






**TO:** The Professional Practice Committee

**FROM:** Douglas E. Lentivech  


**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment of Section 79-7.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Education Requirements for Certification as a Certified Athletic Trainer

**DATE:** August 31, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**  

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents amend Section 79-7.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the education requirements for certification as a certified athletic trainer?

### Reason for Consideration

Review of policy.

### Proposed Handling

The proposed rule will be presented to the Professional Practice Committee for recommendation and to the Full Board for adoption as a permanent rule at the September 2017 meeting of the Board of Regents. A copy of the proposed rule is attached. Supporting materials are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

## **Procedural History**

The proposed amendment was discussed by the Professional Practice Committee at the May 2017 Board of Regents meeting. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making was published in the State Register on May 24, 2017 for a 45-day public comment period. The Department received no comments on the proposed amendment. Therefore, an Assessment of Public Comment is not required and no changes to the proposed amendment are recommended at this time.

## **Background Information**

Athletic training is the application of the principles and procedures for managing athletic injuries, which includes preconditioning, conditioning, and reconditioning activities. Certified athletic trainers work under the supervision of licensed physicians to provide services to individuals who have suffered athletic injuries. Certified athletic trainers manage athletic injuries and illnesses such as sprains, strains, contusions, and postsurgical reconditioning.

Currently, under section 79-7.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, there are two pathways that applicants for certification as a certified athletic trainer can choose to satisfy the education requirements. Pursuant to section 79-7.2(a) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, pathway one requires the applicant to present satisfactory evidence of completing a program in athletic training leading to the baccalaureate degree, its equivalent or a higher degree that is either registered by the Department pursuant to section 52.27 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, or accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, or the equivalent of such a registered or accredited program.

Under section 79-7.2(b) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, pathway two requires the applicant to present satisfactory evidence of completing a program, other than a program described in section 79-7.2(a) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, that leads to the baccalaureate degree, its equivalent or a higher degree, and includes or is supplemented by didactic course work and clinical experience that meet the requirements to become certified by an acceptable United States certifying body at the time such course work and clinical experience are completed, provided that the following requirements are met: (1) the applicant has completed at least 1,500 hours of clinical or work experience in the practice of athletic training, as defined in Education Law §8352, that provided the applicant with an equivalent type of experience to the clinical experience obtained in a practicum offered within a program of athletic training registered pursuant to section 52.27 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education; and (2) the applicant has completed at least 12 semester hours or its equivalent of postsecondary course work at a level that is equivalent to that offered in a program registered pursuant to section 52.27 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education in the professional athletic training content area, as defined in section 52.27(a)(3) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education; and (3) the applicant has completed at least nine semester hours or its equivalent of postsecondary course work at a level that is equivalent to that offered in a program registered pursuant to section 52.27 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of

Education in the human biological and physical sciences and social and behavioral sciences content area, as defined in section 52.27(a)(2) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

However, since promulgation of section 79-7.2 in the 1990s, the athletic training profession's standardized education and national certification requirements have evolved to the point where the education requirements of pathway two no longer reflect the national education standards for certification as a certified athletic trainer. Presently, in order to sit for the national certification examination and achieve national certification, individuals must have a baccalaureate degree in athletic training or higher, in addition to other requirements. However, as detailed above, pathway two allows individuals who do not have baccalaureate degrees in athletic training to meet the education requirements for New York certification as a certified athletic trainer, if they have a baccalaureate or higher degree, and meet other specified requirements.

Additionally, after years of analysis, leaders of the key athletic training organizations nationally represented in the Athletic Training Strategic Alliance, have recently decided to change the national certification requirements to a master's degree in athletic training. The Athletic Training Strategic Alliance includes the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), the NATA Research & Education Foundation (NATA Foundation), the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), and the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (BOC). This new educational standard for national certification becomes effective in 2022.

Due to the aforementioned changes in the athletic training profession, there is a potential risk that, by continuing to allow individuals with a baccalaureate degree in programs other than athletic training to obtain New York State certification, New Yorkers who receive services from such individuals might receive a lower standard of care than they would receive from an individual who obtained New York State certification under pathway one and/or from individuals licensed or certified in other states or under the national certification standards.

The proposed amendment to section 79-7.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education addresses this situation by eliminating, by July 1, 2022, pathway two for certification as a certified athletic trainer.

Moreover, today, virtually all applicants for certification as a certified athletic trainer in New York are certified under pathway one, which requires applicants to be educated in a program in athletic training leading to the baccalaureate degree, its equivalent or a higher degree that is either registered by the Department or accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, or the equivalent of such a registered or accredited program. In fact, since 2012, no applicant has obtained certification as a certified athletic trainer in New York State under pathway two. Therefore, the proposed amendment's elimination of pathway two, by July 1, 2022, is not anticipated to impact demand for registered athletic training programs in New York State. Similarly, the proposed amendment's elimination of pathway two is expected to have little or no impact on higher education institutions that do not have registered athletic training programs, and their students who may aspire to become athletic trainers, because, as

stated above, few if any applicants have applied for certification as a certified athletic trainer under this pathway in several years and there is no indication that this trend will reverse itself. Thus, the proposed amendment's elimination of pathway two is expected to have little or no impact on the number of certified athletic trainers in New York State.

The proposed amendment's elimination of pathway two, which is already rapidly becoming obsolete due to changes in the athletic training profession, would enhance public protection by ensuring that, as of July 1, 2022, all applicants for certification as certified athletic trainers meet the current national education standards for such certification. The five-year phase-in period for the elimination of pathway two will help ensure that any individuals who are currently in the process of obtaining certification under this pathway will have an opportunity to do so. However, based on the information above, at this point in time, there may be few, if any, such individuals impacted. As of July 1, 2022, all applicants for certification as certified athletic trainers will be required to satisfy the education requirements of pathway one, which requires applicants to present satisfactory evidence of completing a program in athletic training leading to the baccalaureate degree, its equivalent or a higher degree that is either registered by the Department, or accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, or the equivalent of such a registered or accredited program.

### **Related Regents Items**

May 2017: Proposed Amendment of Section 79-7.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Education Requirements for Certification as a Certified Athletic Trainer.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That subdivision (b) of section 79-7.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education be amended, as submitted, effective September 27, 2017.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

If adopted at the September 11-12, 2017 Regents meeting, the proposed rule will take effect on September 27, 2017.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 207, 6504, 6507, and 8355 of the Education Law

Section 79-7.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, as follows:

79-7.2 Education requirements.

To meet the professional education requirements for certification in this State, the applicant shall present satisfactory evidence of completing:

(a) a program in athletic training leading to the baccalaureate degree, its equivalent or a higher degree that is either registered by the department pursuant to section 52.27 of this Title, or accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, or the equivalent of such a registered or accredited program; or

(b) a program, completed before July 1, 2022, other than a program described in subdivision (a) of this section, that leads to the baccalaureate degree, its equivalent or a higher degree, and includes or is supplemented by didactic course work and clinical experience that meet the requirements to become certified by an acceptable United States certifying body at the time such course work and clinical experience are completed, provided that the following requirements are met:

(1) the applicant has completed at least 1,500 hours of clinical or work experience in the practice of athletic training, as defined in section 8352 of the Education Law, that provided the applicant with an equivalent type of experience to the clinical experience obtained in a practicum offered within a program of athletic training registered pursuant to section 52.27 of this Title; and

(2) the applicant has completed at least 12 semester hours or its equivalent of postsecondary course work at a level that is equivalent to that offered in a program

registered pursuant to section 52.27 of this Title in the professional athletic training content area, as defined in section 52.27(a)(3) of this Title; and

(3) the applicant has completed at least nine semester hours or its equivalent of postsecondary course work at a level that is equivalent to that offered in a program registered pursuant to section 52.27 of this Title in the human biological and physical sciences and social and behavioral sciences content area, as defined in section 52.27(a)(2) of this Title.