

## **YPC Blog NATM 2019: Applying for a Job**

*Written by Andrea Chilcote, MS, AT, ATC*

Your classes are ending, your BOC test date is set, and you are almost ready to set out in to the working world of Athletic Training. There are a multitude of different settings and different paths that you can take, but firstly I want to give you some advice on how to go about finding and applying for these jobs!

There are many different websites that offer postings for Athletic Training jobs, but the most commonly used one would be the Career Center on the National Athletic Trainers Association website. If you are not a member of NATA, it is important you become a member not only to have access to these posting but all the other great benefits being a member of NATA comes with.

If you are looking to get in to the collegiate setting, the NCAA Marketplace is a great resource for many jobs open within NCAA schools.

Other websites include: LinkedIn, Handshake, Indeed, and even a quick Google search will bring up a multitude of Athletic Training jobs available throughout the country.

Another way jobs are often floated around in the Athletic Training profession is word of mouth. Being a part of your university's alumni group is a great way to hear first-hand from former alumni if their current workplace has an opening for a new job.

Lastly, ask your mentors! They often get many e-mails from their connections about job openings before they are even posted.

Now you have found a job to apply for... What next? Find out everything you can about this job:

- Find out who works there and if you may have a connection to any current employees. Become an expert at the staff that is currently working there: Where they went to school, what they may have done research on, what other certifications they may have, what are their professional interests... etc.
- Who had the job before you and where did they go?
- Can you find a mission and vision statement so you can get a feel for the culture of their workplace?
- Is it possible to find a salary? If you are moving to a new area, be sure to look up the cost of living to know what kind of salary you would need to accept in order to live the life you are wanting to live.

Once you have exhausted all your resources, have a good idea of what the job may entail, if you have any connections that may help you get the job: you are ready to put together your application. Carefully read through the application requirements and put together a thoughtful application, keeping in mind all of the information you've gathered with your research. Tailor each application to the specific job you're applying for.

Once you're done applying, if you feel comfortable and mentors have agreed it to be acceptable, send an e-mail to the staff member who will be looking through the applications. Introduce yourself, ask 1-2 simple questions, and attach your resume/cover letter/curriculum vitae. This could ensure your name stands out in the pile and it may get another look.

Good luck and happy job hunting!