

The *Athletic Training Education Journal* invites authors to submit manuscripts for a special series on **Leadership in Athletic Training**.

Special Issue Overview

Leadership plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of athletic training as a healthcare profession. From developing resilient healthcare teams to driving innovation and adapting to the complexities of evolving clinical settings, effective leadership is vital to navigating the challenges and opportunities in athletic training. This special issue aims to explore leadership at multiple levels—individual, organizational, and systemic—focusing on how leadership skills can be cultivated, applied, and evaluated to improve professional practice, patient care, and educational outcomes in athletic training.

Rationale

Athletic trainers are uniquely positioned as leaders in diverse settings, including clinical practice, education, and administration. The dynamic nature of the profession requires athletic trainers to exhibit leadership traits such as adaptability, emotional intelligence, and decision-making under pressure. Moreover, the integration of interprofessional collaboration, advocacy for patient-centered care, and strategic leadership in healthcare systems demands a thorough understanding of leadership principles and practices. As the profession continues to evolve, it is essential to examine how leadership can impact individual and team performance, enhance patient outcomes, and promote the profession's advancement.

This special issue seeks to provide a platform for exploring how leadership development and practice can influence athletic training and equip professionals to meet future challenges effectively.

Scope

This special issue will solicit original research articles, systematic reviews, narrative reviews, scoping reviews, case studies, and expert commentaries on topics such as:

- 1. Leadership Development in Athletic Training**
 - Innovative strategies for cultivating leadership skills in athletic trainers
 - Assessing the impact of leadership education in athletic training curricula
 - Case studies on leadership success stories in athletic training
- 2. Leadership in Clinical Practice**
 - Strategies for leading interprofessional teams in athletic training settings
 - The role of leadership in improving patient care and outcomes
 - Navigating conflict and fostering collaboration in clinical environments
- 3. Advocacy and Strategic Leadership**
 - Advocacy efforts to advance the athletic training profession
 - Strategic leadership in navigating healthcare policies and regulations
 - Case studies on athletic trainers leading organizational change
- 4. Leadership in Education**

- Preparing athletic training students for leadership roles
 - Faculty leadership in shaping athletic training programs and curriculum development
 - Mentorship and its impact on emerging leaders in athletic training
5. **Resilience and Antifragility**
- Building antifragile teams in athletic training settings
 - The importance of navigating VUCA as leaders
 - Strategies for fostering mental health and wellness in leadership roles
6. **Emerging Trends and Future Directions**
- Leadership in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in athletic training
 - Emerging leadership challenges in the digital age and telehealth environments
 - Predicting future leadership needs in athletic training and healthcare

Importance of the Special Issue

The articles in this special issue will be instrumental for educators, clinicians, administrators, and researchers striving to enhance leadership within athletic training. By focusing on leadership, this issue will contribute to the profession's growth and provide actionable insights for fostering leadership skills at all career stages. Furthermore, it will serve as a resource for academic programs, professional organizations, and healthcare institutions seeking to prepare athletic trainers for leadership roles in an ever-changing healthcare landscape.

Submission Details

All papers being considered for publication must be submitted by **February 20, 2026**, with a cover letter indicating the title and specific reference to the special issue on “**Leadership in Athletic Training.**”

Authors are encouraged to review the *Authors' Guide* for instructions on preparing manuscripts. All submissions will undergo the standard *Journal of Athletic Training Education and Practice* peer-review process. Acceptance of manuscripts is not guaranteed.

For inquiries, please contact the JAT-EP Editorial Office (e-mail: atej@slu.edu), Editor-in-Chief Stephanie Singe (stephanie.m.singe@uconn.edu), Senior Associate Editor, Matthew Kutz (mkutz@fiu.edu), or guest editor Kelly Coleman (Colemank12@southernct.edu).