

Effective Date  
August 25, 2012

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

172 NAC 17

TITLE 172 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

CHAPTER 17 LICENSURE OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS

17-001 SCOPE AND AUTHORITY: These regulations govern the credentialing of athletic trainers under Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-401 to 38-414 and the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA).

17-002 DEFINITIONS

Act means Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-401 to 38-414, known as the Athletic Training Practice Act.

Accredited College or University means a college or university which is accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Schools or a comparable regional accrediting body or one whose athletic training curriculum is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Athletic Training Education in conjunction with the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

Active addiction means current physical or psychological dependence on alcohol or a substance, which develops following the use of alcohol or a substance on a periodic or continuing basis.

Alcohol or substance abuse means a maladaptive pattern of alcohol or substance use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress as manifested by one or more of the following occurring at any time during the same 12-month period:

1. Recurrent alcohol or substance use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home;
2. Recurrent alcohol or substance use in situations in which it is physically hazardous;
3. Recurrent legal problems related to alcohol or substance use; or
4. Continued alcohol or substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the alcohol or substance use.

Anghoff Method means a method of determining passing scores based on aggregate information obtained by having judges predict the probability that a hypothetical minimally competent candidate will correctly answer items in a test.

Athletic Injuries means the types of musculoskeletal injury or common illness and conditions which athletic trainers are educated to treat or refer, incurred by athletes, which prevent or limit participation in sports or recreation.

Athletic Trainer means a person who is responsible for the prevention, emergency care, first-aid, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries under guidelines established with a licensed physician and who is licensed to perform the functions set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-408. When athletic training is provided in a hospital outpatient department or clinic or an outpatient-based medical facility, the athletic trainer will perform the functions described in Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-408 with a referral from a licensed physician for athletic training.

Athletic Training means the prevention, evaluation, emergency care, first aid, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries utilizing the treatments set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-408.

Attest or attestation means that the individual declares that all statements on the application are true and complete.

Authorized physical modalities means:

1. Athletic trainers are authorized to use the following physical modalities in the treatment of athletic injuries under guidelines established with a licensed physician:
  - a. Application of electrotherapy;
  - b. Application of ultrasound;
  - c. Use of medical diathermies;
  - d. Application of infrared light; and
  - e. Application of ultraviolet light.
2. The application of heat, cold, air, water, or exercise is not restricted by the Athletic Training Practice Act.

Board means the Board of Athletic Training.

Complete application means an application that contains all of the information requested on the application, with attestation to its truth and completeness, and that is submitted with the required fees and all required documentation.

Confidential information means information protected as privileged under applicable law.

Consumer means a person receiving health or health-related services or environmental services and includes a patient, client, resident, customer, or person with a similar designation.

Continuing education activity means the various methods in which a licensee can obtain the necessary continuing education for license renewal.

Continuing education hours means the number of actual clock hours spent in direct participation in a structured education format.

1. One academic semester hour is equal to 15 contact hours. A three credit hour course provides 45 contact hours of continuing education credit.
2. One academic quarter hour is equal to ten contact hours. A three credit hour course provides 30 contact hours of continuing education credit.

Conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere or non vult contendere made to a formal criminal charge, or a judicial finding of guilt irrespective of the pronouncement of judgment or the suspension thereof, and includes instances in which the imposition or the execution of sentence is suspended following a judicial finding of guilt and the defendant is placed on probation.

Course of study means a program of instruction necessary to obtain a credential meeting the requirements set out for each profession in the appropriate practice act and rules and regulations and includes a college, a professional school, a vocational school, hours of training, or a program of instruction with a similar designation.

Credential means a license, certificate, or registration.

Department means the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Dependence means a maladaptive pattern of alcohol or substance use, leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as manifested by three or more of the following occurring at any time in the same 12-month period:

1. Tolerance as defined by either of the following:
  - a. A need for markedly increased amounts of alcohol or the substance to achieve intoxication or desired effect; or
  - b. A markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of alcohol or the substance;
2. Withdrawal as manifested by either of the following:
  - a. The characteristic withdrawal syndrome for alcohol or the substance as referred to in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association; or
  - b. Alcohol or the same substance or a closely related substance is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms;
3. Alcohol or the substance is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended;
4. A persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control alcohol or substance use;
5. A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain alcohol or the substance, to use alcohol or the substance; or to recover from the effects of use of alcohol or the substance;
6. Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of alcohol or substance use; or
7. Alcohol or substance use continues despite knowledge of having had a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that was likely to have been caused or exacerbated by alcohol or the substance.

Director means the Director of Public Health of the Division of Public Health or his/her designee.

Graduate student means an individual who is enrolled in an accredited graduate athletic training program in an accredited college or university.

Inactive credential means a credential which the credential holder has voluntarily placed on inactive status and by which action has terminated the right to practice or represent him/herself as having an active credential.

License means an authorization issued by the Department to an individual to engage in a profession or to a business to provide services which would otherwise be unlawful in this state in the absence of such authorization.

Licensure Examination means the Examination administered by the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (BOC).

Military service means full-time duty in the active military service of the United States, or a National

Effective Date  
August 25, 2012

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

172 NAC 17

Guard call to active service for more than 30 consecutive days, or active service as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Military service may also include any period during which a servicemember is absent from duty on account of sickness, wounds, leave, or other lawful cause. (From the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2007.)

NAC means the Nebraska Administrative Code, the system for classifying State agency rules and regulations. These regulations are 172 NAC 17.

Official means issued by and under the original seal of the issuing agency.

Pattern of incompetent or negligent conduct means a continued course of incompetent or negligent conduct in performing the duties of the profession.

Profession means any profession or occupation named in subsection (1) or (2) of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-121.

Refereed means both the editor and one or more specialists in the field examine all manuscripts.

Served in the regular armed forces has the same meaning as "military service" in these regulations.

Student Athletic Trainer means a person who is practicing athletic training under the supervision of an athletic trainer approved by the Board in an educational institution, professional athletic organization, or an amateur athletic organization.

Supervision means a supervising athletic trainer must be physically present and immediately available and have the ability to intervene on behalf of the student athletic trainer/graduate student and patient.

### 17-003 INITIAL CREDENTIAL

17-003.01 Qualifications: To receive a credential to practice athletic training, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
2. Citizenship/Lawful Presence: For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§4-108 to 4-114, a citizen of the United States or qualified alien under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act. For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-129, a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant lawfully present in the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act.
3. Education:
  - a. Have graduated after successful completion of the athletic training curriculum requirements of an accredited college or university as defined in 172 NAC 17-002; or
  - b. Have graduated with a four-year degree from an accredited college or university and completion of at least two consecutive years as a student athletic trainer, military duty excepted, under the supervision

of an athletic trainer approved by the Board. In order for the supervising trainer to be approved by the Board, the trainer must have been overseen under the supervision of an athletic trainer who was licensed in Nebraska or an athletic trainer in another state who met Nebraska licensure requirements at the time the student athletic training was performed;

4. Student Athletic Training:
  - a. Occurred at an educational institution, professional athletic organization, or an amateur athletic organization where the supervising athletic trainer and student athletic trainer were performing athletic training activities;
  - b. Included the daily personal contact of the supervising athletic trainer at the site where the student athletic trainer was performing athletic training activities; and
  - c. Required that the supervising athletic trainer completed regular evaluations of the student athletic trainer's performance to include review of physical modalities to assure the proper techniques were being utilized.
5. Examination: Have passed the licensure examination with a passing score as determined by using the Anghoff Method.

17-003.01A Passed Licensure Examination But Is Not Practicing. An applicant who has met the education, and examination requirements as specified in 172 NAC 17-003.01 items 3 and 4, who passed the examination more than three years prior to the time of application for licensure, and who is not practicing at the time of application for licensure, must present proof to the Department, that s/he has within the three years immediately preceding the application for licensure:

1. Completed 25 hours of continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC 17-004; and
2. Holds a current cardiopulmonary (CPR) certificate from a nationally recognized organization that issues the certificates; or
3. Holds a current certification from the Board of Certification for Athletic Trainers (BOC); or
4. Has retaken and passed the licensure examination with a passing score determined by using the Anghoff method.

17-003.01B Licensed in Another Jurisdiction But Is Not Practicing. An applicant who has met the standards for licensure pursuant to 172 NAC 17-003.01 based on a license in another jurisdiction and who is not practicing at the time of application for licensure, must present proof to the Department that s/he has within the three years immediately preceding the application for licensure:

1. Completed 25 hours of continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC 17-004; and
2. Holds a current cardiopulmonary (CPR) certificate from a nationally recognized organization that issues these certificates; or
3. Holds a current certification from the Board of Certification for Athletic Trainers (BOC); or
4. Has retaken and passed the licensure examination with a passing score determined by using the Anghoff method.

17-003.02 Application: To apply for a credential to practice athletic training, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application:
  - a. Personal Information:
    - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
    - (2) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
    - (3) Place of birth (city and state or country if not born in the United States);
    - (4) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
    - (5) The applicant's:
      - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
      - (b) Alien Registration Number ("A#"); or
      - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number;Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
    - (6) The applicant's telephone number including area code (optional);
    - (7) The applicant's e-mail address (optional);
    - (8) The applicant's fax number (optional);
  - b. Student Athletic Training: If applicable, the applicant must state:
    - (1) Dates of training;
    - (2) Name of institution or organization where training occurred;
    - (3) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information) of institution or organization;
    - (4) Name of supervising athletic trainer; and
    - (5) The work responsibilities as a student;
  - c. Practice Before Application: The applicant must state:
    - (1) That s/he has not practiced athletic training in Nebraska before submitting the application; or
    - (2) If s/he has practiced athletic training in Nebraska before submitting the application, the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska before submitting the application for a credential and the name and location of practice; and
  - d. Attestation: The applicant must attest that:
    - (1) S/he has read the application or has had the application read to him/her;
    - (2) All statements on the application are true and complete;
    - (3) S/he is of good character;
    - (4) S/he has not committed any act that would be grounds for denial under 172 NAC 17-006 or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and

- (5) S/he is:
  - (a) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§4-108 to 4-114, a citizen of the United States or qualified alien under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act; and
  - (b) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-129:
    - (i) A citizen of the United States;
    - (ii) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
    - (iii) A nonimmigrant lawfully present in the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act.
2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:
  - a. Evidence of age, such as:
    - (1) Driver's license;
    - (2) Birth certificate;
    - (3) Marriage license that provides date of birth;
    - (4) Transcript that provides date of birth;
    - (5) U.S. State identification card;
    - (6) Military identification; or
    - (7) Other similar documentation;
  - b. Evidence of good character, including:
    - (1) Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the name of the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed. The applicant must have the licensing agency submit to the Department a certification of his/her credential;
    - (2) Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary actions taken against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
    - (3) Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take an examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial;
    - (4) Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, the applicant must submit to the Department:
      - (a) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
      - (b) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;
      - (c) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the

- convictions;
  - (d) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
  - (e) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
  - (f) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;
- c. Evidence that the applicant is:
- (1) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§4-108 to 4-114, a citizen of the United States or qualified alien under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act; and
  - (2) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-129, a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant lawfully present in the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act.
- d. Evidence of citizenship, lawful presence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
- (1) A U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired);
  - (2) A birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;
  - (3) An American Indian Card (I-872);
  - (4) A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
  - (5) A Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561);
  - (6) Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350);
  - (7) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240);
  - (8) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350);
  - (9) A United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);
  - (10) A Northern Mariana Card (I-873);
  - (11) A Green Card, otherwise known as a Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), both front and back of card;
  - (12) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
  - (13) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#"). An Employment Authorization Card/Document is not acceptable; or
  - (14) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
- e. Documentation of education, including:
- (1) Name and date of degree awarded; and
  - (2) Name of school, college, university that awarded the degree.
- f. Documentation of examination, including:
- (1) Name of examination;
  - (2) Date of examination; and



- (3) Score received; and
  - g. Documentation that the applicant:
    - (1) Requested that the examination score be sent directly to the Department from the appropriate examination service or State Board Office;
    - (2) Requested that an official transcript of completion of an athletic training curriculum or transcript of a bachelor's degree be sent to the Department.
    - (3) Met the requirements listed in 172 NAC 17-003.01A or 172 NAC 17-003.01B, if applicable;
    - (4) Submitted any other documentation as requested by the Board/Department; and
  - h. Verification from the Supervising Athletic Trainer, if applicable, that s/he:
    - (1) Supervised applicant and provided beginning and ending dates of supervision;
    - (2) Has a license as an athletic trainer in Nebraska; or
    - (3) Has passed the licensing examination; and
    - (4) Was present at the site where the student athletic trainer was performing athletic training; and
    - (5) Completed regular evaluations of the student athletic trainer's performance.
  - i. Documentation of licensure in another jurisdiction, including:
    - (1) Certification from the other jurisdiction(s) verifying licensure, including:
      - (a) Date of initial licensure;
      - (b) The name of the examination on which licensure was based;
      - (c) The score received on the examination;
      - (d) Date of the examination;
      - (e) Name of accredited program that the applicant presented a transcript from;
      - (f) The nature of disciplinary actions, if any, taken against the applicant's credential; and
    - (2) The dates and locations of practice prior to the date of the application.
  - j. Documentation of continuing competency if not practicing: Submit certificates of attendance verifying the 25 hours of continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC 17-004; or
  - k. Documentation of continuing competency if licensed in another jurisdiction but not practicing: Submit certificates of attendance verifying the 25 hours of continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC 17-004; and
3. Fee: The applicant must submit the required license fee according to 172 NAC 2, along with the application and all required documentation.

17-003.02A Prorated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date and the initial credentialing fee is \$25 or more, the Department

will collect \$25 or one-fourth of the initial credentialing fee, whichever is greater, for the initial credential, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

17-003.03 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for initial credentialing.

17-003.04 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 17-006, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

17-003.05 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department prior to administration of the examination will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

17-003.06 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 17-009 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

17-003.07 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

17-003.08 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

17-003.09 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

17-004 CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS: Each person holding an active credential must, on or before the date of expiration of the credential, comply with the continuing competency requirements for his/her profession, unless the requirements are waived in accordance with 172 NAC 17-005.03 and 172 NAC 17-005.04. Each credentialed individual is responsible for maintaining certificates or records of continuing competency activities.

17-004.01 General Requirements for Licensure: On or before May 1 of each odd numbered year each athletic trainer who has an active license must:

1. Provide proof of current certification from the National Athletic Trainers

2. Association Board of Certification (NATABOC); or
2. Complete 25 hours of continuing education during the preceding 24 month period; and
3. Hold a current cardiopulmonary (CPR) certificate from a nationally recognized organization that issues CPR certificates; and
4. Be responsible for maintaining until the next renewal period:
  - a. Documentation of attendance at, or participation in, continuing education programs/activities.  
Documentation must include:
    - (1) Signed certificate; and
    - (2) Course brochure or course outline; and/or
    - (3) Other requested documentation pursuant to 172 NAC 17-004.01D, items 3, 6, 7, and 8; or
    - (4) Copy of current NATABOC certification card;
  - b. If the licensee is presenting a program, documentation of the continuing education program. Documentation must include:
    - (1) Course outline;
    - (2) Course brochure; and
    - (3) Statement of instructor's qualifications to teach the course, unless the qualifications are included in the brochure; or
5. When applicable, submit an application for waiver of the continuing competency requirements pursuant to 172 NAC 17-005.03 and 17-005.04.

17-004.01A Acceptable Continuing Education Program/Activity: The Board does not pre-approve continuing education but will accept as continuing education for renewal, continuing education programs specified in 172 NAC 17-004.01C. The Board retains final authority for acceptance of any educational program/activity submitted by the licensee to meet the continuing competency requirement. In order for a continuing education activity to be accepted for renewal or reinstatement of a license, the continuing education program/activity must relate to the practice of athletic training and must be open to all licensees.

17-004.01B It is the licensee's responsibility to attend or participate in continuing education programs/activities which meet the guidelines pursuant to 172 NAC 23-004.01D. Renewal of a license will be contingent upon the licensee fulfilling the continuing competency requirement and maintaining documentation for a possible audit. The continuing education program/activity must focus on one of the following performance domains:

1. Prevention;
2. Recognition;
3. Evaluation and assessment;
4. Immediate care;
5. Treatment;
6. Rehabilitation and reconditioning;
7. Organization and administration; and/or
8. Professional development and responsibility.

17-004.01C A continuing education activity, except formal and informal self-study

and participation in research, will be acceptable when:

1. It constitutes a formally organized and planned program of learning which directly contributes to the professional competency of the licensee;
2. The objectives of the continuing education activity relate to the practice of athletic training;
3. It has a date, location, course title, number of contact hours, certificate of attendance and is open to all licensees; and
4. The instructor has specialized experience or training to meet the course objectives; and

17.004.01D Continuing Education Program/Activity: The following is a list of acceptable continuing education programs/activities and the required documentation specified for each. One hour credit will be awarded for each 60 minutes of attendance. Each program/activity must be at least 60 minutes in length. Credit will not be awarded for breaks or meals.

1. Programs at State and National association meetings (for example, a meeting of Nebraska or other state athletic training associations and/or the National Athletic Trainers Association). Documentation must include:
  - a. Certificate of attendance; and
  - b. Program outline and/or objectives;
2. Workshops, seminars, and/or conferences, including monitored videotapes and in-service programs, where the content of the continuing education program/activity relates to athletic training where the subject is in one of the performance domains listed in 172 NAC 17-004.01B, items 1-8. Documentation must include:
  - a. Certificate of attendance; and a
  - b. Program outline and/or objectives;
3. University or college sponsored courses where the content of the course relates to athletic training. The subject does not have to be one of the performance domains listed in 172 NAC 17-004.01B, items 1-8. A licensee must provide documentation of successfully completing the course. Documentation must include:
  - a. An official transcript; and a
  - b. Program outline and/or objectives;
4. Formal self-study where the content of the self-study activity relates to athletic training. The subject does not have to be one of the performance domains listed in 172 NAC 17-004.01B items 1-8 for example, video tapes, internet courses, and correspondence courses. The self-study program must have a testing mechanism scored by the formal self-study provider. Licensees may complete a maximum of 12 hours of continuing education by formal self-study each renewal period;  
Documentation must include:
  - a. Certificate of completion; and a
  - b. Program outline and/or objectives.
5. Professional development courses which pertain to the practice of

- athletic training. An athletic trainer may complete a maximum of ten hours of continuing education utilizing professional development courses each renewal period. Documentation must include:
- a. Certificate of attendance; and
  - b. Program outline and/or objectives.
6. Participation in research or other scholarly activities that result in professional publication or acceptance for publication that relates to athletic training and is intended for an audience of health care professionals. Licensees may earn up to a maximum of ten contact hours of continuing education each renewal period for:
- a. Primary author of an article in a non-refereed journal. Five hours may be earned per article. Required documentation must include a copy of the article;
  - b. Primary or secondary author of an article in a refereed journal. Ten hours may be earned per article. Required documentation must include a copy of the article;
  - c. Primary, secondary or contributing author of a published textbook. Ten hours may be earned per book. Required documentation must include a copy of the title page;
  - d. Primary or secondary author of a poster presentation. Five hours may be earned per presentation. Required documentation must include a letter of acknowledgement;
  - e. Primary author of a home study course. Five hours may be earned per course. Required documentation must include a letter of approval.
7. Informal self-study: A licensee may earn up to a maximum of two contact hours of continuing education each renewal period for completion of the following activities or a combination of activities:
- a. Reading articles related to athletic training practice; and
  - b. Viewing videotapes without a monitor.
- Documentation must include:
- (1) The name of the article, book, or videotape; and
  - (2) A brief synopsis of what was learned.
8. Scientific Presentation: A licensee acting as an essayist or a lecturer to athletic trainers or other credentialed health care professionals will be awarded one hour credit for each hour of scientific presentation at workshops, seminars, in-service training, conferences, or guest lectures if the program/activity relates to the practice of athletic training. A licensee may receive continuing education credit for only the initial presentation during a renewal period. Credit will not be given for subsequent presentations of the same program. A licensee may complete a maximum of four hours of continuing education credit for presentations in a renewal period. Documentation must include:
- a. Program brochure that includes the licensee's name as presenter; and
  - b. Continuing competency course outline and/or objectives. and
  - c. Statement of instructor's qualification to teach the course, unless the qualifications are included in the brochure.

17-004.01E Non-acceptable Continuing Education: Continuing education credit will not be awarded for programs where the content does not relate to athletic training even if the subject is one of the performance domains listed in 172 NAC 004.01B, items 1 - 8 and include, but are not limited to:

1. Medical terminology courses;
2. Athletic training daily activities including:
  - a. Activities included with contract employment;
  - b. Supervision of student athletic trainers;
  - c. Training room responsibilities; and
  - d. Observation of other athletic trainers; or
3. Athletic training orientation programs/activities that include new policies, procedures, equipment, forms, responsibilities, and services.

17-005 RENEWAL: An individual who wants to renew his/her athletic training credential must request renewal as specified in 172 NAC 17-005.02. All athletic training credentials issued by the Department will expire on May 1, of each odd-numbered year.

17-005.01 Renewal Notice: At least 30 days before the expiration of a credential, the Department will notify each credential holder at the last known address of record. The renewal notice will include:

1. The type of credential;
2. The credential number;
3. The expiration date;
4. Continuing competency requirements for renewal;
5. The amount of the renewal fee; and
6. Information on how to request renewal and how to place a credential on inactive status.

17-005.02 Renewal Procedures: The request for renewal may be submitted in person or by mail or Internet, and must include all required documentation and the renewal fee, which must be paid no later than the expiration date. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application.

1. Application: The applicant on his/her application:
  - a. Must provide the following information:
    - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
    - (2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
    - (3) The applicant's:
      - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
      - (b) Alien Registration Number (A#); or
      - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number;Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
  - b. May provide the following information about him/herself:

- (1) The applicant's telephone number including area code;
    - (2) The applicant's e-mail address; and
    - (3) The applicant's fax number;
  - c. Must attest that s/he:
    - (1) Is of good character;
    - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in 172 NAC 17-004 or has requested a waiver if s/he meets the requirements of 172 NAC 17-005.03 and/or 172 NAC 17-005.04;
    - (3) Has not, since the last renewal of the credential, committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 17-006.01, or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and
    - (4) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§4-108 to 4-114, a citizen of the United States or qualified alien under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act; and
    - (5) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-129, a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant lawfully present in the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act.
2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:
  - a. Alien or Non-Immigrant: Evidence of lawful presence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
    - (1) A Card, otherwise known as a Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), both front and back of the card;
    - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
    - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#"). An Employment Authorization Card/Document is not acceptable; or
    - (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record);
  - b. Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the name of the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed;
  - c. Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary actions taken against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
  - d. Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take an examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial;
  - e. Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, since his/her last renewal or during the time period since initial credentialing if such occurred within the previous two years, the applicant must submit to the Department:

- (1) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
  - (2) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;
  - (3) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the convictions;
  - (4) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
  - (5) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
  - (6) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department; and
3. The renewal fee according to 172 NAC 2.

17-005.03 Waivers for Military Service: A credential holder who has served in the regular armed forces of the United States during part of the credentialing period immediately preceding the renewal date, or is actively engaged in military service as defined in 172 NAC 17-002, is not required to pay the renewal fee or to meet the continuing competency requirements if acceptable documentation is submitted to the Department. The individual must document his/her military service by submitting to the Department:

1. Military identification proving that s/he is in active service;
2. Military orders; or
3. A letter from his/her Commanding Officer indicating that s/he is on active duty.

Upon receipt of acceptable documentation, the Department will waive the fee and the continuing competency requirements and renew the credential. The credential will remain active until the next renewal period.

17-005.04 Waiver of Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department waives continuing competency requirements for individuals who were first credentialed within the 24-month period immediately preceding the renewal date.

17-005.04A The Department may waive continuing competency requirements, in whole or in part, upon submission by a credential holder of documentation that circumstances beyond his/her control have prevented completion of these requirements. These circumstances include proof that the credential holder was suffering from a serious or disabling illness or physical disability which prevented completion of the required number of continuing education hours during the 24 months immediately preceding the license renewal date.

17-005.05 Audit of Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department or the Board may biennially select, in a random manner, a sample of the renewal applications for audit of continuing competency requirements. Each credential holder selected for audit must



produce documentation of the continuing competency activities.

17-005.05A The Department will notify each selected credential holder by mail. Failure to notify the Department of a current mailing address will not absolve the credential holder from the requirement for audit.

17-005.05B Within 30 days, each selected credential holder must respond by submitting documentation that s/he has met the requirements for continuing competency. An extension beyond 30 days for submission of the documentation may be granted at the discretion of the Department. Documentation submitted by the credential holder will not be returned.

17-005.05C Acceptable documentation that the credential holder has met the continuing competency requirements includes:

1. Copies of certificates of attendance or participation in a continuing education activity; and
2. Course outline and/or objectives; or
3. Letters documenting attendance from providers; or
4. Copies of transcripts from educational institutions; or
5. Copy of the current BOC certification card; or
6. Other documentation pursuant to 172 NAC 17-004.01D, number 6, items a-e, and 172 NAC 17-004.01D, item 7.

17-005.05D The Department/Board will review the submitted documentation to determine if the credential holder has met the requirements for continuing competency activities for renewal of the credential. Only documented activities/hours that meet the continuing competency requirements will be counted toward the total requirements for renewal.

17-005.05E The Department/Board will notify the credential holder upon satisfactory completion of the audit.

17-005.05F The credential of any person who fails to comply with the conditions of the audit will expire 30 days after notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

17-005.05G The Board reserves the right to audit continuing competency requirements of any credential holder by notifying the credential holder and requesting that s/he produce the required documentation of attendance at or participation in acceptable continuing competency programs within 30 days of mailing.

17-005.06 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for renewal.

17-005.06A False Information: The Department may refuse to renew a credential for falsification of any information submitted for renewal of a credential. The refusal will be made according to 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

17-005.07 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

17-005.08 Expiration of a Credential: A credential expires if a credential holder fails to:

1. Notify the Department that s/he wants to place his/her credential on inactive status upon its expiration;
2. Meet the requirements for renewal on or before the date of expiration of his/her credential; or
3. Otherwise fails to renew his/her credential.

17-005.08A Failure to Renew: A credential automatically expires without further notice or opportunity for hearing if a credential holder fails by the expiration date of the credential to either:

1. Submit documentation of continuing competency; or
2. Pay the required renewal fee.

17-005.08B Failure to Meet Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department will refuse to renew a credential, after notice and opportunity for hearing, if a credential holder fails to meet the continuing competency requirements for renewal by the expiration date of the credential.

17-005.08C Right to Practice: When an individual's credential expires, the right to represent him/herself as a credential holder and to practice athletic training terminates.

17-005.08D Practice After Expiration: An individual who practices after expiration of his/her credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 17-009 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

17-005.08E Reinstatement of an Expired Credential: If a credential holder wants to resume the practice of athletic training after failing to renew his/her credential by the expiration date, s/he must apply to the Department for reinstatement as specified in 172 NAC 17-008.

17-005.09 Inactive Status: When an individual wants to have his/her credential placed on inactive status, s/he must notify the Department in writing. There is no fee to have a credential placed on inactive status and continuing competency is not required.

17-005.09A Request for Inactive Status: When the Department has received notification that an individual wants to have his/her credential placed on inactive status, the Department will notify the credential holder in writing of the acceptance or denial of the request.

17-005.09B Placement on Inactive Status: When an individual's credential is placed on inactive status, the credential holder must not engage in the practice of athletic training, but may represent him/herself as having an inactive credential.

17-005.09C Return to Active Status: A credential may remain on inactive status for an indefinite period of time. An individual who wants to have his/her credential returned to active status must apply to the Department for reinstatement and meet the requirements specified in 172 NAC 17-008.

#### 17-006 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

17-006.01 Grounds for Action Against a Credential: A credential to practice a profession may have disciplinary actions taken against it on any of the following grounds:

1. Misrepresentation of material facts in procuring or attempting to procure a credential;
2. Immoral or dishonorable conduct evidencing unfitness to practice the profession in this state;
3. Abuse of, dependence on, or active addiction to alcohol, any controlled substance, or any mind-altering substance;
4. Failure to comply with a treatment program or an aftercare program, including, but not limited to, a program entered into under the Licensee Assistance Program established pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-175;
5. Conviction of:
  - a. A misdemeanor or felony under Nebraska law or federal law, or
  - b. A crime in any jurisdiction which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a misdemeanor or felony under Nebraska law and which has a rational connection with the fitness or capacity of the applicant or credential holder to practice the profession;
6. Practice of the profession:
  - a. Fraudulently;
  - b. Beyond its authorized scope;
  - c. With gross incompetence or gross negligence; or
  - d. In a pattern of incompetent or negligent conduct.
7. Practice of the profession while the ability to practice is impaired by alcohol, controlled substances, drugs, mind-altering substances, physical disability, mental disability, or emotional disability;
8. Physical or mental incapacity to practice the profession as evidenced by a legal judgment or a determination by other lawful means;
9. Illness, deterioration, or disability that impairs the ability to practice the profession;
10. Permitting, aiding, or abetting the practice of a profession or the performance of activities requiring a credential by a person not credentialed to do so;
11. Having had his/her credential denied, refused renewal, limited, suspended, revoked, or disciplined in any manner similar to 172 NAC 17-006.05 by another state or jurisdiction based upon acts by the applicant or credential holder similar to acts described in this part;
12. Use of untruthful, deceptive, or misleading statements in advertisements;
13. Conviction of fraudulent or misleading advertising or conviction of a violation of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act;
14. Distribution of intoxicating liquors, controlled substances, or drugs for any other than lawful purposes;
15. Violations of the Uniform Credentialing Act or the rules and regulations

- relating to the particular profession;
16. Unlawful invasion of the field of practice of any profession regulated by the Uniform Credentialing Act which the credential holder is not credentialed to practice;
  17. Failure to file a report required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-1,124 or 38-1,125;
  18. Failure to maintain the requirements necessary to obtain a credential;
  19. Violation of an order issued by the Department;
  20. Violation of an assurance of compliance entered into under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-1,108;
  21. Failure to pay an administrative penalty; and/or
  22. Unprofessional conduct as defined in 172 NAC 17-006.02.

17-006.02 Unprofessional Conduct: Unprofessional conduct means any departure from or failure to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of a profession or the ethics of the profession, regardless of whether a person, consumer, or entity is injured, but does not include a single act of ordinary negligence. Unprofessional conduct also means conduct that is likely to deceive or defraud the public or is detrimental to the public interest. Unprofessional conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Receipt of fees on the assurance that an incurable disease can be permanently cured;
2. Division of fees, or agreeing to split or divide the fees, received for professional services with any person for bringing or referring a consumer other than:
  - a. With a partner or employee of the applicant or credential holder or his/her office or clinic;
  - b. With a landlord of the applicant or credential holder pursuant to a written agreement that provides for payment of rent based on gross receipts; or
  - c. With a former partner or employee of the applicant or credential holder based on a retirement plan or separation agreement.
3. Obtaining any fee for professional services by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, falsification of third-party claim documents;
4. Cheating on or attempting to subvert the credentialing examination;
5. Assisting in the care or treatment of a consumer without the consent of the consumer or his/her legal representative;
6. Use of any letters, words, or terms, either as a prefix, affix, or suffix, on stationery, in advertisements, or otherwise, indicating that the person is entitled to practice a profession for which s/he is not credentialed;
7. Knowingly disclosing confidential information except as otherwise permitted by law;
8. Failure to safeguard the consumer's dignity and right to privacy;
9. Commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation related to the practice of the profession of the applicant or credential holder;
10. Failure to keep and maintain adequate records of treatment or service;
11. Failure to comply with any federal, state, or municipal law, ordinance, rule, or regulation that pertains to the applicable profession;
12. Disruptive behavior, whether verbal or physical, which interferes with

- consumer care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the care;
13. Competence: Providing services for which the athletic trainer is not trained or experienced. Unprofessional conduct in the practice of athletic training includes, but is not limited to, performing or agreeing to perform procedures when the procedures are known to be a departure from standard or acceptable and prevailing practice in athletic training, but not to include a single act of ordinary negligence;
  14. Committing any act which endangers public safety or welfare;
  15. Confidentiality: Failure to hold in confidence information obtained from a client except otherwise required by law;
  16. Professional Relationships: Failure to safeguard the welfare of the public and maintain professional relationships with clients. Commission of any of the following acts or behavior constitutes unprofessional conduct:
    - a. Exploiting a client for financial gain or sexual favors;
    - b. Performing or agreeing to perform athletic training services that have been requested when the services are known to be contraindicated or unjustified;
    - c. Performing or agreeing to perform procedures that have been requested when the procedures are known to be outside of the athletic trainer's scope of practice;
    - d. Verbally or physically abusing clients;
    - e. Falsification or unauthorized destruction of client records;
    - f. Delegating to other personnel those services for which the clinical skills and expertise of an athletic trainer are required;
    - g. Encouraging or promoting the practice of athletic training by untrained or unqualified persons;
    - h. Filing a false report or record in the practice of athletic training including, but not limited to, collecting a fee;
    - i. Providing services or promoting the sale of devices, appliances, or products to a person who cannot reasonably be expected to benefit from the services, devices, appliances, or products;
    - j. Providing services except in a professional relationship; and
    - k. Discriminating in the provision of services to individuals on the basis of gender, race, religion, or national origin.
  17. Sexual Harassment: Engaging in sexual misconduct which is defined as sexual harassment of clients. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, and engaging in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature which results in:
    - a. Providing or denying service to a client;
    - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for the client; or
    - c. Providing favorable reports for sexual favors.
  18. Failure to follow policies or procedures implemented in the practice situation to safeguard the public;
  19. Failure to exercise appropriate supervision over persons who are authorized to practice only under the supervision of an athletic trainer;
  20. Failure to report suspected cases of child abuse or vulnerable adult abuse pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 28-717 and 28-384;

21. Practicing the profession of athletic training while his/her license is suspended or in contravention of any limitation placed upon his/her license;
22. Refusal of an applicant for a license or of a licensee to submit to a physical or mental examination requested by the Board, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-1,112 to determine his/her qualifications to practice or to continue in the practice of the profession or occupation for which application was made or for which s/he is licensed;
23. Failure to make credential available upon request: Every person credentialed under the Uniform Credentialing Act must make the person's current credential available upon request. All signs, announcements, stationery, and advertisements of persons credentialed under the act shall identify the profession or business for which the credential is held; and/or
24. Failure of a licensee, who is the subject of a disciplinary investigation, to furnish the Board or its investigator with requested information or requested documents.

17-006.03 Temporary Suspension or Limitation

17-006.03A The Department may temporarily suspend or temporarily limit any credential issued by the Department without notice or a hearing if the Director determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that grounds exist under 172 NAC 17-006.01 for the revocation, suspension, or limitation of the credential and that the credential holder's continuation in practice or operation would constitute an imminent danger to the public health and safety. Simultaneously with the action, the Department will institute proceedings for a hearing on the grounds for revocation, suspension, or limitation of the credential. The hearing will be held no later than 15 days from the date of the temporary suspension or temporary limitation of the credential.

17-006.03B A continuance of the hearing will be granted by the Department upon the written request of the credential holder, and the continuance must not exceed 30 days unless waived by the credential holder. A temporary suspension or temporary limitation order by the Director will take effect when served upon the credential holder.

17-006.03C A temporary suspension or temporary limitation of a credential under 172 NAC 17-006.03 will not be in effect for more than 90 days unless waived by the credential holder. If a decision is not reached within 90 days, the credential will be reinstated unless and until the Department reaches a decision to revoke, suspend, or limit the credential or otherwise discipline the credential holder.

17-006.04 Department Action: The Department will follow the procedures delineated in the Uniform Credentialing Act to notify credential holders of any disciplinary action to be imposed and the time and place of the hearing.

17-006.05 Sanctions: Upon the completion of any hearing held regarding discipline of a credential, the Director may dismiss the action or impose the following sanctions:

1. Censure;
2. Probation;

3. Limitation;
4. Civil Penalty;
5. Suspension; or
6. Revocation.

17-006.05A Additional Terms and Conditions of Discipline: If any discipline is imposed pursuant to 172 NAC 17-006.05, the Director may, in addition to any other terms and conditions of that discipline:

1. Require the credential holder to obtain additional professional training and to pass an examination upon the completion of the training. The examination may be written or oral or both and may be a practical or clinical examination or both or any or all of the combinations of written, oral, practical, and clinical, at the option of the Director;
2. Require the credential holder to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians or other qualified professionals appointed by the Director. If the Director requires the credential holder to submit to an examination, the Director will receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic examination given by one or more physicians or other qualified professionals of the credential holder's choice if the credential holder chooses to make available the report or reports by his/her physician or physicians or other qualified professionals; and
3. Limit the extent, scope, or type of practice of the credential holder.

17-007 VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OR LIMITATION: A credential holder may offer to voluntarily surrender or limit a credential issued by the Department. The credential holder must make the offer in writing on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the credential holder, which must include the following information:

1. Personal Information:
  - a. First, middle and last name;
  - b. Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address), city, state, and zip code;
  - c. Telephone number; and
  - d. Fax number.
2. Information Regarding the Credential Being Offered for Surrender or Limitation:
  - a. List credential(s) and credential number(s) that would be surrendered or limited;
  - b. Indicate the desired time frame for offered surrender or limitation:
    - (1) Permanently;
    - (2) Indefinitely; or
    - (3) Definite period of time (specify);
  - c. Specify reason for offered surrender or limit of credential; and
  - d. Specify any terms and conditions that the credential holder wishes to have the Department consider and apply to the offer.
3. Attestation:
  - a. Attest that all the information on the offer is true and complete; and
  - b. Provide the credential holder's signature and date.

17-007.01 The Department may accept an offer of voluntary surrender or limitation of a credential based on:

1. An offer made by the credential holder on his/her own volition;
2. An offer made with the agreement of the Attorney General or the legal counsel of the Department to resolve a pending disciplinary matter;
3. A decision by the Attorney General to negotiate a voluntary surrender or limitation in lieu of filing a petition for disciplinary action; or
4. A decision by the legal counsel of the Department to negotiate a voluntary surrender or limitation in response to a notice of disciplinary action.

17-007.02 The Department may reject an offer of voluntary surrender of a credential under circumstances which include, but are not limited to, when the credential:

1. Is under investigation;
2. Has a disciplinary action pending but a disposition has not been rendered; or
3. Has had a disciplinary action taken against it.

17-007.03 When the Department either accepts or rejects an offer of voluntary surrender or limitation, the Director will issue the decision in a written order. The order will be issued within 30 days after receipt of the offer of voluntary surrender or limitation and will specify:

1. Whether the Department accepts or rejects the offer of voluntary surrender; and
2. The terms and conditions under which the voluntary surrender is accepted or the basis for the rejection of an offer of voluntary surrender. The terms and conditions governing the acceptance of a voluntary surrender will include, but not be limited to:
  - a. Duration of the surrender;
  - b. Whether the credential holder may apply to have the credential reinstated; and
  - c. Any terms and conditions for reinstatement.

17-007.04 A limitation may be placed on the right of the credential holder to practice a profession or operate a business to the extent, for the time, and under the conditions as imposed by the Director.

17-007.05 Violation of any of the terms and conditions of a voluntary surrender or limitation by the credential holder will be due cause for the refusal of renewal of the credential, for the suspension or revocation of the credential, or for refusal to restore the credential.

17-007.06 Reinstatement following voluntary surrender is set out in 172 NAC 17-008.

17-008 REINSTATEMENT: This section applies to individuals previously credentialed in Nebraska who seek the authority to return to practice in Nebraska with a valid Nebraska credential. Individuals may apply for reinstatement as follows:

1. An individual whose credential has expired, been placed on inactive status,



- voluntarily surrendered for an indefinite period of time, or suspended or limited for disciplinary reasons, may apply for reinstatement at any time.
2. An individual whose credential has been voluntarily surrendered for a definite period of time may apply for reinstatement after that period of time has elapsed.
  3. An individual whose credential has been revoked may apply for reinstatement only after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation.
  4. An individual whose credential has been permanently voluntarily surrendered may not apply for reinstatement.

The voluntary surrender of a credential may be unrelated to disciplinary matters, or may be done to resolve a pending disciplinary matter, in lieu of disciplinary action, or in response to a notice of disciplinary action.

17-008.01 Reinstatement From Expired or Inactive Status or Following Voluntary Surrender Unrelated to a Disciplinary Matter:

The applicant must submit to the Department a written application on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the applicant.

1. Application: The applicant on his/her application:
  - a. Must provide the following information:
    - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
    - (2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code or country information);
    - (3) The applicant's:
      - (a) Social Security Number (SSN); or
      - (b) Alien Registration Number (A#); or
      - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number.Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
    - (4) If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;
  - b. If the applicant is an alien or non-immigrant, s/he must submit evidence of lawful presence which may include a copy of:
    - (1) A Green Card, otherwise known as a Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), both front and back of the card;
    - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
    - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#"). An Employment Authorization Card/Document is not acceptable; or
    - (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record);
  - c. May provide the following information about him/herself:
    - (1) Telephone number including area code;
    - (2) E-mail address;
    - (3) Fax number; and
  - d. Must attest that s/he:
    - (1) Is of good character;
    - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in

172 NAC 17-004 within the 24 months immediately preceding submission of the application;

- (3) Has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, or if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, the actual number of days practiced;
- (4) Has not committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 17-006 since the last renewal or issuance of the credential (whichever is later), or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and
- (5) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§4-108 to 4-114, a citizen of the United States or qualified alien under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act; and
- (6) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-129:
  - (a) A citizen of the United States;
  - (b) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
  - (c) A nonimmigrant lawfully present in the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act.

2. Fee(s): The following fee(s):

- a. If the credential is expired or inactive, the reinstatement and renewal fees; or
- b. If the credential was voluntarily surrendered, the renewal fee.

17-008.01A If an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was expired, inactive, or voluntarily surrendered, the Department may, with the recommendation of the Board, take one or more of the following actions:

1. Deny the application to reinstate the credential;
2. Reinstate the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other disciplinary actions on the credential; and/or
3. Reinstate the credential.

17-008.01B If an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, the Department may:

1. Deny the application for reinstatement of the credential;
2. Reinstate the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other disciplinary actions on the credential; and/or
3. Reinstate the credential.

17-008.01C The Department will act within 150 days on all completed applications.

17-008.01D The Department's decision may be appealed to the Director by any party to the decision. The appeal must be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

17-008.02 Reinstatement from Non-Disciplinary Revocation or Lapsed Status: An individual whose credential was placed on non-disciplinary revocation or lapsed status before December 1, 2008 may apply for reinstatement as provided in 172 NAC 17-008.01.

17-008.03 Reinstatement Following Suspension, Limitation, Revocation, or Voluntary Surrender to Resolve a Pending Disciplinary Matter, In Lieu of Discipline, or In Response to a Notice of Disciplinary Action: An individual whose credential was suspended or limited may apply for reinstatement at any time. An individual whose credential has been revoked may apply for reinstatement after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation. An individual whose credential was voluntarily surrendered may apply for reinstatement according to the order entered by the Director. The applicant must submit to the Board a written application on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the applicant.

1. Application: The applicant on his/her application:
  - a. Must provide the following information:
    - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
    - (2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code or country information);
    - (3) The applicant's:
      - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
      - (b) Alien Registration Number (A#); or
      - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number.Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
    - (4) If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;
    - (5) A statement of the reason the applicant believes his/her credential should be reinstated;
  - b. If the applicant is an alien or non-immigrant, s/he must submit evidence of lawful presence and/or immigration status which may include a copy of:
    - (1) A Green Card, otherwise known as a Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), both front and back of card;
    - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
    - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#"). An Employment Authorization Card/Document is not acceptable; or
    - (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record);
  - c. May provide the following information about him/herself:
    - (1) Telephone number including area code;
    - (2) E-mail address;
    - (3) Fax number; and
  - d. Must attest that s/he:
    - (1) Is of good character;
    - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in

- 172 NAC 17-004 within the 24 months immediately preceding submission of the application (or other requirements as specified by the practice act);
- (3) Has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, or if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, the actual number of days practiced;
  - (4) Has not committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 17-006 since the last renewal or issuance of the credential (whichever is later), or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and
  - (5) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§4-108 to 4-114, a citizen of the United States or qualified alien under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act; and
  - (6) For purposes of Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-129:
    - (a) A citizen of the United States;
    - (b) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
    - (c) A nonimmigrant lawfully present in the United States who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act.

2. Fee: The renewal fee.

17-008.03A The Board will make a recommendation regarding reinstatement following suspension, limitation, revocation, or voluntary surrender within 180 days of receipt of the application.

17-008.03B The Department, with the recommendation of the Board, may:

1. Conduct an investigation to determine if the applicant has committed acts or offenses prohibited by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-178;
2. Require the applicant to submit to a complete diagnostic examination, at the expense of the applicant, by one or more physician(s) or other professionals appointed by the Board. The applicant may also consult a physician(s) or other professionals of his/her own choice for a complete diagnostic examination and make available a report(s) of the examination(s) to the Department and to the Board;
3. Require the applicant to pass a written, oral, or practical examination or any combination of examinations at the expense of the applicant;
4. Require the applicant to successfully complete additional education at the expense of the applicant;
5. Require the applicant to successfully pass an inspection of his/her practice site; or
6. Take any combination of these actions.

17-008.03C On the basis of the written application, materials submitted by that applicant, and the information obtained under 172 NAC 17-008.03B, the Board may:

1. Deny the application for reinstatement; or
2. Recommend to the Department:
  - a. Full reinstatement of the credential;
  - b. Modification of the suspension or limitation; or
  - c. Reinstatement subject to limitations or subject to probation with terms and conditions.

If the applicant has practiced while his/her credential was suspended, limited, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered, the Department may assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 17-009, in which case a separate notice of opportunity for hearing will be sent to the applicant.

17-008.03D An affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the Board as authorized by statute is required to recommend reinstatement of a credential with or without terms, conditions, or restrictions.

17-008.03E Full Reinstatement: If the Board recommends full reinstatement of the credential, modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or subject to probation with terms and conditions, the Board's recommendation will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The following information will be forwarded to the Director for a decision:

1. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;
2. The application for reinstatement;
3. The record of hearing, if any; and
4. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the applicant.

17-008.03F Denial, Modification, Limitation, or Probation: If the Board's initial decision is to deny the application for reinstatement, recommend modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstatement of the credential subject to limitation or probation with terms and conditions, the Board's recommendation will be sent to the applicant by certified mail.

1. The initial decision or recommendation of the Board will become final 30 days after the decision or recommendation is mailed to the applicant unless the applicant requests a hearing within that 30-day period.
  - a. If the applicant requests a hearing before the Board, the Department will mail a notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing. The notice will be sent by certified mail at least 30 days before the hearing.
  - b. Following the hearing, the Board may deny the reinstatement or recommend full reinstatement of the credential, or

recommend modification of the suspension or limitation, or recommend reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or probation with terms and conditions.

2. If the applicant has been afforded a hearing or an opportunity for a hearing on an application for reinstatement within two years before filing the current application, the Department may grant or deny the application without another hearing before the Board.

17-008.03G Denial Decision: If the Board's final decision is denial of the application for reinstatement, the applicant will be notified by certified mail. The applicant may appeal the Board's denial to District Court in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

17-008.03H Board Recommendation: If the Board's final recommendation is full reinstatement of the credential, modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or probation with terms and conditions, the Board's recommendation will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The following information will be forwarded to the Director for a decision:

1. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;
2. The application for reinstatement;
3. The record of hearing, if any; and
4. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the applicant.

17-008.03I Director's Review: The Director, upon receipt of the Board's recommendation for full reinstatement, modification, or probation, will review the application and other documents and make a decision within 150 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation and accompanying documents. The Director will enter an order setting forth the decision. The Director may:

1. Affirm the recommendation of the Board and grant reinstatement; or
2. Reverse or modify the recommendation if the Board's recommendation is:
  - a. In excess of statutory authority;
  - b. Made upon unlawful procedure;
  - c. Unsupported by competent, material, and substantial evidence in view of the entire record; or
  - d. Arbitrary and capricious.

The order regarding reinstatement of the applicant's credential will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The Director's decision may be appealed to District Court by any party to the decision. The appeal must be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

17-009 ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY: The Department may assess an administrative penalty when evidence exists of practice without a credential to practice a profession or operate a business. Practice without a credential for the purpose of this regulation means practice:

1. Prior to the issuance of a credential;
2. Following the expiration of a credential; or
3. Prior to the reinstatement of a credential.

17-009.01 Evidence of Practice: The Department will consider any of the following conditions as prima facie evidence of practice without being credentialed:

1. The person admits to engaging in practice;
2. Staffing records or other reports from the employer of the person indicate that the person was engaged in practice;
3. Billing or payment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;
4. Service, care, or treatment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;
5. Appointment records indicate that the person was engaged in practice;
6. Government records indicate that the person was engaged in practice; and
7. The person opens a business or practice site and announces or advertises that the business or site is open to provide service, care, or treatment.

For purposes of this regulation, prima facie evidence means a fact presumed to be true unless disproved by some evidence to the contrary.

17-009.02 Penalty: The Department may assess an administrative penalty in the amount of \$10 per day, not to exceed a total of \$1,000 for practice without a credential. To assess the penalty, the Department will:

1. Provide written notice of the assessment to the person. The notice will specify:
  - a. The total amount of the administrative penalty;
  - b. The evidence on which the administrative penalty is based;
  - c. That the person may request, in writing, a hearing to contest the assessment of an administrative penalty;
  - d. That the Department will within 30 days following receipt of payment of the administrative penalty, remit the penalty to the State Treasurer to be disposed of in accordance with Article VII, section 5 of the Constitution of Nebraska; and
  - e. That an unpaid administrative penalty constitutes a debt to the State of Nebraska which may be collected in the manner of a lien foreclosure or sued for and recovered in a proper form of action in the name of the state in the District Court of the county in which the violator resides or owns property. The Department may also collect in such action attorney's fees and costs incurred directly in the collection of the administrative penalty; and
  - f. Failure to pay an administrative penalty may result in disciplinary action.

Effective Date  
August 25, 2012

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

172 NAC 17

2. Send by certified mail, a written notice of the administrative penalty to the last known address of the person to whom the penalty is assessed.

17-009.03 Administrative Hearing: When a person contests the administrative penalty and requests a hearing, the Department will hold a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

17-010 METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION: Every person credentialed as an athletic trainer shall make his/her current credential available upon request. The method of identification shall be clear and easily accessed and used by the consumer. Identification may be done by the following methods: verbally; through signage; and/or written medium. All signs, announcements, stationery, and advertisements of athletic trainers shall identify the profession. The initials AT and ATC are acceptable identifiers.

17-011 FEES: Fees referred to in these regulations are set out in 172 NAC 2, unless otherwise specified.

These amended rules and regulations replace Title 172 NAC 17 Regulations Governing the Practice of Athletic Training, effective October 10, 2004.

Approved by Attorney General: July 23, 2012  
Approved by Governor: August 20, 2012  
Filed with Secretary of State: August 20, 2012  
Effective Date: August 25, 2012

Forms may be obtained by contacting the Licensure Unit or by accessing the website at:  
[http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/crl\\_profindex1.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/crl_profindex1.aspx)

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health  
Licensure Unit  
PO Box 94986  
Lincoln NE 68509-4986

(402)471-2299