

**An Explanation of Probationary Accreditation Status  
of the BS in Athletic Training  
at Southeastern Louisiana University**

March 30, 2016

**The BS in Athletic Training at Southeastern is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The program has been placed on Probation as of February 19, 2016 by the CAATE, 6850 Austin Center Blvd., Suite 100, Austin, TX 78731-3101.**

Southeastern Louisiana University has offered a BS in Athletic Training since 2002. Accreditation was initially obtained October 18, 2002, and the current accreditation extends until 2017. Over this time, we have attracted students throughout the region interested in studying athletic training, and graduated on average 10+ students each year, the majority of whom become certified athletic trainers and work in the field.

**Number of Athletic Training graduates in each academic year since 2008.**

Each academic year includes summer, fall, and spring.

2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
13	5	8	12	10	16	16

**Board of Certification (BOC) results**

To be a certified athletic trainer, one must graduate from an accredited program, and pass the Board of Certification (BOC) Athletic Trainer’s Certification Examination. Each university with an accredited program receives a report indicating how many of their graduates took the exam, and how many passed during the testing interval from April of one year through February of the following year.

Passing rate of first time candidates: One set of scores reflects the passing rate of first time candidates.” The Table below shows our scores for the past few years.

<b>Table 1 First time candidates and passing rate</b>	2009- 2010	2010- 2011	2011- 2012	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016
Number of students who took the exam for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time	11	9	7	12	10	16	14
Number of these who passed	7	6	5	9	9	7	11
Percent who passed	63.6%	66.7%	71.4%	75.0%	90%	43.8%	78.6%
3-year aggregate 1 <sup>st</sup> time pass rate				71.4%	79.3%	65.8%	67.5%

Passing rate of all candidates: Beginning in 2013, the report also provided data reflecting the total number of graduates from SLU who took the exam and the percent who passed. Our data indicate:

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Overall BOC results</b>	2009- 2010	2010- 2011	2011- 2012	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016
Total number of students from SLU who took the exam					11	20	14
Number of these who passed					9	11	13
Percent who passed					81.8%	55.0%	92.9%

Three-year aggregate accreditation standard: Beginning July 2013, the accrediting agency for athletic training adopted a standard that programs must seek to achieve a three-year aggregate (average) first-time BOC passing rate of 70% or higher. As shown above in Table 1, our first-time passing rate on the BOC Exam has improved over the years, and has been above the 70% mark each year since 2011, except for one year. The first time passing rate for 2014-2015 was notably lower than other years, and caused our 3-year aggregate to drop below the 70% standard. As a result, the program has been placed on Probation as of February 19, 2016 by the CAATE.

As a result of this probationary status, we are required to: (a) announce this change in accreditation status on publicly accessible documents, (b) notify current students of this change, and (c) submit a progress report to CAATE explaining steps we will take to improve our scores. This change in accreditation status will not negatively affect our students. We will continue to offer the BS in Athletic Training at SLU, and graduates of the program will continue to be eligible to take the BOC Exam and become certified athletic trainers.

We have taken, and continue to take steps toward improving our BOC test scores and first time passing rate. These strategies paid off in 2015-2016, and we anticipate our scores will continue to surpass the 70% standard. Once our 3-year aggregate reaches 70% or higher, our accreditation status be upgraded. Some specific components of our action plan include:

- Stabilizing our faculty, increasing the number of athletic training courses taught by full-time faculty, and increasing the number of full-time athletic training faculty;
- Increasing the number of observation hours required for admission into the program;
- Changing the curriculum (modifying some courses, creating other new ones) to better align the program with accreditation standards and desired learning outcomes; and
- Helping students review and prepare for the exam (e.g., taking practice exams, having group study sessions).

If you have questions about our Athletic Training program or wish to discuss what was presented here, please contact the Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies.

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