WHAT IS A DOCTOR OF ATHLETIC TRAINING?

The Doctor of Athletic Training (DAT) is the terminal degree in Athletic Training and is for those who want to develop into advanced practice clinicians and research professionals. The University of Idaho (UI) DAT graduate has completed advanced athletic training coursework, original research, and a dissertation in the discipline of athletic training. During the program at UI, DAT students also complete mentored clinical residency experiences. These experiences are focused on reflective patient-care, integration of new clinical philosophies, and the collection and analysis of patient outcomes to improve clinical practice. As part of the UI curriculum, students establish a Plan of Advanced Practice (PoAP) that serves as a critical self-reflection of their current practice and as a framework for advanced practice focus areas, continued professional development, and research pursuits. The DAT student will also complete a Dissertation of Clinical Practice Improvement (DoCPI), which provides the opportunity for the student to study their patient care and a problem in professional practice. The DoCPI is designed to allow the student to produce an original, applied research project that contributes to the improvement of clinical practice in healthcare.

Upon earning the highest degree in the profession, the DAT graduate embarks on the path of the expert scholarly practitioner in their chosen focus areas. A UI DAT graduate has the skill set to conduct applied research, treat patients using multiple paradigms, and combines various rehabilitative theories to produce meaningful and effective patient-centered care. Participating in purposeful clinical practice, DAT graduates produce practice-based evidence and helps close the “research loop” by translating “research-to-practice” and “practice-to-research.” A UI DAT graduate does not identify as either a clinician or a researcher; instead, this graduate is empowered to serve in both roles. The combination of advanced clinical skill, a priori clinical practice, and research training prepares the DAT graduate to be an integral part of the inter-professional healthcare and translational research team. The DAT graduate is uniquely prepared to advance clinical practice, improve patient outcomes, produce applied research, and train future expert clinicians.
Recent Peer-Reviewed Publications


Recent Peer-Reviewed National Presentations


3. Graham V. (June 2015). Moving beyond rest: Targeted treatment and rehabilitation after concussion. Accepted Learning Lab Presentation at the National Athletic Trainers’ Association 66th Clinical Symposium, St. Louis, MO.


6. Fyock M, & Warren L. (June 2014). Regional interdependence: Looking beyond the location of pain by assessing movement dysfunction. Podium Presentation at the National Athletic Trainers’ Association 65th Clinical Symposium, Indianapolis, IN.

7. Graham VL, & Webb C. (June 2014). The eyes have it: Ocular function and the concussion assessment. Learning Lab at the 65th NATA Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposium, Indianapolis, IN.


9. May J. (June 2014). Patient outcomes: Applying the mulligan concept of mobilization with movement intervention while treating ankle pathology in the intercollegiate setting. Podium Presentation at the National Athletic Trainers’ Association 65th Clinical Symposium, Indianapolis, IN.


