



Eligibility Requirements and Essential Functions

Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (2007)

In order to acquire the knowledge and skills requisite to the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology to function in a broad variety of clinical situations, and to render a wide spectrum of patient care, individuals must have 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 licensure and national certification. Many of these skills can be learned and developed during the course of the graduate program through coursework and clinical experience. The starred items (*), however, are skills that are more inherent and should be present when a student begins the program.

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.*
- Perceive and demonstrate appropriate non-verbal communication for culture and context.*
- Modify communication style to meet the communication needs of clients, caregivers, and other persons served. *
- Communicate professionally and intelligibly with patients, colleagues, other healthcare professionals, and community or professional groups.
- Communicate professionally, effectively, and legibly on patient documentation, reports, and scholarly papers required as a part of course work and professional practice.
- Convey information accurately with relevance and cultural sensitivity.

MOTOR

A student must possess adequate motor skills to:

- Sustain necessary physical activity level in required classroom and clinical activities.*
- Respond quickly to provide a safe environment for clients in emergency situations including fire, choking, etc.*

- Access transportation to clinical and academic placements.*
- Participate in classroom and clinical activities for the defined workday.*
- Efficiently manipulate testing and treatment environment and materials without violation of testing protocol and with best therapeutic practice.
- Manipulate patient-utilized equipment (e.g. durable medical equipment to include AAC devices, hearing aids, etc) in a safe manner.
- Access technology for clinical management (i.e. billing, charting, therapy programs, etc.).

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.

SENSORY/OBSERVATIONAL

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

- Visually and auditorily identify normal and disordered performance (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 when a client's family does or does not understand the clinician's written and or verbal communication.

BEHAVIORAL/ SOCIAL

A student must possess adequate behavioral and social attributes to:

- Display mature empathetic and effective professional relationships by exhibiting compassion, integrity, and concern for others.*
- Recognize and show respect for individuals with disabilities and for individuals of different ages, genders, race, religions, sexual orientation, and cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.*
- Conduct oneself in an ethical and legal manner, upholding the ASHA Code of Ethics and university and federal privacy policies.*
- Maintain general good physical and mental health and self care in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and others in the academic and clinical setting.*
- Adapt to changing and demanding environments (which includes maintaining both professional demeanor and emotional health).
- Manage the use of time effectively to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic time constraints.
- Accept appropriate suggestions and constructive criticism and respond by modification of behaviors.
- Dress appropriately and professionally.

Admission to the graduate program will be contingent on the student's verification that they understand and meet these technical standards either with or without accommodation. Students who may have a disability and believe they can meet the Technical Standards with accommodation are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center to discuss and identify reasonable accommodations the University or program would need to make so the candidate may be able to meet these standards. Please be advised that success in academic coursework does not guarantee success in clinical practicum.

PLEASE SIGN THE STATEMENT BELOW AND RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS:

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS LISTED ABOVE AND THAT I BELIEVE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THAT I MEET EACH OF THESE STANDARDS EITHER WITHOUT OR WITH ACCOMMODATION. I WILL CONTACT THE DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER, IF NECESSARY, TO DETERMINE WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I AM UNABLE TO MEET THESE STANDARDS, I MAY BE DISMISSED FROM THE PROGRAM.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Montclair State University Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders
1515 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION

**Eligibility Requirements and Essential Functions
Necessary for Success in Communications Sciences and Disorders**

2011

***PLEASE SIGN THE STATEMENT BELOW AND SUBMIT TO THE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR***

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Print Name of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Date