Clinical Education - Master of Science in Athletic Training

Philosophy and Goals of Clinical Education

Clinical education experiences are designed to maximize the student's abilities to apply newly acquired clinical examination, assessment, and intervention skills in athletic training practice settings. The University depends upon the clinical sites to provide carefully supervised learning experiences through which the student has the opportunity to apply the principles learned in the classroom. The clinical site is also a highly conducive environment to develop professional attitudes, values, and ethics; seek practitioner role models; and observe and participate in administrative, managerial, and clinical research spheres. The problem-solving approach should form the basis of these experiences.

The student, with the preceptor as a guide, should have the opportunity to gather all relevant information about the patient through examination and assessment; establish goals based on the assessment, and plan an appropriate intervention program to attain these goals. Inherent in this approach is a concern for the individual student's needs. The clinical preceptor should evaluate the student and communicate recognized strengths and weaknesses, as the student strives for excellence in performance as an athletic trainer.

The clinical education experiences shall help prepare the student to attain the following goals:

a. to develop safe, logical, and effective clinical examination, assessment, and intervention skills in a variety of athletic training practice settings.
b. to develop effective skills for lifelong learning.
c. to develop a strong sense of professional values that fosters an ethical approach to athletic training.

The clinical education experiences are designed to prepare students to meet these goals by exposure to a variety of athletic training practice settings and increasingly complex levels of patient care.

Supervised clinical experiences are integrated into the framework of the total curriculum. That is, students have the opportunity to be enrolled in courses specifically related to the goals of the clinical education progression at that specific time. In turn, the student will have the opportunity to build upon knowledge gained during the current experience, integrating such knowledge into future academic and clinical components of the curriculum.

Clinical Education Experience Hours Requirements

Students in the Master of Science in Athletic Training program must complete a minimum of 1080 hours of supervised clinical education experiences under the direct supervision of a clinical preceptor. The program clinical education coordinator monitors compliance with this requirement.

Clinical education experiences occur at on- and off-campus sites. Students are responsible for transportation and any other costs associated with their participation in off-campus clinical experiences. Most clinical experiences occur within a 60-mile radius of the campus.