

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR GRADUATE
STUDY IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Approved 1/22/2015

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, in offering clinical practicum to graduate students in the program, has certain and specific responsibilities to the welfare of the client, the education of the student, and the expectations of the public. It is thus important that students have certain skills and attributes in order to participate in the program and related clinical practica. Essential functions, as distinguished from academic standards, are those communicative, motor and physical, cognitive, sensory/observational and behavioral/social skills that are necessary to meet graduate and professional requirements as assessed by state licensure and national certification agencies, and are thus necessary for satisfactory completion of clinical practicum requirements.

The following essential functions are consistent with the guidelines recommended by the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (2007) and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

A student must possess adequate communication skills, with reasonable accommodations, to:

- Communicate proficiently in both oral and written English.
- Read and write sufficiently to meet curricular and clinical demands.
- Models targeted speech-language behaviors
- Perceive and demonstrate appropriate non-verbal communication.
- Modify his or her communication style effectively as needed in academic and clinical settings, taking into account culture and context.

MOTOR AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES

A student must be physically able, with reasonable accommodations, to:

- Respond quickly to provide a safe environment for clients in emergency situations, including choking, syncope, allergic reactions, etc.
- Attend clinical placements and meet classroom attendance requirements.
- Actively participate in classroom and clinical activities for the defined class time or workday.

INTELLECTUAL AND COGNITIVE FUNCTION

A student must possess adequate intellectual and cognitive function, with reasonable accommodations, to:

- Comprehend, retain, integrate, synthesize, infer, evaluate, and apply written and verbal information sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.
- Solve problems, reason, and make sound judgments

- Self-evaluate, identify, and communicate the limits of one's own knowledge and skill, and utilize resources in order to increase knowledge.

SENSORY/OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS

A student must possess adequate sensory skills in the modalities of vision, hearing, touch, and smell, with reasonable accommodations, to:

- Identify normal and disordered speech, language, hearing, communication, and swallowing appropriate to his or her level of training.

BEHAVIORAL/INTERPERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

A student must possess adequate behavioral/interpersonal attributes, with reasonable accommodations, to:

- Engage in mature, empathetic and effective professional relationships.
- Exhibit compassion, integrity and concern for others.
- Display affect appropriate for the situation.
- Recognize and show respect for individuals with disabilities, and for individuals of different ages, genders, races, religions, sexual orientations, and cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Conduct oneself in an ethical and legal manner, upholding the ASHA Code of Ethics and any applicable policies and procedures.
- Maintain the health and safety of oneself and others in academic and clinical settings.
- Adhere to deadlines and practice effective time management.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

UWM provides reasonable accommodation to qualified students with a disability. Students with a disability may request accommodations. Requests for accommodation should be directed to the UWM Accessibility Resource Center, Mitchell Hall, Room 112, Main Office (414) 229-6287, VP (414) 937-5875, Fax: (414) 229-2237, email: sachelp@uwm.edu, webpage: <http://uwm.edu/arc/>. Students may be asked to provide documentation of their disability for the purpose of determining appropriate accommodations. UWM is not required to substantively alter the nature of program requirements; that is, the above-described essential functions must be performed either with or without reasonable accommodations.

I acknowledge the receipt of and understand the Eligibility Requirements and Essential Functions for Graduate Study in Communication Sciences and Disorders document.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____