

General Information and the Examination Format

GOALS OF THIS TEXT

The purpose of the *Sixth Edition* of this book is to be a comprehensive review of previously learned material that will assist the candidate in highlighting his or her individual strengths and weaknesses, as related to the domains of athletic training and associated subjects. The *Sixth Edition* features a variety of changes that reflect current trends in academic testing, patient evaluation, and critical thinking. It also serves to help a student prepare for final examinations within an athletic training educational program.

It is the intent of the authors to present a text that will act as an **adjunct** to material distributed by the students' own academic faculty or that information presented in a review course in preparation for the BOC exam. It is designed strictly to be a self-evaluative tool. The authors have kept the structure very similar to prior editions to make it easy for the candidate to understand. This text is not meant to be a "practice" BOC exam and has been formatted in such a way to be user friendly and thought provoking. It is not designed to exactly mimic the BOC exam in either content or presentation.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLYING FOR THE BOC EXAM

The National Athletic Trainers' Association Executive Committee for Education (NATA-ECE) was originally formed by the BOC to monitor the curriculum and field

experiences provided by those schools offering athletic training programs. It was this committee's responsibility to ensure that all programs designed to prepare students to become certified athletic trainers met and maintained the academic and clinical standards set by the BOC. The NATA-ECE is charged with setting the guidelines for the academic and clinical education of those students enrolled in accredited athletic training programs as well as ensuring improved patient care using an evidence-based practice approach to patient care.

Since it is not within the scope of this manual to include all of the current policy changes being made by the NATA-ECE regarding athletic training education, nor is it the intent of the authors to have this manual used as a complete source of these changes, it is best to obtain information pertaining to these developments directly from the NATA-ECE if you have specific questions or concerns.

Those candidates who are eligible to take the BOC exam must have completed a program of study in athletic training that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). A CAATE-accredited athletic training program is divided into 2 components: didactic education and clinical experience. The didactic education component incorporates academic courses or academic credit that meets the requirements of the CAATE guidelines. These courses are designed to teach the athletic training student the clinical skills of the profession and provide a venue in which he or she may practice those skills. It has been recommended by the NATA-ECE that these courses provide an academic syllabus and/or a clinical instruction manual that outlines the educational