



**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:** April 27, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**   


## SUMMARY

### Issue for Discussion

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 discussion at the May 2017 meeting of the Board of Regents.

### Procedural History

It is anticipated that a Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on May 24, 2017. A copy of the proposed rule is attached. Supporting materials for the proposed rule are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

## **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 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 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.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for adoption at the September 2017 Regents meeting, after the publication of the proposed amendment in the State Register and expiration of the 45-day public comment period required under the State Administrative Procedure Act. If adopted at the September meeting, the proposed amendment would become effective 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.