENTATION" CURRENT

You must maintain ongoing ECC certification during the reporting period.

- Ensure all active ECC cards or certificates are listed.
- If "Review" appears next to an entry, it cannot be edited. Add additional cards from this renewal period. Do not edit past cards.

COMPLETE "STEP 3: PRACTICE SURVEY" AND "STEP 4: CONFIRMATION STATEMENTS"

Finish both steps before heading to the "Submission Checklist" to avoid delays.

USE THE "SUBMISSION CHECKLIST" TO FINALIZE AND SUBMIT

Review the summary on the "Submission Checklist" tab.

- An "X" under Status indicates action needed—see the "Message" column for guidance.
- The "Submit" button appears only when all items are complete.
 - Form status of "Completed" means your form has been successfully submitted.

RAISE THE BAR TODAY

Completing your requirements early reflects your professionalism, protects your certification and gives you peace of mind. Don't wait—log in now, follow these tips, and finish ahead of the Feb. 2, 2026 at 5 p.m. CT deadline.

RENEWED. RECHARGED. READY.



THE NEW ERA OF RENEWAL: CPC OVERVIEW

As announced in July, the BOC will introduce Continuing Professional Certification (CPC) Renewal as a new option for maintaining certification, beginning early in 2026. CPC Renewal is more flexible, individualized and relevant to real-world athletic training practice. It emphasizes reflective, outcome-focused learning, using tools that highlight strengths, identify areas for growth and connect Athletic Trainers (ATs) with targeted educational resources.

CPC Renewal requires ATs to earn 40 continuing education units (CEUs) and participate in the Pathfinder platform regularly throughout the renewal period, completing specific criteria, including challenge questions in at least seven of eight scheduled three-month segments throughout the two-year renewal period.

LEGACY RENEWAL: A BRIDGE OPTION

All ATs will be automatically enrolled in the CPC Renewal option early in 2026. ATs certified before 2026 will have the choice between CPC Renewal and Legacy Renewal, which aligns with the current requirement of 50 CEUs. While the BOC encourages ATs to use CPC Renewal, the Legacy Renewal option will serve as a bridge for those who wish to continue on the traditional path. ATs certified in 2026 and beyond must maintain their certification through CPC Renewal, which serves as their exclusive renewal pathway moving forward.

MEET PATHFINDER: BUILT FOR ATS

At the center of CPC Renewal is Pathfinder, an interactive, personalized platform designed for all ATs. Pathfinder provides individualized guidance by combining self-reflection, challenge questions, recommended resources and structured reflection. It's flexible by design because no two ATs are alike. Each one decides where they want to go professionally, and Pathfinder helps them get there with an active and engaging path to professional development. Pathfinder assists ATs in making meaningful continuing education (CE) selections that encourage them to connect with their learning, rather than just collecting CEUs.

In 2024, the BOC conducted a large-scale pilot of the Pathfinder platform and more than 3,000 ATs participated. Participants strongly agreed that Pathfinder was effective, with over 90% finding the platform easy to use and valuable in raising awareness of strengths and blind spots.

WHY YOU'LL WANT TO TRY PATHFINDER

CPC Renewal, supported by the Pathfinder platform, shifts the focus from "counting CEUs" to making CEUs count. It's designed to be engaging, clinically relevant and adaptable to different practice settings and to you. During the pilot, ATs representing diverse practice settings and experience levels, demonstrated that the Pathfinder platform:

- Promotes self-reflection and SMART goal setting
- Improves awareness of strengths and knowledge gaps
- Provides meaningful, individualized guidance for CE selection
- Supports lifelong professional growth

Renewal is no longer just about maintaining certification, it's about elevating practice. With CPC Renewal and the Pathfinder platform, your certification becomes a launchpad for sustained growth and impact. For more information and resources, visit CPC Renewal.

Your Guide to CPC Renewal and Pathfinder

SNAPSHOT OF PATHFINDER



Pathfinder begins with a SMART Goals Questionnaire, asking ATs to set goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. This helps them reflect on career objectives, identify focus areas, and to create at least two targeted goals. This step encourages accountability and direction.



My Challenge Questions

The My Challenge Questions (MCQs) segments are the centerpiece of Pathfinder's interactive learning. Each segment contains 15 practice-based multiple-choice questions developed by AT subject matter experts, and reflects the current Practice Analysis that simulates real-world decision-making. You'll mark your answer, whether you are confident or not confident in your answer and check your answer to immediately see whether it was correct, with a detailed rationale provided. If you answered incorrectly, Pathfinder shows both the correct and incorrect rationales, allowing you to compare your thought process with best practices. This immediate feedback ensures you understand not just the correct answer, but why it matters in practice.



My Learning Path

Based on MCQ performance and goals, Pathfinder generates a timeline with a personalized learning path including curated CE opportunities and goal targets. ATs must add at least two relevant learning activities to their path (these are not required to be completed).



The final step includes a reflective survey completed near the end of the renewal period, encouraging ATs to look back on their goals and growth, documenting progress and reinforcing continuous development.



MOVES FORWARD

Highlights from the Legislative Summit



The Athletic Trainer (AT) Compact is steadily gaining momentum as organizations across the country work toward making interstate practice a reality for ATs. Designed to improve professional mobility and ensure patients have consistent access to care, the compact provides a pathway for licensed ATs to practice across member states without needing to secure multiple individual state licenses.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AT COMPACT

The AT Compact has been in development for over a year through collaboration between the Board of Certification (BOC) and the Council of State Governments (CSG). Modeled after similar health care compacts, it aims to reduce barriers to practice, strengthen workforce flexibility and respond to the needs of military families and other highly mobile populations. Early work focused on drafting legislation, gathering feedback from state regulators and association leaders and ensuring the AT Compact aligned with public protection priorities. With the final model legislation now complete, the compact is moving from concept to execution.

INSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

On August 28, 2025, the CSG hosted a Legislative Summit at the BOC headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska to present the final compact model legislation and to educate prospective state leaders and legislators about how the compact works in practice. The event marked a significant step forward in advancing the AT Compact from development to implementation.

The summit drew approximately 50–55 attendees, with representation from 23 states and Washington, D.C. Participants included state association leaders, regulatory agency representatives, state board members, legislators and representatives from the U.S. Department of Defense, CSG, National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and the BOC.

The agenda was designed to provide a clear overview of the compact and answer the most pressing questions from those tasked with enacting it. Highlights included:

- A section-by-section summary of the final model legislation
- A panel discussion featuring a compact attorney, a state regulatory executive and NATA governmental affairs leadership
- Sessions on state implementation, functionality of compact privileges and the role of a compact commission
- Exploration of data-sharing requirements and processes
- Multiple opportunities for attendee Q&A



WHAT WE LEARNED

Discussions at the Summit reinforced several key takeaways about the compact's future:

- Strong support from state association leaders: Many expressed enthusiasm for the compact as a value-added benefit that will expand practice opportunities and make licensure more efficient for ATs.
- Familiar challenges remain: Attendees raised feedback previously heard about compact requirements and state-level implementation, underscoring the importance of clear communication and planning.
- Ongoing education is essential: Attendees agreed that clinicians, state leaders
 and regulators need continued resources and training to fully understand
 how compact privileges work and how to navigate the legislative process.

BRIDGING POLICY AND PRACTICE

The AT Compact is only as strong as the states that enact it. By bringing together lawmakers, regulators and professional leaders, the Legislative Summit created a collaborative space to ensure consistent understanding and build momentum toward adoption. The event served as a bridge between the finalized model legislation and real-world implementation, equipping legislative leaders with the knowledge and resources they need to advocate for and apply the compact in their states.

LOOKING AHEAD

With the model legislation complete and education efforts underway, the focus now shifts to state-level action. As more states introduce and pass compact legislation, ATs will be better positioned to provide care across borders, benefiting both the profession and the patients they serve. At least seven states must join the compact before it can be implemented.

To stay updated on the compact's progress and resources available for state leaders, visit the AT Compact website or the BOC website.





NEED TO MAKE SENSE OF HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS? BOC DID JUST THAT

Volunteers are the backbone of the BOC. From exam development to various committee work, their contributions ensure that Athletic Trainers are supported and professional standards are upheld. In recent years, the BOC has taken deliberate steps to improve the volunteer experience by making it easier to participate, being more transparent and better aligning the program with the needs of both volunteers and the organization.

One key challenge the BOC faced with the Volunteer Engagement Program was visibility. With more than 500 volunteers across multiple pathways and committees, it can be challenging for staff and leadership to identify who is engaged, where expertise is concentrated and what opportunities exist for growth. Volunteers, in turn, sometimes lacked clarity on how their skills and interests best aligned with the organization's needs.

To address this, the BOC introduced an improved system for tracking and matching volunteer involvement. The goal was not just to simplify logistics, but to make volunteering for the BOC more meaningful. Today, opportunities are easier to find, expectations are clearer, and the pathways for growth—from one-time tasks to leadership roles—are more defined.

The improvements have also led to stronger connections. By creating a clearer picture of who is involved and how, the BOC can more thoughtfully recognize contributions, support representation across its volunteer base, and ensure that individuals are placed in roles that match their expertise and availability.

The result is a volunteer experience that feels more intentional and rewarding. BOC volunteers know their time is well spent, and the BOC benefits from a more engaged and better-supported community of professionals dedicated to advancing the field.



The NATA and BOC are launching a new self-paced
Secondary School Mental Health
Preparedness Microcredential

Launches December 1

Register Today

MEET THE BOC VOLUNTEERS

The BOC would like to take this opportunity to thank all BOC volunteers who serve as BOC board members, committee, task force, work group members and exam item writers. The BOC welcomes volunteers from a variety of backgrounds. Visit the BOC website to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the BOC.

Joshua Honrado, DAT, ATC, CSCS, RYT is currently the leader of the Review Team for the My Challenge Questions (MCQ) Item Writing project for Pathfinder (a component of Continuing Professional Certification (CPC) Renewal that begins in 2026). He has also served as a member of the Professional Goals Appraisal work group and the Knowledge Check-In task force. Dr. Honrado is currently practicing as a Clinical Specialist at Harkness Center for Dance Injuries at NYU Langone Health.

Describe your employment setting:

Since 2015, I have served as a clinical research Athletic Trainer (AT) at the Harkness Center for Dance Injuries at NYU Langone Health, where I work closely with a diverse patient population in performing arts, providing injury evaluation, risk management and performance support while engaging with interdisciplinary health care teams. This environment allows me to apply evidence-based practice daily while also mentoring students and young professionals.

Name the group(s) you participate in as a BOC volunteer and how long you've participated.

I began my volunteer journey with the BOC in 2021 as part of the Knowledge Check-In task force. In 2023, I transitioned to the Professional Goals Appraisal work group. Subsequently, I became a MCQ Item Writer, where I have continued to volunteer in writing and reviewing questions for the Pathfinder tool. Each transition has given me a deeper appreciation for the breadth of work that supports the growth and sustainability of the athletic training profession.

What is the best or most rewarding part about volunteering with the BOC? The most rewarding part of volunteering is knowing that the time, energy and lived experiences I contribute directly impact the future of the athletic training profession. Whether through writing, reviewing or collaborative discussions, I am reminded that our collective efforts help shape continuing education, elevate standards and ensure that ATs remain leaders in patient care.

How do you see the work of your group impacting the profession as it supports the launch of CPC and Pathfinder?

The CPC Renewal and Pathfinder tool represents the evolution of our profession's commitment to lifelong learning. The work of these groups helps ensure that ATs remain current with best practices, advance their clinical reasoning and continue to distinguish themselves within the larger health care landscape. In doing so, we help secure the relevance and recognition of the athletic training profession in an evolving health care system.

How has your experience volunteering at the BOC influenced you?

Volunteering with the BOC has been eye-opening. It has deepened my respect for the strategic vision and education required to move our profession forward. Personally, it has expanded my professional network, challenged me to think beyond my immediate setting and reinforced the pride I feel in being an AT. Most importantly, it has reminded me that each of us has a role to play in advancing the athletic training profession for future generations.



Joshua Honrado, DAT, ATC, CSCS, RYT

NEW BOC APPROVED PROVIDERS

The ACL Athlete

American Society of Shoulder and Elbow Therapists (ASSET)

Arizona State University - College of Health Solutions - Hydration Science Lab

Blissfullyinbalance

Communit Health Network Sports Medicine

Complete Concussion Management

Cook Children's Medical Center

Courage Project

CrossFunction Sports Massage

Academy

Dignity Health Sports Medicine

Fitness Pain Free

Global Physio Training

Headquarters Health Inc.

Healthcare Live Institute

High Performance Basketball Symposium

Ignite Phyzio & Sports Performance

Innovative CEUs, LLC

Inside Edge Continuing Education

Ithaca College-Athletic Training **Education Program**

Knox Orthopaedic Clinic Therapy

Kuhler Technologies

Laurus Athletic Rehab and Performance

Megin John

Mercy Health (formerly Humility of Mary Health Partners)

Mission Sports Medicine

MORE Foundation

MOTUS Specialists Physical Therapy, Inc

Move It B Physical Therapy

OrthoCollier

Patriot League

Physio Network

PT Yoga Institute

Pura Health

REFLEX RELEASE LLC

Rebecca Rushton

Spalding University

Speedworks Training

Sports Medicine & Emergency

Education

Sportsmith

Steadman Hawkins Clinic - Denver

Swift Lifesaving Practices, Inc.

Terrebonne General Health System

Dr. Elizabeth Thompson

Torrentia Medical Training

Jennifer Tirillo

University of Houston

University of Virginia

Upskill Clinical Education LLC

World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy

FEATURED BOC APPROVED PROVIDER



ArmCare.com

Matt Unthank, MS, CSCS

The BOC regularly features BOC Approved Providers for notable efforts to enhance its continuing education programs for Athletic Trainers (ATs). Featured organizations follow the guidelines set forth by the BOC. Director of Training and Education Matt Unthank, MS, CSCS from ArmCare.com shares his organization's experience.

Why does your organization choose to participate in the BOC Approved Provider Program?

At ArmCare, our mission is to revolutionize the way overhead athletes, particularly baseball players, are assessed, trained and protected from injury. ATs are central to that mission, and the BOC Approved Provider Program allows us to deliver high-quality, accredited education that advances this work. Being part of the program enables us to champion a new, evidence-based approach, while helping ATs develop the specialized skills and confidence to manage the demands of overhead athletes.

How have the BOC standards and guidelines for BOC Approved Providers impacted your program development and administrative processes to offer continuing education programs for ATs?

The BOC standards have provided both structure and accountability. By following their guidelines on learning objectives, assessments and evaluation, we've enhanced how we design and deliver programs. For ArmCare, that means ATs can trust that our education is not only research-driven but also structured in a way that maximizes learning and application.

How do you design your curriculum to help participants improve outcomes in the patients they serve?

Our curriculum begins by identifying the unique challenges that ATs face in caring for overhead athletes. From there, we integrate the research with our hands-on experience working with elite pitchers, professional organizations and youth athletes. The result is education that provides ATs with both the scientific foundation and the actionable strategies they need to improve arm health, durability and performance.

What advice do you have for organizations looking to be on the cutting edge and maintain compliance as they develop education programs?

Our advice is to stay rooted in evidence while always bridging it into practice. Clinicians don't just need theory; they need tools that address the daily challenges they face with athletes. By combining practical field experience with the structure of BOC standards, organizations can deliver education that is rigorous, credible and trustworthy, while pushing the field forward with new ideas and perspectives.

ARTI Athletic Therapist Earns BOC Certification Via the International Arrangement

Christopher Dolan, ATC, CAT began his career by earning his credential through the Athletic Rehabilitation Therapy Ireland (ARTI). He began practicing as a clinic-based athletic therapist at Element Health Fitness Performance, a strength and conditioning gym/therapy provider in Dublin, Ireland. He also provided pitch-side care across the greater Dublin area to a wide variety of teams and sports, from high-level soccer to senior-level Gaelic football.

After relocating to the U.S. and earning BOC certification, Dolan now works as an outreach Athletic Trainer (AT) for JAG Physical Therapy. In this role, he travels to various colleges, high schools and events throughout New Jersey to provide athletic training services.

Why did you decide to take the BOC certification exam?

I decided to take the BOC exam so that I could continue to work and expand my athletic training/therapy career while living in the U.S.

What was the BOC exam process and experience like?

The exam credentialing process itself was not as difficult as I expected it to be. I was able to utilize the BOC support email, which helped to clarify my questions and aid in my preparation. As far as the specific exam experience was concerned, it was a very long and detailed exam. The difficult part for me was the topics relating to sports that are not generally played in Ireland such as American football or ice hockey specific questions. However, there were a lot of great resources online that helped me prepare.

Where will you practice now that you have earned the BOC certification? My goal is to continue working with JAG Physical Therapy. After that I intend to work in the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area either in a sports medicine role for a collegiate or professional team, or in a sports-specific outpatient clinic. I am particularly interested in working to reduce injury in high-performance athletes.

How will this impact your career in the short term and long term?

In the short term, it will allow me to gain experience and exposure to the athletic training field in the U.S., which is quite different from Ireland in a variety of ways. In the long term, this will give me greater knowledge of American sports and the preferred treatment options for patients here. Additionally, with this knowledge, I will have a wide range of skills to use with my patients as I can use my experience from Ireland and the U.S. to provide the best possible care.

What do you see as the benefits of the International Arrangement for ATs? First and foremost, ATs are always needed, so allowing more ATs to work in a variety of areas will increase the number of athletes who have access to emergency first aid and athletic training services. Another important benefit is that it expands the freedom of ATs to work in different countries and gain experience in a variety of settings that are not always available where we are educated.



Christopher Dolan, ATC, CAT



SPECIALTY COUNCIL **MEMBERS**

Mike Hudson, PhD, LAT, ATC

AT Member and Council Chair Springfield, MO Professor of Sports Medicine and Athletic Training at Missouri State University

Allen Hardin, ATC, PT, MSPT, SCS, BCS-O, CSCS

Board Certified Specialist Member Chief Medical Officer at the University of Texas at Austin Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

Tara McConohy, MS, LAT, ATC, OTC. BCS-O

Board Certified Specialist Member Menomonie, WI Athletic Trainer with Ochsner Health

JJ Wetherington, MS, LAT, ATC, BCS-O

Board Certified Specialist Member Boise, ID Clinical Athletic Trainer with St. Luke's Health System

James Kinderknecht, MD

Public Member Chapel Hill, NC Retired Physician at the Hospital for Special Surgery

Orthopedic Specialty:

The BOC has achieved two significant milestones that advance the orthopedic specialty within the athletic training profession. The Board-Certified Specialist in Orthopedics (BCS-O®) credential has been granted a five-year accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and established a new Specialty Council to oversee and strengthen specialty certification programs.

NCCA ACCREDITATION SETS BCS-O® APART

Accreditation is an independent review process that evaluates a credentialing program against defined standards. Programs that meet these standards earn formal recognition, signifying quality and credibility.

For credentialing organizations, accreditation:

- Demonstrates to the profession and public that the program meets rigorous
- Enhances legitimacy through impartial, third-party oversight.
- Provides a clear answer to "Who reviewed your certification program?" —a question often posed by employers, peers and courts.

"NCCA accreditation signifies that the BOC has met rigorous standards, validating the BCS-O® credential as the benchmark in orthopedic specialty," said Shannon Fleming, MA, ICE-CCP, AT Ret., Senior Vice President of Credentialing at the BOC. "This third-party accreditation serves as evidence that the orthopedic specialty certification program was developed and is maintained in accordance with best practices within the certification industry."

High-quality certification validates an individual's knowledge, skills and abilities, reduces risk, enhances public safety and helps employers identify professionals with proven competencies. Certified individuals also benefit from increased recognition, improved employability and advancement opportunities, greater confidence in their professional competence, more workplace autonomy and, often, better compensation and career longevity.

The orthopedic specialty exam is offered in February and September each year. More information on the BCS-O® and eligibility is available here.

Earns NCCA Accreditation and Announces Specialty Council

NEW SPECIALTY COUNCIL PROVIDES OVERSIGHT

To support the continued growth and integrity of specialty certifications, the BOC has formed a Specialty Council. This five-member body—comprising at least three board-certified specialists and one public member—will oversee the credentialing of Athletic Trainers (ATs) who demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills and abilities in their areas of specialization.

The council will work with strategic partners to evaluate the value and impact of specialties and specialty certifications. Responsibilities include oversight of eligibility standards; policies for initial and maintenance certification; disciplinary determinations; exam development, administration and scoring; and selection of subject matter experts.

Members were chosen for their experience with oversight boards inside and outside the fields of orthopedics and athletic training, as well as for their commitment to supporting the orthopedic specialist community, building relationships and fostering leadership. Additional information on the Specialty Council is available here.

ORTHOPEDIC SPECIALTY 2026 Exam Deadlines

	APPLY	REGISTER	SCHEDULE	EXAM	RESULTS
FEB*	Now*-1/15 (5 p.m. CT)	1/16 (9 a.m. CT)- 1/26 (5 p.m. CT)		2/13-2/22	3/23-4/6
AUG*	Now*-8/13 (5 p.m. CT)	8/14 (9 a.m. CT)- 8/24 (5 p.m. CT)		9/11-9/20	10/26-11/9

^{*}BOC reserves the right to make changes as needed

[^]Approximate date of when scheduling email will be received from Meazure Learning

IN-DEPTH LOOK



Dillon Campbell, MS, LAT, ATC, NREMT, PES, CES







Assistant Athletic Trainer for the American Hockey League

Dillon Campbell, MS, LAT, ATC, NREMT, PES, CES is an assistant Athletic Trainer (AT) and massage therapist for the Milwaukee Admirals. He has been a certified AT since 2018.

Describe your setting:

I work in the American Hockey League, which serves as the primary developmental league for the National Hockey League. We are the affiliate of the Nashville Predators, so you can think of it as the AAA version of professional hockey. Day in and day out, I work with elite professional athletes and a staff that operates at the highest level. The environment demands precision, adaptability and commitment to excellence, which makes every day both challenging and rewarding.

How long have you been practicing as an AT?

I graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 2018 with my degree in athletic training. Afterwards, I received my AT certification and have been practicing ever since. During my time at Miami University, I obtained my Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification and worked with the Oxford Fire Department. I still maintain my EMT certification to this day. Following Miami University, I received my master's in exercise science with a dual concentration in injury prevention and sports performance from California University of Pennsylvania.

Over the years, I've gained experience across a wide range of settings from professional hockey, baseball and soccer to rodeo, high school sports and special events, including things like motocross and roller derby. Each environment has helped shape me into a well-rounded clinician, giving me the ability to adapt my skills and approach to meet the unique needs of every athlete. This summer, I completed my massage therapy education at U.S. Career Institute and look forward to incorporating that into my practice.

Describe your typical day:

A standard practice day usually starts with me arriving at the rink around 7 a.m. I'll spend the first hour preparing the athletic training facility, setting up the bench and getting ready for the athletes to arrive. Once players begin coming in, my focus shifts to pre-practice treatments including manual therapy, recovery work and getting guys ready to perform.

As practice beings, I often work with players who are not participating due to injury. This is when I spend significant time on rehab, working hand-in-hand with our strength and conditioning coach. My role leans heavily toward manual treatment with modalities like dry needling, TECAR therapy and shockwave along with clinical rehab tools such as blood flow restriction, postural restoration and corrective exercise, while the strength coach helps athletes rebuild strength and conditioning as part of their return-to-play progression.

After practice wraps up, I provide post-practice treatments for players, ranging from recovery modalities to hands-on therapy. Once the athletes head out, I'll spend another hour or so cleaning, documenting and handling administrative tasks to close out the day before leaving around 3 p.m.

My mornings on game days look similar to a practice day, pre-practice treatments, setting up the athletic training facility and preparing athletes morning skate. Things tend to move quickly, especially if we're coming off a back-to-back game, since recovery and preparation become the focus. Players head home mid-day for their pre-game routines, which gives me a short window for lunch and rest before I return to the rink by 3:30 p.m. From there, it's pre-game prep, including setting up the bench, ensuring our equipment and treatment space is set up and getting players primed to perform at their peak.

Before games, I'll often connect with our team physicians and physical therapists, discussing the progress of players dealing with longer-term injuries and where they are in the return-to-play process. I also make sure I connect with the visiting team for our pre-event medical meeting, and to catch up as well. It's during this time that I am able to really connect with the other health care professionals involved in our player's care and form relationships with them, which is crucial to providing well-rounded care. Most of the time, these doctors, physical therapists and other ATs become mentors and friends outside of the rink.

During the game itself, my role is about readiness: watching, waiting and responding if anything happens. Post-game is typically the busiest stretch. For about 60-90 minutes, I'm providing treatments, addressing new injuries, and helping players recover. Once cleanup and documentation are done, it's usually close to 11:30 p.m. before I leave the rink.

What do you like about your position? What motivates you?

One of the things I enjoy most is that no two days are ever the same. I never know exactly what I will be walking into when I arrive at the rink, and that variety keeps me sharp, engaged and never complacent.

What motivates me most are the athletes themselves. They are pursuing their dream of competing at the highest level, and that pursuit demands everything of them mentally, physically and emotionally. Their dedication challenges me to bring my best every day as well. They cannot afford to take a day off, and neither can I.

What is your greatest achievement as an AT?

I consider myself fortunate to have two achievements that stand out for very different reasons. Leading the medical team that successfully resuscitated Bill Lee, a Savannah Bananas player who went into cardiac arrest. Moments like that remind me of the gravity and importance of what we do.

Seeing three of my former athletic training students, whom I've had the privilege of mentoring as their preceptor, follow in my footsteps and become professional hockey ATs themselves is another achievement that I'm proud of. Knowing that I've contributed to shaping the next generation of ATs is as rewarding as any medical accomplishment.

What advice do you have about your practice setting for a new AT looking at this setting?

My advice is simple but vital: never stop learning. This profession is constantly evolving, and your ability to adapt and grow will define your success. Even when I'm not at the rink, I'm studying techniques, treatment methods and recovery modalities that I can apply to help my athletes perform better and recover faster.

Whether I'm out fishing, or on the golf course I'm always looking and thinking of ways to expand my toolkit. The more you invest in your knowledge and skills, the more impact you'll have on the athletes you serve.







BOC News in Brief

BOC Recap of the 76th NATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Orlando

From June 25-26, the BOC exhibited at the 76th National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Orlando. The BOC staff were there to answer questions and connect with convention attendees at the BOC booth. Prizes were awarded to visitors who participated in the booth drawing. Congratulations to our winners! Thank you to all who stopped by the BOC booth.

Congratulations to BOC 2025 Volunteer Service Award Honorees





The Board of Certification (BOC) is pleased to announce its 2025 volunteer service award winners:

- Mike Carroll MEd, LAT, ATC Dan Libera Service Award
- Joe Lueken, MS, LAT, ATC Paul Grace BOC Leadership Award

Both of this year's award recipients are dedicated BOC volunteers, leaders and contributors to the athletic training profession.

The Dan Libera Service Award recognizes individuals for their dedication to the mission of the BOC. Award winner Carroll, currently head athletic trainer/assistant athletic director for Graham Independent School District in Texas, has made long-standing contributions to the BOC as a committed volunteer in various roles spanning over two decades. His leadership has shaped key initiatives supporting the BOC's mission, vision, values and strategic plan, and his contributions have directly influenced credentialing on a global scale. From his early role as a test site examiner to his tenure as vice president of the BOC Board of Directors, Mike's steady commitment and integrity have left a lasting mark. He served on multiple high-impact committees, led international collaboration efforts and helped establish the Orthopedic Specialty Certification and Practice Analysis, 8th Edition. Mike's ongoing work with international partners such as WFATT and JATO exemplifies his commitment to global credentialing excellence. Through every role, Mike has modeled commitment to and advocacy for the AT profession, fully embodying the values the Dan Libera Award represents.

The Paul Grace Leadership Award honors individuals who demonstrate strong vision, leadership, friendship and mentoring abilities that help cultivate future BOC leaders and programs. Recipient Lueken, senior assistant athletic director and head athletic trainer at Indiana University, Bloomington, is recognized for his exceptional leadership and lasting impact on the BOC's mission. Over his many years of service with the Exam Development Committee (EDC), Joe has consistently demonstrated visionary leadership, integrity and a deep commitment to excellence in certification. From item writer to EDC chair, Joe's thoughtful mentorship, innovative ideas and steady guidance have shaped the exam development process and elevated the standards of the profession. He was instrumental in enhancing item writer training and broadening volunteer engagement while fostering a collaborative and respectful environment. Joe's ability to lead with both compassion and professionalism exemplifies the spirit of this award.

On June 26, the BOC Board of Directors and staff hosted a volunteer reception to honor BOC volunteers and to present volunteer service awards. Carroll was present to accept his award. Lueken was honored later during the July Exam Development Committee meeting in Omaha, Nebraska.

"Let's ChAT: an Athletic Therapy Podcast" Features a Global Panel to Discuss the International Arrangement

Listen now to session 145 of the official podcast of The World Federation of Athletic Training & Therapy (WFATT). In this session of "Let's ChAT: an Athletic Therapy Podcast" (available to listen to on Apple Podcasts and Spotify), a global panel answers the question: What is the International Arrangement (IA)? The distinguished panel included BOC Senior Vice President of Credentialing Shannon Fleming, among other professionals in the athletic training community.

The podcast discusses what it means to be an Athletic Trainer/Therapist around the globe and how this can lead to international work, collaboration and growth of the profession. The panel provides details on how to navigate the IA, which countries are currently connected through the IA and how it serves the athletic training/therapy profession around the world.

For more information, visit the WFATT website.



Beyond With NATA: Join or Renew Today

Take your career, knowledge and connections beyond with National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). Join today or renew your membership by Dec. 31 to continue accessing the resources and community that keep Athletic Trainers (ATs) at the forefront of health care. Your membership fuels your growth through:

- Career development tools, such as those in the NATA Career Center
- Continuing education opportunities, including more than 200 CEUs and 150 courses in NATA EducATe that are included in your membership at no cost
- Access to essential resources, including the Inter-Association Collegiate Standard of Care Toolkit, NATA News and the Journal of Athletic Training
- Efforts that advance the profession and support your right to practice, no matter your setting

Renew or join today at the NATA website.

NATA and BOC Offer New Microcredential

NATA and the BOC have partnered on a new microcredential: the Secondary School Mental Health Preparedness microcredential. This is a self-paced program that equips ATs in the secondary school setting with essential knowledge and practical strategies to recognize, respond to and plan for mental health challenges among student athletes. The microcredential will be available in December. Preregister through Nov. 30 for the best price. The cost for NATA members is \$120 through Nov. 30 and \$175 starting Dec. 1. The cost is \$500 for non-members. Learn more about the Secondary School Mental Health Preparedness microcredential on NATA EducATe at the NATA website.

Follow @MyNATABeat on X

Stay up to date with the NATA Government Affairs Department by following @MyNATABeat on X (Twitter). Launching this spring, @MyNATABeat provides real-time updates on advocacy efforts that matter to the athletic training profession. Follow along for state, federal and regulatory updates along with insight on the bills we support, the NATA Political Action Committee and other projects associated with the NATA Government Affairs Department.

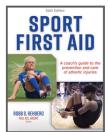
Check Out the NATA Member Resource Library

Are you looking for an NATA resource but aren't sure where to start? Visit the NATA Member Resource Library. Since the library launched in 2023, it has provided members a more streamlined way to find resources within NATA's extensive database. Members can filter searches by keyword, resource type, topic or year. The library currently features 250 resources and will continue to arow as new resources are created.

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The BOC tracks state and federal regulatory actions affecting the athletic training profession. Visit the BOC website to view the full list of legislative bills that affect Athletic Trainers (ATs) and BILLTRACK50.com to track the legislation listed below.

Connecticut HB06557 - Establishes a student loan forgiveness program and recruitment and retention incentive program for licensed Athletic Trainers (DEAD) Delaware HB225 - Athletic Trainers Block Grant - These funds shall be allocated proportionally to districts and charter schools serving grades 9-12 with athletic programs and be used to employ 10-month Athletic Trainers. (PASSED) Georgia HB314 - Updates laws regarding ATs revising key definitions and requirements Indiana HB1185 - Establishes a Rural Athletic Trainer Support Program (DEAD) Louisiana HB272 - Updates definitions and regulations of Athletic Trainer professional qualifications, responsibilities and legal standing. (DEAD) Massachusetts H2465 and \$1541 - Updates the practice act Maine LD1290 - Updates AT practice act (PASSED) Minnesota HF82 and \$F962 - Clarifies Athletic Trainer scope of practice New Jersey S317 - Updates practice act (PASSED) Nevada SB78 - Eliminates several existing boards and commissions, consolidating their duties into newly created bodies, and transfers the appointment authority for many board members from the Governor to other state officials or department directors (DEAD) New York A02643 - Permits licensed Athletic Trainers who are licensed to practice in another state or territory to provide athletic training services to athletes and team personnel North Carolina Rhode Island H5486 and \$0321 - Requires training in the administration of epi-pens (PASSED) H5490 and \$0320 - Requires all school districts to designate an AT at each high school (DEAD) Vermont S0030 - Update and reorganize health insurance (PASSED) H0139 - Requires ATs in secondary schools Washington H81868 - Expands access to Athletic Trainers in schools H8126AD) B1626AD) B175 - Establishes WV Secondary School Athletic Trainer and Career Technical Education Program Act, which aims to place AT in all public secondary schools by July 1, 2031 (DEAD)	Summary of bills	and regulations currently being monitored by the BOC
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Monitor legislative bills that affect ATs with the Bill Widget under State Regulators on the BOC website. Click on Legislation to see current bills.

BOC STATE REGULATION ACTIVITIES

Professional Certification Coalition

The BOC has been a Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) member since 2018 and continues to advocate for private certifications. See the full Summary of Sixth Year Accomplishments and Prospectus for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition

Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition advocates for beneficial workforce development policy that would strengthen the economy now and into the future.

Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation

The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) 45th Annual Educational Conference was held in Chicago, Illinois, from September 15-18. For more information about CLEAR visit CLEAR website.

Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards

The Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Summit on Regulatory Excellence was held in Denver, Colorado, from July 24 - 26. For more information about FARB visit the FARB website.

New Federal Law Expands Use of 529 Plans to Include Qualified Expenses on Credentialing Programs

Congress recently passed the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act as part of a broader overhaul of the tax code, incorporating the bill into the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Thanks to the powerful advocacy of the Professional Certification Coalition and ASAE's Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition, and the support of its other members including the BOC, 529 Career Savings Plans can now be used to pay for professional licenses and certifications.

As of July 4, 2025, a major change to federal law allows individuals to use 529 Plan funds to pay for many credentialing and licensing expenses. This new flexibility means ATs and athletic training candidates may look for guidance on whether state fees qualify.

Traditionally, 529 Plans were tax-advantaged savings accounts for college tuition. Contributions grow tax-free, and withdrawals for qualified expenses aren't taxed. Many states also offer additional benefits such as tax credits.

Under the new rule, 529 funds may be used to cover:

- Exam fees for certification, licensing or certification renewal.
- Tuition or fees for approved training or preparatory programs.
- Required books, supplies or equipment.
- Continuing education fees necessary to maintain a credential.

This directly affects candidates pursuing or maintaining BOC certification, state licensure and other approved credentials.



PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND DISCIPLINE

Unlicensed Athletic Trainer Practice: A Growing Concern

The BOC has seen an increase in reports of candidates practicing athletic training without state licensure or BOC certification. Across the U.S., the practice of athletic training is strictly defined and regulated, with many states prohibiting unlicensed individuals from representing themselves as Athletic Trainers (ATs), performing athletic training services or using the ATC® credential.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Unlicensed individuals are often employed under titles like "first aider," "first responder," "clinical assistant" or "sports medicine aide." These roles may lead to situations where individuals inadvertently or knowingly engage in actions considered the practice of athletic training, which are acts that go beyond the scope of providing first aid or that of a first responder.

For example, candidates have been reported to the BOC after being observed:

- Making referral decisions after taking a medical history in non-emergent situations.
- Performing injury evaluations.
- Making return-to-play decisions for high school athletes.
- Performing skin checks before wrestling matches.
- Acting as a designated medical provider at sporting
- Reducing dislocated joints.

These actions fall within the scope of athletic training services and are prohibited for candidates without the necessary licensure or certification.

When applying and registering for the BOC exam, candidates agree to and are expected to comply with the "BOC Standards of Professional Practice." Code 3.2 requires compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations related to athletic training. Violating these standards, whether intentionally or not, can have serious consequences. BOC Candidates should not portray themselves as an AT, use the ATC® credential, or engage in the practice of athletic training until they have been granted BOC certification and/or applicable state licensure.

RISKS OF UNLICENSED PRACTICE

Practicing athletic training without a license or certification can result in significant professional and legal repercussions, including:

- **Disciplinary Action**: Fines or other penalties imposed by state regulatory agencies.
- Delayed/Denied Certification: Violations may result in delay of, or potential denial of BOC exam eligibility or further disciplinary action taken by the BOC upon being granted certification.

HOW CANDIDATES CAN STAY COMPLIANT

To avoid jeopardizing their future as an AT, they should follow these key steps:

- Know the Rules: Familiarize themselves with their state's practice act and the "BOC Standards of Professional Practice." Some states offer a temporary license for a limited time period for individuals who are eligible for the BOC exam.
- 2. Avoid Misrepresentation: Refrain from portraying themselves as an AT or performing athletic training services unless they're licensed and certified
- Stay Informed: Visit the BOC State Regulation website for detailed information about their state's specific laws and requirements

Unlicensed practice undermines the profession's integrity and puts patients' health and safety at risk.

ATHLETIC TRAINER CERTIFICATION 2026 Exam Deadlines

	APPLY	REGISTER	SCHEDULE	EXAM	RESULTS
JAN	Now*-12/8	12/5-12/17	12/23-1/15	1/3-1/17	2/2-2/16
MAR/APR	Now*-2/23	2/20-3/4	3/10-4/2	3/21-4/4	4/20-5/4
MAY/JUN*	Now*-4/27	4/24-5/6	5/12-6/4	5/23-6/6	6/22-7/6
JUL/AUG*	Now*-6/29	6/26-7/8	7/14-8/6	7/25-8/8	8/24-9/8
OCT*	Now*-9/8	9/4-9/16	9/22-10/15	10/3-10/17	11/2-11/16

^{*}Must be enrolled/registered in final semester/quarter prior to graduation

APPLY

Candidates must complete the exam application no later than 5 p.m. CT on the exam application deadline date for the exam window they want to sit for. Applications received by the current application deadline date are processed within two days of the current exam window.

Candidates who submit the application after 5 p.m. CT on the exam application deadline date will not be eligible to sit for the current exam window. The BOC will process exam applications after registration closes for the current exam window.

REGISTER

Applications must be approved in order to register for the exam. Candidates must complete and pay the exam fee on "AT103: Exam Registration" in your BOC profile no later than 5 p.m. CT on the exam registration deadline date. ADA accommodation requests must be received by the BOC no later than 5 p.m. CT on the registration deadline date.

SCHEDULE

Candidates who registered and paid for the current exam window will be sent an email from Meazure Learning the day scheduling opens. The email will include a link, username and password details. Candidates will utilize this information to log into the Meazure Learning website to schedule their exam site, date and time Candidates should add_candidatesupport@meazurelearning.com to their list of approved senders so important messages do not get sent to their spam folder.

ARTI Certified Athletic Rehabilitation Therapists may schedule an exam in Ireland, Canada and United States. University Camilo José Cela (UCJC) candidates may schedule an exam in Spain, Canada or United States. Graduates of a CAATE-accredited athletic training program may only schedule an exam in Canada or the United States. Any request to change an exam site may result in additional fees.

EXAM

The BOC exam is administered at Meazure Learning testing centers during two-week testing windows.

RESULTS

Within two to four weeks from the last day of the exam window, candidates will be sent an email from the BOC notifying them exam results have been posted online. Candidates will be instructed to log into their BOC profile to see their updated status. Visit the "Transition from Candidate to AT" page for more information.

BOC Holiday Closures

Thanksgiving November 27 - 28, 2025

Winter Holiday December 24 - 26, 2025

New Year's Day January 1 - 2, 2026

Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 19, 2026

Good Friday April 3, 2026

Memorial Day May 25, 2026

Juneteenth June 19, 2026

Independence Day July 3, 2026

Labor Day September 7, 2026