Oregon State University seeks Board approval to offer an instructional program leading to a B.S. in Athletic Training.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY – B.S. IN ATHLETIC TRAINING

1. **Describe the purpose and relationship of the proposed program to the institution’s mission and strategic plan.**

   The purpose of this proposal is to convert an existing Bachelor of Science degree program from being an option within a major into being a major of its own. At present, Athletic Training is an option within the Exercise and Sports Science major. The Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) has recently mandated that all accredited athletic training education programs be an academic major titled **Athletic Training** and that students completing the major earn a formal degree in Athletic Training. In addition to converting the status of the Athletic Training degree program from an option to a major, the Athletic Training curriculum has been revised to ensure that the major will be in compliance with the University’s newly implemented Academic Systems Guidelines on minimum program graduation rates and class sizes. As will be described below, the timing and structure of the clinical educational experiences have been revised to permit admitting a larger cohort of students into the sophomore year of the program, which will increase enrollments in major-specific courses and the number of students who graduate in the major.

2. **What evidence of need does the institution have for the program?**

   OSU’s Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) has been accredited since 1973, making it one of the oldest in the country. No other Oregon University System institution has an accredited undergraduate ATEP. Despite strong student interest in the program, OSU is unable to accommodate all students that apply because accrediting standards require each student to be directly supervised by a Certified Athletic Trainer in their clinical education placements. Since there are a finite number of clinical education placements available (at OSU, Western Oregon University, and four area high schools), each cohort class must be limited in size. To increase the number of students admitted in each cohort class from 20 to 25 when there is no ability to increase the number of placement sites, the curriculum has been revised to concentrate the clinical educational experiences in the junior and senior years, rather than distributing them across all three years of the ATEP, as is currently done.

   Students in athletic training attain the entry-level educational competencies and clinical proficiencies necessary to take and pass the certification examination offered by the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification and embark on careers as
Certified Athletic Trainers. Certified Athletic Trainers play an important role as trained health-care providers who can evaluate, treat, and rehabilitate athletic injuries. Program graduates gain employment in a wide variety of venues, providing direct sports medicine patient care for professional, college, and high school athletic teams, and in hospitals and outpatient physical therapy clinics, among others. Furthermore, with the growing public health concern about the lack of regular physical activity by the vast majority of our population, Certified Athletic Trainers are qualified to prescribe exercise programs for individuals of all ages and physical capabilities.

3. **Are there similar programs in the state? If so, how does the proposed program supplement, complement, or collaborate with those programs?**

   No other OUS institution has an accredited undergraduate ATEP.

4. **What new resources will be needed initially and on a recurring basis to implement the program? How will the institution provide these resources? What efficiencies or revenue enhancements are achieved with this program, including consolidation or elimination of programs over time, if any?**

   No new resources will be needed.

All appropriate University committees and the OUS Provosts’ Council have positively reviewed the proposed program.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMITTEE**

The OUS Provosts’ Council recommends that the Board’s Academic Strategies Committee authorize Oregon State University to establish an instructional program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training, effective Fall 2010. With Committee approval, a five-year follow-up review of this program will be conducted in 2015-16.

(Committee action required.)