

Speech-Language Pathology

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

In order to acquire the knowledge and skills requisite to the practice of speech-language pathology and/or audiology to function in a broad variety of clinical situations, and to render a wide spectrum of patient care, individuals must have essential skills and attributes in five areas: communication, motor, intellectual-cognitive, sensory/observational, and behavioral-social.

These skills enable a student to meet graduate and professional requirements as measured by state and national credentialing agencies. Many of these skills can be learned and developed during the course of the graduate program through coursework and clinical experience. Failure to meet or maintain the Essential Functions may result in action against the student, including, but not limited to dismissal from the program.

Curriculum Highlights

A. COMMUNICATION

A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

- Communicate proficiently in both oral and written English language.
- Possess reading and writing skills sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.
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and community or professional groups.

- Communicate professionally, effectively, and legibly on patient documentation, reports, and scholarly papers required as a part of course work



C. INTELLECTUAL/COGNITIVE

A student must possess adequate intellectual and cognitive skills to:

- Comprehend, retain, integrate, synthesize, infer, evaluate and apply written and verbal information sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.
- Identify significant findings from history, evaluation, and data to formulate a diagnosis and develop a treatment plan.
- Solve problems, reason, and make sound clinical judgments in patient assessment, diagnostic and therapeutic plan and implementation.
- Self evaluate, identify, and communicate limits of one's own knowledge and skill to appropriate professional level and be able to identify and utilize resources in order to increase knowledge.
- Utilize detailed written and verbal instruction in order to make unique and dependent decisions.

D. SENSORY/OBSERVATIONAL

A student must possess adequate sensory skills of vision, hearing, tactile, and smell to:

- Visually and auditorily identify normal and disordered (fluency, articulation, voice, resonance, respiration characteristics, oral and written language in the areas of semantics, pragmatics, syntax, morphology and phonology, hearing and balance disorders, swallowing cognition, social interaction related to communication).
- Identify the need for alternative modalities of communication.
- Visualize and identify anatomic structures.
- Visualize and discriminate imaging findings.
- Identify and discriminate findings on imaging studies.
- Discriminate text, numbers, tables, and graphs associated with diagnostic instruments and tests.
- Recognize and adjust when a client and/or client's family does or does not understand the clinician's written and or verbal communication.
- Identify and discriminate a client's spoken responses
- Accurately monitor through both visual and auditory modalities, equipment displays and controls, including those of hearing instruments, used for assessment and treatment of patients.

E. BEHAVIORAL/ SOCIAL

- A student must possess adequate behavioral and social attributes to:
- Display mature, empathetic and effective professional

