

Athletic Therapy Program's Response to the Review Team Report

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Introduction

The Bachelor of Science in Athletic Therapy Program faculty appreciates the efforts of the Review Team to evaluate the program. The team identified several strengths of the program including a clearly defined mission statement, a well-planned and regularly reviewed curriculum, clearly identified learning outcomes that are measured on a regular basis, the quality of the full-time and adjunct faculty, and the facilities, technology, and equipment in the AT classrooms. We believe that the team's findings will serve to further strengthen the Athletic Therapy program.

Identified Concerns and Weaknesses

The Review Team noted several concerns, each of which are addressed below:

1. Hire additional advising staff
 - a. The current academic advisor is shared with all programs in the Department of Health Promotion and Human Performance. The Chair of the Department is aware of increased enrollments in the department, across all most program areas, as well as the additional load that this has created for the department's academic advisor. Last spring the department hired a second secretary. Both secretaries now schedule all advisement appointments with the academic advisement coordinator. There was also an agreement made with department faculty and the advisement coordinator, in April of 2013, that difficult cases such as those involving transfer students would be handled by the program director rather than the advisement coordination. The department chair, in consultation with program faculty when needed also does all the transfer articulation. This is a workload off the advisement coordinator. The Department Chair is currently exploring ways to add either a 50/50 part-time hourly student worker or other additional part-time advisement support. As needs are viewed in light of all the department needs, a vision and plan for the upcoming years will be communication to the Dean of the college.
2. Better communication regarding pre-requisite courses for the various graduate professional programs.
 - a. The Athletic Therapy program director met with the academic advisor regarding this issue. The Academic Advisor is currently working on developing a detailed list of common pre-requisites for graduate programs such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician's assistant, and medical school. The list should be completed by the end of the Summer 2014 semester. However, students will continue to be informed that pre-requisites can vary significantly from one program to another, even within the same discipline.
3. Most full-time faculty teach overload every semester
 - a. As mentioned in the report, the department has hired a fifth, full-time AT faculty member who will begin teaching in the Fall 2014 semester. This will alleviate some of the overload of the full-time faculty. However, several of the AT faculty choose to teach overload for extra income that it provides and will likely continue to do so.

4. Hire an Athletic Training laboratory coordinator.
 - a. Currently, the department budget does not allow for the hiring of this position. The faculty are exploring ways to justify the creation of this position and/or ways to fill it at a lower cost such as an hourly position for a qualified athletic trainer.

5. Establish a formal external committee
 - a. The AT faculty have begun exploring the formation of an external advisory committee. One faculty member has agreed to take the lead on this project and will develop a list of potential committee members for approval by the rest of the AT faculty. Tentatively, the committee will consist of all AT faculty, the program's medical director, and a preceptor from each clinical site category (high school, clinic, university, etc.) The potential committee members will then be contacted to determine their willingness to serve. We anticipate having the AT faculty meet with the committee once per year, anticipating that our first meeting would occur near the end of the Spring 2015 semester.

The AT faculty will continue to seek ways to improve the Athletic Therapy Program to ensure the success of the students in this major. It is anticipated that suggestions for refining the curriculum will be generated through discussions with the external advisory committee in 2015.