

APPENDIX J

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training at UNC Greensboro

Introduction

UNC Greensboro requests authorization to establish the Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) degree effective August 2008.

Program Description

The proposed Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program has been offered as a graduate concentration area for the past four years and earned initial accreditation in 2003 by the Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education and will undergo review for continuing accreditation in 2007-08. The proposed MSAT is a 46-credit hour degree program designed for individuals seeking eligibility to take the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification exam for credentialing certified athletic trainers. Athletic training is an allied health care profession specializing in preventing, recognizing, managing, and rehabilitating injuries that result from physical activity.

Program Need

A strong societal need exists for certified athletic trainers (ATCs) in high school and collegiate athletic settings. On a local level the NC Department of Public Instruction requires that all high school football practices and games have a qualified health care provider on site to provide athletic training services. However, according to the NC Athletic Trainers' Association Secondary Schools Committee only 70 public high schools in NC employ athletic trainers. At the college level, the NCAA's Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports encourages all NCAA institutions to critically evaluate the adequacy of their medical coverage, with the implication that new employment positions will continue to develop in college and university settings. There has been an average of 60 student inquiries about the program each year since 2003 and an average of 25 applications for the graduate concentration a year. It is anticipated that 20 full-time students will be enrolled by the fourth year of the program.

Resources

Faculty, courses, and facilities are already in place to offer the degree program. As noted above, it is already offered as a graduate concentration.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the UNC Greensboro request to establish the Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) degree (CIP 51.0913) effective August 2008.