



NATA Foundation

Supporting and Advancing the Athletic Training Profession through Research and Education

Education RFP - Advancing Research in Education

The NATA Research and Education Foundation announces funding available to support research grant proposals designed to produce educational research in athletic training. In a collaborative effort, the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the NATA Research and Education Foundation have dedicated funds for this initiative. The direct costs over the study period must not exceed \$10,000. All proposals will be submitted to the NATA Research and Education Foundation under the [General Grant Program](#).

Background

Presently, there is a limited body of evidence related to the outcomes of education and professional development of athletic trainers. The current gaps in knowledge hinder our ability to make evidence-based decisions in the delivery of athletic training education. Therefore, there is a need for quality research to objectively evaluate the merit, validity, and utility of existing theories and processes in education and professional development of athletic trainers. Without an understanding of the most effective mechanisms to enhance athletic training education, it may be difficult to achieve a reputation as a leader in the health care field. The ultimate goals of this research initiative are to advance evidence-based scholarship and to continually assess best practices related to athletic training education in order to enhance clinical practice and patient care.

Proposals should focus on, but are not limited to, the assessment of the Strategic Priorities:

1. Enhance professional education
2. Enhance transition to practice
3. Develop clinical experts
4. Identify mechanisms for advanced practice leadership
5. Prepare evidence-based scholars

The list below provides potential research questions that may support each strategic priority. [Note: These questions are NOT the expressed interest of the Advancing Research in Education RFP; each question identified is a suggestion to help guide researchers in understanding the focus of each priority.]

Enhance Professional Education

- How is inter-professional education seen in professional education and as practicing athletic trainers?
- What are the practice gaps between clinical and classroom education?
- How is professional educational nurtured/developed?
- What are efficient and effective education methods (model practices) in AT education?
- What is the current skill proficiency and retention in AT education?

- What are effective foundational professional behaviors?

Enhancing Transition to Practice

- How does 'onboarding' with a new employer influence professional practice?
- What are factors effecting transition to practice?
- How do initial professional experiences (autonomous practitioner) enhance professional practice?

Develop Clinical Experts

- What are the best methods for professional education routes of AT students/programs?
- How is clinical expertise determined/measured?
- What is the role and development of the preceptor in clinical education?
- How are athletic trainers becoming clinical experts and what defines a clinical expert?
- What is the best model for professional development education?

Mechanisms for Advanced Practice Leadership

- How do existing doctoral AT degrees influence the clinician?
- How are students being prepared in leadership development?
- What is the best method to prepare for non-patient care (e.g., administration, curriculum planning, and accreditation)?
- What are the best supervisory or administrative roles (e.g., skills needed to be a director of athletic training services, supervising other athletic trainers or healthcare providers)?
- What skills are needed for AT administration (clinical and educational) in educational programs?

Scholarship

- How are students prepared to become consumers of research?
- What are the best methods to improve the scholarship activities of practicing athletic trainers?
- What methods can enhance the evidence based practice knowledge and use for practicing athletic trainers?