

# Educator Forum Highlights

Donald Fuller, PhD, ATC

Baylor University, Waco, TX

---

*The following is a brief review of selected topics discussed on the NATA Think Tank Educator Forum. Only NATA members can access the archived messages and discussions. To view this forum, go to <http://forum.nata.org/thinktanks> (login required).*

---

## Pay Per Credit Hour (December 3, 2009 – 3 postings)

Because many athletic training programs do not have enough full-time faculty to teach all of their courses, part-time or adjunct instructors are hired. Part-time course assignments vary based on the instructor's expertise, his/her certifications (eg., CPR instructor), or availability to teach a specific class (eg., off-season). Adjunct faculty members not only fill the void in teaching courses, but also keep the cost down compared to employing full-time faculty. Some schools may pay these instructors a specific amount depending on the number of credit hours they teach. These payments can range from \$300-\$1000 per credit hour. Some schools may also have a grading pay scale for those with different degrees or credentials (eg., masters, doctorate, PT, CSCS). Other factors to consider are the type of school (eg., 2 year vs. 4 year), type of school (eg., private or public), location of school (eg., near or in the bigger cities), or what similar schools are paying their adjunct faculty within the state or region. Students enjoy having staff athletic trainers teaching their academic courses as adjunct or part-time faculty members.

## Anyone Seeing a Trend? (March 8, 2010 – 12 postings)

There appears to be a new trend among our profession where athletic training graduates are leaving to pursue other professions. One individual indicated she graduated with a

class of 12 ATs in 1999 and there are only three from her class still practicing athletic training. Students often use their athletic training knowledge and experience to further their education in physical therapy, occupational therapy, nutrition, massage therapy, physician assistant, chiropractic school, or medical school. Others traditionally may go into teaching or administration.

Whether it is good or not, many athletic training programs are used as "stepping stones" to get into other professional or advanced programs after graduation. Athletic training is a solid enough profession to stand on its own. Perhaps programs should not accept those students who have no interest in athletic training. Accepting those students who do not wish to remain in the profession, however, may produce good advocates for our profession because of their extensive knowledge of athletic training. There is always a risk that those who do not continue a career in athletic training may not uphold a positive and respectful view of athletic training to others.

Some professional programs are still stuck in their traditions, for better or worse. For example, one graduate physical therapy program only accepts students who are currently physical therapy assistants and meet all of the other admission criteria. This program has neither admitted, nor considered admitting an athletic trainer into their program unless they have a PTA degree, even though the AT has very similar experience and more education.

There are some students who graduate from CAATE accredited programs and never take the BOC exam. Having the extra credential could open up several job opportunities after graduating from their other advanced or professional program. Taking the BOC exam will also give graduates a back-up plan just in case they do not get accepted into a

---

*Dr. Fuller is an Associate Professor and the Professional Athletic Training Education Program Director at Baylor University. Please address all correspondence to [donald\\_fuller@baylor.edu](mailto:donald_fuller@baylor.edu).*

---

## Full Citation:

Fuller D. Think tanks: Educator forum highlights. *Athl Train Educ J*; 2010;5(1):45-46

---

professional program of their choice. Students who get the academic and clinical education experience from a CAATE accredited program and become BOC certified can easily start their athletic training career; but if they decide to pursue other education and training, then that should only benefit them.

### **Online PhD (or Doctorate) Programs**

[A.T. Still University](#)

[Rocky Mountain University](#)

[Grand Canyon University](#)

[Nova Southeastern University](#)

[University of Nebraska](#)

[Texas Tech University](#)

### **AT InMotion – New Preparation Exam for Students**

This is a new athletic training study tool that is:

- Computer-based, which prepares students for the BOC exam format.
- Delivered over the web, providing an efficient testing process with rapid results.
- Able to provide detailed feedback to enhance understanding.
- Domain-specific, helping to eliminate weak knowledge areas.
- Designed to follow the athletic training Role Delineation Study.

### **Annual AT Alumni Socials (NATA Conference)**

Programs are welcome to advertise their annual athletic training alumni socials on the Educator Think Tank.