

TO: Senate Council

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Submitted September 23, 2020

RE: Request for modification of Academic Calendar: MS in Athletic Training

This is a request for approval to modify the University Senate approved Academic Calendar to a nonstandard calendar for the Spring 2021 semester. We request approval to modify the semester start date to January 4, 2021 for the course, **AT 641: Clinical Experience in Athletic Training II**, with an end date of May 14, 2021 (no spring break observed).

This is a one-time request for modification of the University Senate approved Academic Calendar to a nonstandard calendar for this course. However, while addressing how to accommodate student experiential needs in response to COVID-19, the faculty realized there is benefit to students in terms of opportunities for a variety of clinical placements with a nonstandard calendar and may submit a proposal requesting a permanent nonstandard calendar at a later date.

Rationale: The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) accreditation standards (<https://caate.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2020-Standards-for-Professional-Programs-copyedited-clean.pdf>) require students to complete graduate level clinical education experiences throughout the graduate curriculum (Standards 9 and 10) within a minimum of two years (Standard 14), include at least one immersive experience (Standard 16) within a logically sequenced curriculum (Standard 15). Additionally, these athletic training clinical experiences need to involve a varied patient populations such as: across the lifespan, of different sexes, varying levels of activity, and those that participate in non-sport activities within an actual practice setting (Standard 17) and must be supervised by a Preceptor (an athletic trainer or a physician, Standard 31) and allow the students to gain experience with patients that have a variety of health conditions commonly seen in athletic training practice (Standard 18).

COVID-19 has created uncertainty in athletic sports and settings suitable for students to meet these accreditation requirements. Sports can be delayed, paused or otherwise interrupted, thereby jeopardizing students' ability to meet the accreditation standards as well as get the practical, hands-on clinical experience required for them to develop necessary competencies. We request a non-standard calendar for AT 641 in order to (1) lengthen the spring semester to increase opportunities for our students to complete the required clinical experience hours according to accreditation expectations and (2) create the opportunity for students to be assigned to settings in which team practice and competition schedules begin in the week of January 4th. Assignment to these settings will be possible by synchronizing the spring semester calendar with that of the winter sports teams, which continue to occur outside of the approved Spring 2021 academic calendar. Our students will be placed with Preceptors in sports such as basketball, gymnastics, etc. who provide healthcare services to athletic teams that complete practices and continue to compete through the winter. They will not be able to fully participate in these clinical experiences or accumulate the required experiential hours without a nonstandard calendar for this course or have the increased time built into the schedule to adjust for any interruptions or restrictions that may occur due to COVID-19.

The proposed nonstandard calendar for Spring 2021 semester does not have the potential to violate SR 5.2.2, specifically in relation to student load.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let us know if you have any questions.

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