

CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM

FIRST AID PROVIDER POLICY

ATHLETIC TRAINING STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of a Castleton State College Athletic Training Student (ATS) during an unsupervised field experience (First Aid Provider).

When completing a clinical field experience at CSC or at an affiliate site of the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP), the athletic training student will be directly supervised by a Clinical Instructor (CI). Direct supervision is defined as the constant visual and auditory interaction between ATS and CI. Therefore, the CI is available on location to physically intervene in an emergency or educational experience. When a student is directly supervised by a CI, he/she may perform any athletic training skills that have been taught and evaluated in a didactic course. Students however may never perform athletic training skills when they are not directly supervised. It is foreseeable that students may occasionally find themselves in an unplanned unsupervised situation. An example of this might be the brief period of time when the CI is taking a bathroom break. Another example of a longer period of time in an unsupervised clinical experience would be if the student voluntarily chooses to travel with a team to an away contest. In an unsupervised clinical experience, the student is required to follow this First Aid Provider Policy.

All athletic training students must maintain current certifications in first aid and CPR for the Professional Rescuer. Students will initially obtain these certifications by successfully completing the Emergency Care and Personal Safety course. The student is required to recertify in CPR for the Professional Rescuer annually, and update his/her portfolio with a current copy of the CPR card annually.

While an ATS is functioning as a First Aid Provider he/she shall NOT accrue ATEP required field experience hours.

Within the terms of this First Aid Provider Policy the student is limited to performing the following functions:

1. Conduct a brief injury assessment to determine the need for splinting, bracing, or crutch use for safe disposition of the injury and subsequent referral.
2. Provide basic first aid care to open wounds, abrasions, lacerations.
3. Use Universal Precautions and proper bio-hazard preventive methods.
4. Provide if needed splinting and immobilization techniques prior to activation of EMS system.
5. Provide if needed CPR and other acceptable life-saving techniques (AED).
6. Provide immediate referral to appropriate medical help (ATC or EMS) or facility (Athletic Training Room or Emergency Room).
7. Be trained on protocols to activate local EMS personnel.
8. Provide if needed taping, bracing or wrapping techniques to secure a wound or injury, or to support a preexisting injury according to the athlete's documented treatment protocol.
9. Provide assistance with stretching techniques.

When unsupervised, a student CANNOT:

1. Apply modalities other than ice.
2. Perform an evaluation, other than for first aid or emergency referral.
3. Initiate, change, or progress a rehabilitation plan.
4. Make decisions about the disposition of an athlete (including return to play decisions).

When in an unsupervised situation, and an injury occurs:

1. Treat the injury with first aid skills only.
2. Refer the athlete at the first available opportunity to a host certified athletic trainer.
3. If traveling, the COACH has the ultimate authority for whether an athlete can play or not.

Athletic Training Student Travel Policy

Educational Objectives for ATS Travel:

1. To provide students with an experience in the administration and organization of team travel.
2. To allow students to learn how to pack and prepare for team travel and improvise when necessary during team travel.
3. To provide students with the opportunity to observe the structure and function of other collegiate health care settings.
4. To provide students with a real world setting for using professional communication skills (i.e. introducing yourself, locating the ATR, establish host EAP procedures, etc.).
5. To provide students the opportunity to observe professional behaviors and practices of other collegiate athletic professionals.
6. To allow students to observe and discuss the pros and cons of other health care systems encountered through travel.
7. To enrich the educational process through the experience of new sites, patients, and professionals.
8. To foster networking skills and opportunities for students that may translate into graduate assistantships or jobs.

If an Athletic Training Student chooses to accompany a team to an away contest, they fully understand they will serve as a first aid provider limited to the above listed duties acting under the authority of his/her first aid/CPR certification. If an injury occurs outside the normal first aid responsibilities at an away contest the athletic training student must defer to the host ATC for assistance. Any hours working as a first aid provider while traveling are voluntary and will not be counted towards the mandatory 800 clinical field experience requirement to complete the ATEP.

I have read and understand the contents of this document, the duties and responsibilities of a First Aid Provider and the Student Travel Policy, and will limit my actions to those that are appropriate for each situation. I also realize that I am not obligated to serve in the capacity as a First Aid Provider.

Student

date

Program Director

date