



Essential Skill and/or Ability Document

The Speech-Language Pathology Pre-professional Preparation and Graduate Programs make every effort to enroll and prepare students to become competent speech-language pathologists. The programs require rigorous academic training and intense clinical preparation. In order to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to the practice speech pathology, individuals must have knowledge, skills and attributes in five areas in order to fulfill the essential functions of the training programs. These five areas are communication, motor, intellectual-cognitive, sensory-observational, and behavioral-social. These knowledge areas, skills and attributes enable a student to fulfill the essential functions of student training programs and to meet professional requirements as measured by state licensure and national certification. Many of these skills can be learned and developed during the course of the undergraduate and graduate programs through coursework and clinical experience. The starred items (*) however, are skills that represent intrinsic capacities or abilities and should be present when a student begins the either the undergraduate or graduate training 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. therapy programs, charting 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 finding form history, evaluation and data to formulate a diagnosis and developed a treatment plan.
- Solve problems, reason and made 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 (relative to level of experience), and be able to identify and use resources in order to increase knowledge and skills.
- Use detailed written and verbal instruction when making decisions.

SENSORY/OBSERVATIONAL

A student must possess adequate sensory attributes in the modalities of vision, hearing and touch to:

- Identify normal and disordered speech, language and cognition through vision, hearing and touch (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 interactions related to communication).
- Visualize and identify anatomic structures.
- Identify and discriminate findings on imaging studies.
- Discriminate text, numbers, table, ad graphs associated with diagnostic instruments and tests
- Recognize when a clients' family member does or does not understand the clinician's written and or oral communication.

BEHAVIORAL/SOCIAL

A student must possess adequate behavioral and social attributes to:

- Display mature and effective professional relationships by exhibiting compassion, integrity and concerns for others*.
- Recognize and show respect for individuals with disabilities and for individuals of different ages, gender, races/ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, and cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.*
- Conduct oneself in an ethical and legal manner, upholding the ASHA Code of Ethics, and university, state and federal compliance policiies.*
- 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 maintain both professional demeanor and emotional health).*
- Manage the use of time effectively to complete professional and technical tasks with realistic time constraints.



- Accept appropriate suggestions and constructive criticism and respond by modifying behaviors independently or per the direction of supervisors.
- Dress appropriately and professionally.

By signing this form, I agree that I have read this statement and do not feel that I have any deficiencies in these areas that would prevent me from completing my master's degree successfully.

Name

Date

Adopted: Fall, 2013 by UNO Speech-Language Pathology Program

Original Source: *The Mississippi University for Women / Also a draft document of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (2007)