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Required Exam Accreditation Passed by All Recent Program Graduates

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University’s Athletic Training Program was one of only 55 colleges and universities to achieve a full 100-percent first-time passing rate on the accreditation exam, as announced by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training (CAATE). The survey was the result of a three-year period (2010-13) and is considered a major accomplishment for the program and its students.

“I complete an annual review and submit it to the CAATE every year,” said Dr. Heather Hudson, dean of the School of Preventive and Rehabilitative Health Sciences at Gardner-Webb, as well as Athletic Training Program director and an assistant professor. “There are standards that must be met every year, and if they are not, then we are non-compliant.”

Similar to programs like nursing and education, students must take and pass a Board of Certification (BOC) exam in order to practice as an athletic trainer. Hudson says that a new standard was implemented where 70-percent of students graduating and taking the BOC must pass on the first time taking it.

“We met and exceeded that standard for this reporting period,” Hudson explained. “As a group, we work very hard to ensure that our students are well-prepared for both the test and the real world, by providing them with both didactic and clinical exposure.”

An important component to GWU students’ success is the amount of hands on experiences they receive through the program each semester from their sophomore to senior year. They also receive a structured and sequenced course curriculum and in their final semester, instructors help prepare them for the exam.

Associate Provost for Professional and Graduate Studies at Gardner-Webb Dr. Franki Burch says the accomplishment involved two parties that each gave their best effort. “I know Heather and her colleagues worked tirelessly to help students achieve this goal,” Burch said. “She should be so proud of her students and faculty. I know I am.”

For more information on the GWU Athletic Training Program, call 704-406-3810.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University offers a comprehensive academic experience that introduces students to the diverse world of ideas and to the people who think them, preparing them for professional success and for productive

citizenship.