

## ABSTRACT

Author: Natalie Scotto

Title: The Self-Perception and Occupational Prestige of Athletic Trainers Based on Practice Setting

Thesis Advisor: Kelly Coleman

Department: Department of Health and Movement Sciences and the Honors College

Year: 2023

The purpose of this study was to explore the occupational prestige and self-concept of athletic trainers, specifically, the difference in those factors between practice settings. The traditional setting includes athletics in a college/university or secondary school. Emerging settings are more diverse, including places such as industrial warehouses and in the performing arts. A survey was sent out to athletic trainers via the National Athletic Trainers' Association Survey Service to gather information about how athletic trainers view themselves in society and as medical professionals. Respondents (n=103) ranked the profession of athletic training on the level of physical stress, income, usefulness to society, responsibility, social status, and overall occupational prestige. Overall, athletic trainers were found to have moderate occupational prestige. Athletic trainers practicing in traditional settings rated the dimension of physical stress higher than athletic trainers in emerging settings. There were no differences in ratings between the traditional and emerging practice settings for overall occupational prestige or the other individual dimensions. This study concludes that, overall, athletic trainers from all settings see their occupational prestige similarly.