

A Quality Ranking of Accredited Undergraduate
Athletic Training Education Programs

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Key Words: Educational Efficacy, Administration, Quality Management

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Objective: The purpose of this study was to provide a quality ranking of accredited undergraduate athletic training education programs.

Design & Setting: A four-part self-report 25-item questionnaire was developed to identify quality rankings of athletic training curriculum, students, faculty, and athletic training room staff. A panel of 11 experts who were Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Athletic Training (JRC-AT) site visitors, but not program directors, were selected to establish face validity of the instrument and established a weighting for each survey item. The weighting of survey items was anchored by “not at all important” (1) and “extremely important” (5). An average weighting for each individual item was determined and used to calculate a final ranking for all participating institutions. Survey items were categorized into four areas; athletic training curriculum, student information, faculty information, and athletic training room staff.

Subjects: The survey was mailed to 121 directors of CAAHEP -accredited undergraduate athletic training education programs. Sixty-three completed surveys were returned, yielding a 52% response rate.

Results: The top ten programs in overall ranking order included (1) Troy State University, (2) University of Illinois, (3) University of Southern Mississippi, (4) University of Florida, (5) University of Pittsburgh, (6) Indiana State University, (7) Wilmington College, (8) Western Virginia University, (9) Minnesota State University, and (10) Southern Illinois University. All institutions achieving a high overall ranking in this study were consistently high in one or more of the four areas.

Conclusions: Academic rankings provide external unbiased information to faculty, administrators, and prospective students regarding educational efficacy.

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