

1. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION MASTER DEGREE PROGRAM
2. BOARD OF CERTIFICATION CREDENTIAL
3. APPLICABLE STATE CREDENTIAL

**RESIDENCY**  
Formal educational programs that offer structured curricula and mentorship, including didactic and clinical components, to educate athletic trainers in a specialty area. Build upon and expand the AT's knowledge and experience acquired during professional education.

**FELLOWSHIP**  
Formal education and training programs that offer structured mentorship, including didactic and clinical components, to educate Athletic Trainers in a sub-specialty area. Fellowships require formal sub-specialty training beyond the successful completion of a residency program. (This is not associated with the NATA Fellows which is an award program.)

**SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION**  
A credential earned through an education and training process by which an athletic trainer demonstrates they have met defined standards beyond that required for professional-level certification. May lead to its own credential and recertification requirement. The BOC Specialty Council oversees AT specialties.

**ACADEMIC DOCTORATE  
(e.g. PhD, EdD)**  
Highest degree awarded by universities and is usually the credential necessary for appointment in academia, typically as a tenure-track faculty member (e.g. assistant, associate or full professor) or as a research scientist.

**CLINICAL DOCTORATE  
(e.g. DAT, DHSC)**  
Post-professional advanced practice doctoral degree which may have either a research or clinical component. A primary purpose of attaining a post-professional advanced practice doctoral degree is to become a clinical scholar with advanced knowledge and skills needed for the leadership and delivery of patient care at the highest levels.