

Indiana State University Student Health Center

Report of a Collaborative Project to Enhance Clinical Skills on the part of Athletic Training Students

Background

The Commission of Accreditation for Athletic Training Education requires that programs provide a general medical clinical experience to all admitted students. A general medical clinical experience is one that involves observation and interaction with physicians, nurse practitioners, and or physician assistants where the majority of the experience involves general medical topics.

The primary learning outcome of the general medical clinical experience is:

"To demonstrate a general and specific (e.g., head, torso, and abdomen) assessment for the purposes of (a) screening and referral of common medical conditions, and (b) treating those conditions as appropriate. Effective lines of communication should be established to elicit and convey information about the patient's status and the treatment program. While maintaining confidentiality, all aspects of the assessment, and determination for activity should be documented."

To provide a clinical learning experience for Athletic Training students, the ISU Student Health Center, the department of Athletic Training, and the ISU Student Health Center Medical Director entered into a program of collaboration during the spring semester of 2007 to establish clinical training protocols for students. Specific expectations of the clinical experience from both student trainees and the Health Center medical staff were articulated as follows.

Expectations of Student Trainees

Notify assigned clinical instructor prior to the beginning of the clinical rotation to arrange reporting times for the first day of each rotation.

Meet with the Clinical Instructor to review goals and objectives, reporting times and schedules.

Have academic and work schedules available and notify clinical instructor of any absences in advance.

During the semester, a minimum of 200 hours of clinical experience must be accumulated.

The majority of clinical experience must be completed under the direct supervision of the assigned clinical instructor.

Report to work promptly, dressed appropriately with ISU Athletic Training shirt and neutral colored shorts/pants and nametags.

Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the clinical site.

Act in a professional manner; it is important to remember how clinical trainees represent Indiana State and the Athletic Training program.

Initiate the final meeting with the clinical instructor near or at the end of the clinical rotation to review evaluation.

Complete Verification of Hours form at the end of each month and submit to instructor at the next class period following the end of the clinical week.

Complete an anonymous Student Evaluation of Clinical Instructor form.

Ask questions at appropriate times and be prepared to be challenged.

Absorb knowledge and be "teachable."

Take advantage of opportunities that present themselves to practice clinical proficiencies in the clinical environment under the direct supervision of the clinical instructor.

Expectations of Clinical Instructors

Meet with trainee at the beginning of each rotation to discuss goals and objectives, expectations, reporting times and schedules, and emergency plan.
 Provide constant visual and auditory interaction between the trainee and the instructor.
 Facilitate mentoring opportunities with all athletic training students.
 Provide daily supervision with multiple opportunities for evaluation and feedback.
 Assure compliance with trainees' compliance with departmental policies and procedures.
 Manage clinical hours to not exceed 20 hours per week.
 Sign using appropriately noted credentials on the monthly time sheet for Verification of Clinical Hours Completed.

To measure students' perception of program efficacy, each trainee was asked to complete the "Anonymous Student Evaluation of Clinical Instructor Form" and submit it to the course instructor at the conclusion of the clinical experience. Students were asked to use the following scoring matrix:

- Excellent
- Good
- Adequate
- Needs Improvement
- Poor
- Unacceptable

The following table presents results of the student evaluations. A total of 7 students completed evaluations in the middle and end of the fall and spring semesters. The mean averages reported below was computed using both mid-semester and end of semester evaluations to provide better understanding of the students' perspective at four distinct points in their clinical experience.

Criterion	Mean
Communicates what is expected of students	1.22
Assists students in understanding their professional responsibility	1.22
Demonstrates respect for the student	1.22
Praises student when he/she has done well	1.33
Helps students identify their own learning style	1.33
Displays motivation to make students interested	1.22
Is a good role model for students	1.22
Is accessible and approachable	1.11
Provides opportunities for students to practice both technical and problem solving skills	1.33
Discusses practical application of knowledge and skills	1.22
Provides helpful feedback	1.11
Is willing to admit when he/she does not know	1.0

Demonstrates skills	1.22
Displays confidence	1.11
Interacts well with others (coaches, parents, administrators, athletes)	1.11
Gives guidance in new and or difficult situations	1.55
Listens attentively	1.33
Assists students to see alternatives	1.33
Asks stimulating questions of students	1.00
Manages clinical emergencies well	1.11
Is patient with the students	1.22
Helps student recognize his/her own errors	1.00
Overall, how do you rank this clinical instructor?	1.22

