Mission Statement
Our mission is to provide advanced preparation in the area of musculoskeletal evaluation and diagnosis and to create a foundation for the athletic trainer to be a complete, versatile and integral health care provider in the physician practice setting.

Vision Statement
To be a national leader in advancement of the athletic trainer and to provide a program that emphasizes a proactive approach to efficient and effective clinical management of musculoskeletal conditions.

1. Program Description
   a. Educational Programming/Curriculum
      i. Casting and Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
         1. The resident will be trained in the proper application and removal of casts and splints.
         2. The resident will be training in the proper fitting in regard to DME and the steps associated for billing purposes.
         3. The resident will be exposed to various pathologies that require the use of DME and casting in the clinic as needed.
      ii. Journal Review
         1. The resident will attend a monthly lecture or journal article review (first Friday of the month).
         2. Participants include athletic training resident, clinical and outreach athletic trainers, attending physicians and physician assistants.
      iii. Topic of the Week
         1. Residents will be given a medical topic of the week and will be required to write a one- or two-page answer to the question, including references. Topics may include radiology, pathology, surgical procedures, nonoperative care and treatments of musculoskeletal-related injuries.
      iv. Case Study Presentations
         1. Residents are required to present four case studies throughout their year of residency. They will work closely with the case study and present to attending physicians, staff athletic trainers, physical therapists, medical assistants and other medical office staff.
   b. Opportunities
      i. Professional Conferences
         1. Residents are invited to attend the annual Spectrum Health Sports Medicine Symposium with the possibility of being asked to present to the attending audience (physicians, athletic trainers and physical therapists).
         2. Residents may also be given the opportunity to attend the National Athletic Trainers’ Association annual meeting and symposium, Great Lakes Athletic Trainers Association annual meeting and symposium, Michigan Athletic Trainers’ Society annual clinical symposium and other national conferences that may provide a unique educational opportunity.
2. Goals and Objectives
   a. Goals
      i. The goals of the program are to prepare graduates who will:
         1. Possess advanced knowledge in musculoskeletal clinical evaluation and diagnosis
         2. Be educated regarding the general medical implications that affect orthopedic care
         3. Have a foundation of knowledge for the use of health care information technologies, which will be built upon with unique opportunities
         4. Contribute to the athletic training profession and orthopedic/sports medicine team through research, teaching and leadership skills
   b. Objectives
      i. The objectives of the program are to:
         1. Provide an advanced plan of study in orthopedic evaluation, diagnosing and managing orthopedic pathologies through a detailed and structured curriculum that is consistent with the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Post-Professional Athletic Training Residency Standards and Guidelines, which will include didactic coursework, clinical practice, mentoring, physician observation, sports clinical training and clinical research
            a. Residents will show a commitment to the advanced plan of study through the following:
               i. Attendance at mentoring sessions, clinical rotations, clinical research, case study presentations, sports medicine didactics, questions of the week, conference presentations, radiology rounds and DME didactics
               ii. Demonstration of increased knowledge through the documentation of clinical evaluations/assessments, re-evaluations/assessments, diagnosis, management of orthopedic patients and mentor forms
               iii. Positive reports from physician feedback, case study presentations, question of the week presentations, mentor forms and verbal feedback
               iv. Demonstration of the ability to set up an operating room for procedures, and to discuss procedures and findings through explanation to the patient, family and other health care providers
         2. Provide a mentored clinical experience, with emphasis on the physically active population with an orthopedic diagnosis, under the supervision of recognized experts to include: athletic trainers, orthopedic surgeons, sports medicine primary care physicians, primary care family practice physicians, physician assistants and medical assistants
            a. Residents will show a commitment to the mentored clinical experience through the following:
               i. Attendance at weekly mentoring sessions—clinical and didactic
               ii. Demonstration of the ability to comprehend clinical and scientific concepts taught by mentors through documentation on quarterly mentor forms and completion of written content examinations
               iii. Demonstration of the ability to incorporate clinical and scientific concepts taught by mentors into clinical assessment and treatment of patients through testing of
3. Qualifications and Application Materials
   a. Qualifications
      i. NPI number
      ii. CPR/AED certification
      iii. Athletic training licensure (or eligibility) in the state of Michigan
      iv. NATA-BOC certification
      v. Bachelor’s degree required
      vi. Master’s degree preferred
      vii. Two years of experience as an athletic trainer preferred
   b. Application Materials
      i. Qualified candidates for the Spectrum Health Medical Group Athletic Training Residency should submit a formal employment application located in the Careers section of the Spectrum Health website.
      ii. When applying, please include
         1. Resume/curriculum vitae
         2. Letter of intent, including decision to pursue residency program and future career goals
         3. Three professional letters of recommendation
      iii. Please submit these materials directly to:
         1. JJ Wetherington
            Athletic Training Residency Program Director
            Spectrum Health Medical Group
            4100 Lake Drive SE, Suite 300
            Grand Rapids, MI 49546
      iv. Once applications are received, candidates will be contacted for a phone interview. Qualified candidates will then be selected for mandatory on-site interviews in mid-April in Grand Rapids, Mich. Candidates will be responsible for all travel costs to and from Grand Rapids. All other accommodations will be provided by the Spectrum Health Medical Group Athletic Training Residency Program.
      v. Final decisions will be made by the end of April, and candidates will be contacted.
      vi. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
   c. Application Deadline
      i. Midnight of the first Friday in March
   d. Stipend and Benefits
      i. The athletic training resident will receive an annual stipend paid on a bi-weekly basis.
      ii. The program provides full health care benefits, continuing education funding and funding for Orthopedic Tech Certification.
   e. Retention Policy
      i. Purpose
         1. To ensure the athletic training resident has a sufficient understanding of the resident curriculum expectations and time commitment required to successfully complete the Spectrum Health Medical Group Athletic Training Residency Program
      ii. Policy
         1. Residents must fully participate in all required didactic and clinical experiences.
            a. If a resident is unable to attend any didactic or clinical experience due to illness, travel, etc., a written request must be submitted to
2. Residents must maintain minimum satisfactory scores on all clinical evaluations pertaining to each rotation.
   a. If at any time a resident is evaluated as “unsatisfactory” within a rotation, the resident and program director will meet weekly to determine and implement educational steps and actions required to obtain satisfactory scores.
3. Residents must adhere to the Spectrum Health mission and values.
   a. Residents are introduced to the Spectrum Health mission and values through new employee orientation and are evaluated by the program director after 90 days of employment.
4. Residents must adhere to the policy and procedures set forth in the Spectrum Health employee handbook.
   a. Employment disciplinary actions are consistent with Spectrum Health Human Resources policies.

4. Faculty and Staff
   a. Medical director
   b. Program director
   c. Associated residency physicians
   d. Associated physician assistants
   e. Additional residency program mentors
   f. Current athletic training resident
   g. Past residents

5. Resources Supporting Athletic Trainers in Physician Practice Setting
   a. Spectrum Health is committed to promoting and valuing the role of athletic trainers in the physician practice setting. With our goal of becoming a national leader in the field, members of the Spectrum Health Medical Group Athletic Training Residency frequently attend and speak at national orthopedic and athletic training industry events to highlight the benefits of athletic trainers in the physician practice setting. Here are some recommended references on the topic:

1) Doctor’s Orders (a profile of an athletic trainer who transitions to the clinical setting)
2) The financial impact of an athletic trainer working as a physician extender in orthopedic practice
3) Physician Satisfaction With Residency-Trained Athletic Trainers as Physician Extenders
4) Comparison of the effect of medical assistants versus certified athletic trainers on patient volumes and revenue generation in a sports medicine practice
5) The Impact of Athletic Trainers in a Sports Medicine Clinic: Improving Efficiency and Productivity

6) Tips for Promoting Efficiency at Orthopedic Practices

7) Using athletic trainers with mid-level providers to add clinical and financial value to an orthopaedic practice

8) Patient Perceptions of Certified Athletic Trainers and Orthopaedic Medical Residents As Primary Clinical Support Staff in the Sports Medicine Practice: A Randomized Double Blinded Prospective Study.

9) Athletic Trainers in Orthopedic Office
   a. AMSSM presentation

10) Adding Athletic Trainers to Care Team Can Increase Docs’ Productivity: ‘Physician Extenders’ Fill Variety of Functions

11) Physician extenders: PAs, NPs, and…athletic trainers?

12) The Athletic Trainer as Orthopedic Physician Extender

13) Education Continues to Evolve: Post Professional Work Expands

14) Athletic Training Fellowship Programs

15) A new twist: Using certified athletic trainers as physician extenders

16) Athletic Trainer in an Orthopedic Practice