TO:  Stakeholders in Appalachian State University’s Athletic Training Program

FROM:  Ashley Goodman, PhD, LAT, ATC; Program Director

DATE:  September 9, 2016

SUBJECT: Status of the athletic training degree awarded from Appalachian State University

The Commission on Accreditation for Athletic Training Education (CAATE), the accrediting body for athletic training education, has now mandated that “accredited professional athletic training programs must result in the granting of a master’s degree in Athletic Training.” As such, the required degree to become an Athletic Trainer will be a master’s degree. According to the CAATE, baccalaureate programs may not admit, enroll, or matriculate students into the athletic training program after the start of the fall term 2022.

In order to respond to the accreditation requirements and prepare for a new master’s program, Appalachian State University is proposing a teach-out of the current bachelor’s program in athletic training. Students who enter the University during the 2017-2018 catalog year will have the opportunity to apply for admission to the undergraduate athletic training program during the fall semester of 2017. Those who are admitted will begin athletic training courses in the spring semester of 2018 and should expect to graduate in May of 2021. Students entering the University in subsequent catalog years who have an interest in athletic training will have multiple undergraduate degree paths that will allow them to gain prerequisite experience for a master's program in athletic training.

Individuals who obtain a bachelor’s degree in athletic training by 2026 are eligible to sit for the Board of Certification examination. Athletic Trainers who are currently certified and licensed do not have to obtain an additional master’s degree to continue practicing athletic training. Further inquiries regarding the degree status of Appalachian State University’s Athletic Training Program should be directed to Ashley Goodman, PhD, LAT, ATC at goodmana@appstate.edu.