

Journal of Sports Medicine and Allied Health Sciences: Official Journal of the Ohio Athletic Trainers Association

Volume 1
Issue 1 *Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association
Annual Symposium Accepted Abstracts*

Article 15

May 2015

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Recommended Citation

Guinn, Alissa (2015) "Survey of Division III Athletes and Their Perception of Athletic Training Student Evaluation Skills," *Journal of Sports Medicine and Allied Health Sciences: Official Journal of the Ohio Athletic Trainers Association*: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 15.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25035/jsmahs.01.01.15>

Available at: <https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/jsmahs/vol1/iss1/15>

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Survey of Division III Athletes and Their Perception of Athletic Training Student Evaluation Skills

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Objective: Practical settings are one of the most important opportunities to learn for athletic training students (ATs). ATs often perform injury evaluations of intercollegiate athletes under clinical settings. The objective of this study is to identify Ohio Northern University (ONU) intercollegiate athletes' perceptions of ATs on their personal injury evaluations and to find solutions for improvement of ONU's athletic training education program. There are differences in perceptions of athletic training services between male and female intercollegiate athletes. Unruh et al. argues that female athletes have a more positive perception of certified athletic trainers (ATC) when compared to male athletes (2005). Much of the literature found in athlete's satisfaction is primarily focused on collegiate athletes perceptions on a certified athletic trainer and not on athletic training students, therefore this study will be used to enhance knowledge on athletes' perceptions on ATs. Barefield and McCallister indicate that student-athletes do not differentiate in satisfaction with social support between ATC and ATs (1997). However, Unruh states that student-athletes do not have sufficient satisfaction with ATs in the healthcare profession (1998). Thus this study focuses on injury evaluations, which ATs often perform in clinical settings. The objective of the current study is to measure the perceptions of Ohio Northern University NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletes on ATs working within their athletic program in hopes to find solutions

to greater benefit the athletic training education program (ATEP).

Main Outcome Measurement: The current study, using a descriptive approach, sought to examine the attitudes of current Ohio Northern University NCAA Division III athletes in regards to their experiences in athletic injury evaluation from ATs in hopes to impact the future of ATEP.

Research Design: This is an expressive study using Google Forms online survey instrument to gauge the NCAA Division III athlete's perceptions of ATs. IRB approval was obtained.

Setting: Collegiate clinical athletic training environment.

Participants: Male and female student athletes (18-25 years old) from Ohio Northern University NCAA Division III. Participants will be from Football, Basketball, Softball, Baseball, Track and Field, Cross-country, Soccer, Wrestling, and Volleyball athletic programs; with emphasis on athletes whom have been under care of an ATs. **Intervention:** Survey dispersed to ONU intercollegiate athletes for the purpose of gathering data. Volunteer participant recruitment will be sent via email from the coaches of each participant.

Measurements: The survey consisted of 26 questions with some being open response, yes/no, ranking order of importance.

Results: Pending results.

Conclusion: Pending results.

Key words: *athletic training student, injury evaluation, athletes' perceptions, student-athletes, athletic training education program, student-athlete satisfaction, ATEP*