

**U.M.'S ATC PROGRAM TEACHES ATHLETIC TRAINERS TO TREAT
ATHLETIC INJURIES IN COMPETITIVE ATHLETES**

U.M. ATHLETIC TRAINING REQUIRED COURSES

[Taken from University of Montana catalogue, 2004-2005]

[General education, & introductory (Level 100) courses have been excluded.]

Biology 212-213 Anatomy and Physiology I, II	8 credits
HHP 226 Basic Exercise Prescription	2
HHP 240-41 Prevention and care of Athletic [^] Injuries	3
HHP 242 Clinical Observation in Athletic Training	1
HHP 270 Principles of Optimal Performance	2
HHP 288-89 First Aid and CPR	3
HHP 340-41 Practicum in Athletic Training	6
HHP 361 Assessment in Physical and Health Education	3
HHP 365 Management in Health and Human Performance Professions	3
HHP 377-78 Physiology of Exercise	4
HHP 384 Motor Control and Learning	3
HHP 385 Advanced Athletic Training Laboratory	1
HHP 387-88 Biomechanics and Rehabilitation of Athletic Injuries	3
HHP 389 Advanced Athletic Training	3
HHP 411-12 Advanced Practicum in Athletic Training	6
HHP 446 Nutrition for Sport	3
HHP 464-5 Applied Clinical Anatomy and Physiology	5
HHP 475E Legal and Ethical Issues in Exercise Professions	3
HHP 477-78 Measurements and Modalities	4
HHP 479 Sports Medicine	1
HHP 488-89 Evaluation of Athletic Injuries	3

But, the proposed definition of an "athletic injury" in HB 461 would let ATCs treat "a physical injury sustained by a physically active individual." Under this definition, ATCs could treat almost any injured person in the state. The definition proposed in HB 461 is far broader than their educational background.

ALABAMA'S DEFINITIONS ARE MORE REASONABLE:

- a. **ATHLETE.** A person who participates in an athletic activity being conducted by an educational institution, professional athletic organization, or a board sanctioned amateur athletic organization.
- b. **ATHLETIC INJURY.** An injury received by an athlete as a result of the preparation or participation of the athlete in an athletic activity.
- c. **ATHLETIC TRAINER.** A person licensed by the [Montana] Board of Athletic Trainers as an athletic trainer and who practices athletic training on an athlete under the direction or referral, or both, of a licensed physician after meeting the requirements of this chapter and rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter.

* UM has the only accredited undergraduate program in Montana.

[^] Emphasis added.

Prepared by Jim McLean

RE: H.B. 461

The proposed definition of "athletic training" and "athletic injury" is so broad that ATCs could treat nearly everyone currently seen by physical therapists. Geriatrics, pediatrics, stroke patients, head injured patients, and others could all be "physically active" at the time of their injury, and then be seen by an ATC. But, DPT training is much broader than ATC training.

<u>EDUCATIONAL COMPARISON</u> Required courses	<u>PHYSICAL THERAPY</u>	<u>ATHLETIC TRAINING</u>
Degrees at University of Montana	Doctor of PT, 7-yrs	BS, 4-years
General orthopedics education	19-21 credits	9.5 credits
Patient examination	24+ credits	6+ credits
Clinical training	26 credits	12 credits
Experience with non-athletes	1000+ hours	Minimal
Medical pathology (non-athlete)	14.5 credits	Minimal.
Neurology	10 credits	Minimal.
Life-span (Pediatrics to geriatrics)	5 credits	Minimal.
Pharmacology	1.5 credits	Minimal.

U.M.'S ATC program teaches athletic trainers to treat athletic injuries in competitive athletes. That should define their scope of practice.