

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) ABOUT ATHLETIC TRAINING LICENSURE

The athletic training licensure bills (Senate Bills 957 / 967) were signed by Governor Corbett on December 22nd, 2011 as Acts 123 and 124. These Acts officially became law on February, 20th, 2012 recognizing athletic trainers officially as LICENSED health care professionals within the Commonwealth.

Why was athletic training licensure important?

Licensure for athletic trainers (ATs) was needed in Pennsylvania in order to best protect the public. Licensure is recognized as the most restrictive form of professional and occupational regulation. Under certification, the state grants title protection to persons meeting predetermined standards but those individuals without certification may still perform the duties of the occupation. They cannot however, use the AT title. Under licensure laws, it is illegal for a person to practice a profession without first meeting state standards.

Further, Pennsylvania was 1 of only 4 to be regulated through certification. Athletic training remained the only health care provider group under the Pennsylvania State Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine who was “certified” and not “licensed”. Licensure has put ATs up to par with other comparison health care groups.

What do Athletic Trainers need to do to comply with the new licensure credential?

It is imperative that all ATs must have an active state license to practice athletic training services in PA. The PA Department of State does NOT offer a grace period when applying for a state license. Thus, ATs may not practice in Pennsylvania if they do not have a Pennsylvania license or they will be subject to fines through the PA Department of State.

ATs applying for their initial credential will also need to apply for their Pennsylvania Athletic Trainer License with the State Board of Medicine / Osteopathic Medicine. The application can be found here: [LINK TO PA APPLICATION](#)

Renewing ATs will continue to apply for their Pennsylvania Athletic Trainer credential through the State Board of Medicine / Osteopathic Medicine at the Pennsylvania Department of State website <http://www.dos.state.pa.us>

What credentials should Athletic Trainers use?

The proper presentation of credentials list degrees first, licenses next and finally credentials; for example, Jane Snow, PhD, LAT, ATC. The credential ATC/L should absolutely NOT be used. This is because the BOC has a license from the NATA to protect the federally trademarked “ATC” credential, and they are vigorous about prosecuting violators. They do not want individual ATs to “corrupt” the credential by use of appellations such as “ATC/L”. That would be equivalent to taking the brand name “CocaCola” and modifying it to “CocaColaSUPER” to mean something else. To read more about Proper Treatment of Degrees, Licenses, and Credentials click here ([LINK TO STORY](#))

What should Athletic Trainers call themselves?

PATS feels it is very important that ATs publicized that we are LICENSED health care professional so we encourage the term Licensed Athletic Trainer. Is it still correct to use the term Certified Athletic Trainer. As a reminder, it is NATA's policy to NOT use the ATC acronym as a noun. ATC is an acronym that describes a credential, not a person, and it should only be used following the name of a certified individual. Using the ATC acronym as a noun inhibits the Board of Certification's ability to protect the ATC credential against misuse. In other words, NATA and the BOC cannot protect the copyright on the ATC mark if it becomes known as a common noun. Therefore; whenever describing a Certified Athletic Trainer with an acronym it should be AT and not ATC.