**The University of Alabama System Outline for New Program Proposal (Supplement)**

1. **Executive Summary**

**Background and Purpose:** The purpose of the Athletic Training (M.S.A.T.) at The University of Alabama is to prepare students to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC), Inc. Entry-Level Athletic Trainer Certification Examination and to function as effective members of interdisciplinary health care teams. Graduates of this program will also be prepared for advanced study in athletic training through residency programs, specialty certification curricula and clinical or research doctoral programs. This program will also assist students with preparation for post-professional programs in physical therapy, physician assistant studies or medicine (allopathic and osteopathic). The Strategic Alliance for Athletic Training (BOC - administers national board credentialing exam, Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education [CAATE – specialty accreditor], National Athletic Trainers' Association [NATA - professional membership association] & NATA Foundation [research & education arm of the NATA]) has determined that the professional degree for Athletic Training must be at the graduate level.  Baccalaureate programs may not admit, enroll or matriculate students into the accredited athletic training program after the start of fall term 2022. By continuing to prepare athletic trainers (ATs) for professional practice, this program will support UA’s mission to advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the State, the nation, and the world by directly improving the knowledge and skills of ATs, who in turn can disseminate this knowledge into improving the health and quality of life of the residents of the state of Alabama, nation and world.

**Goals and Objectives**: In accordance with the domains of professional practice and the accreditation standards of the CAATE, and in alignment with expectations for graduate medical education, a student who has completed this program in Athletic Training will be prepared to work as a member on an interdisciplinary health care team using current best practices to deliver patient-centered care.

1. **Mitigate the Risk of Injury and Illness** – Use effective education, communication and advocacy to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors, enhance wellness and minimize the risk of injury and illness.
2. **Examine, Assess and Diagnose Injury and Illness** – Implement systematic, evidence-based examinations and assessments to formulate valid clinical diagnoses of injuries and illnesses which drive plans of care.
3. **Provide Immediate and Emergency Care** – Integrate best practices in immediate and emergency care for optimal patient outcomes.
4. **Intervene on Injury and Illness** – Design and implement evidence-based plans of care that include therapeutic modalities, therapeutic exercise, manual medicine and pharmacologic agents to return the patient to the optimal activity level.
5. **Develop and Implement Policies for Effective Health Care Administration** – Use best practices in business management, policy, resource management and quality improvement to promote optimal patient care and employee well-being.

**Need for Program**: Despite the popularity of athletics in the state, only 35% of schools in Alabama have access to an AT, and 43% of those only have practice coverage. The lack of ATs to meet the population’s needs will be compounded over the next decade by the growth and aging of the population as well as the mandate for AT’s to have a graduate degree for practice, effective 2022. Therefore, increasing the number of trained professionals in the state of Alabama will have a direct benefit on improving the health care outlook and health of the residents of Alabama.

1. **Steps taken to determine if other UA System institutions might be interested in collaborating in the program.**

 At this time, there is not a plan to collaborate with other institutions as all coursework necessary for successful implementation of this program is currently in place. Furthermore, accreditation standards do not allow program collaboration beyond the collaborative use of affiliated settings for clinical experiences within the professional program.

1. **Desegregation impact statement**

The University of Alabama has made a commitment to focus efforts to increase diversity at the University through the Strategic Diversity Plan and the hiring of the first Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The Department of Health Science and the College of Human Environmental Sciences are committed to creating and sustaining diversity, equity and inclusivity in our academic programs. The Department maintains a diverse faculty, with 33% of faculty being from minority populations and representing 3 different cultures. Sixteen percent of students in the current undergraduate (B.S.A.T.) program in Athletic Training are from communities of color. We have sought to increase the diversity of B.S.A.T. students by developing an educational program about athletic training that we plan to implement in rural and ethnically-diverse counties in Alabama. As we reach students through this program, we anticipate that more students from under-represented populations will enroll in the B.S.A.T. program, which will then feed the proposed M.S.A.T. program. In addition, we have curated a list of Historically Black Colleges and Universities that maintain undergraduate programs in athletic training-related areas. We will contact these programs to provide information about the M.S.A.T. program as we begin recruitment.