The Use of Medical Humanities in an Athletic Training Education Program
ATEC 2013 - Model Practice Showcase
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Objectives

The purpose of this model practice showcase is to show how one CAATE accredited athletic training program has developed assignments that use a medical humanities approach to address specific humanistic, and sometimes, clinical themes. These assignments have employed short fiction, novels, creative non-fiction, movie clips, and works of art from the university art gallery as a vehicle to discuss specific professional practice themes, foundational behaviors, and clinical techniques. Such assignments are appropriate for both didactic class environments and clinically oriented classes.

Upon completion of this short presentation participants will able to:

- Describe humanistic and foundational behaviors that can be influenced by medical humanities assignments
- Explain how medical humanities assignments can be applied in an athletic training educational setting
- Develop specific assignments that they can use in their own athletic training education program

Summary

The clinical practice of athletic training requires a blend of foundational knowledge, clinical expertise, and humanistic skills. Humanistic skills are defined as the attitudes and actions that demonstrate interest in and respect for the patient and that address the patient's concerns and values (Blanchard et. al. 2001). The importance of humanistic skills in athletic training education is demonstrated by the inclusion of foundational behaviors of professional practice in the NATA Athletic Training Educational Competencies (5th ed.) In medicine and allied health professions, issues of patient dissatisfaction are more often related to human deficiencies rather than technical shortcomings. Athletic training education programs have an obligation to prepare students for the moral and ethical questions they will face during their professional careers. Improving our understanding of the human experience as it relates to professional practice and patient care issues will be of benefit to future practitioners. To better address humanistic needs, some medical schools and allied health programs have placed greater emphasis on the humanities in their curricula. Literature, movies, and works of art are commonly used to introduce specific themes, humanistic concepts, and serve as a catalyst for discussion among instructors and learners. This model practice showcase focuses on a variety of medical humanities assignments currently used at the UW- Madison ATEP.
References


