

Eligibility Requirements and Essential Functions

BGSU Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Master's Program in Speech-Language Pathology
Adapted from: 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 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-professional. These skills enable a student to meet graduate and professional requirements as measured by entry level competencies for state licensure and national certification. Some of these skills are inherent and some can be taught and developed during the course of the graduate program through coursework and clinical experience.

A. COMMUNICATION *

A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

1. Communicate proficiently in both oral and written English language.
2. Possess reading and writing skills sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.
3. Perceive and demonstrate appropriate non-verbal communication for culture and context.
4. Modify communication style to meet the communication needs of clients, caregivers, and other persons served.
5. Communicate professionally and intelligibly with patients, colleagues, other healthcare professionals, and community or professional groups.
6. Communicate professionally, effectively, and legibly on patient documentation, reports, and scholarly papers required as part of course work and professional practice.
7. Convey information accurately with relevance and cultural sensitivity.

B. MOTOR

A student must possess adequate motor skills to:

1. Sustain necessary physical activity level in required classroom and clinical activities.
2. Respond quickly to provide a safe environment for clients in emergency situations including fire, choking, etc.
3. Access transportation to clinical and academic placements.
4. Participate in classroom and clinical activities for the defined workday.
5. Efficiently manipulate testing and treatment environment and materials without violation of testing protocol and with best therapeutic practice.
6. Manipulate patient-utilized equipment (e.g. durable medical equipment to include AAC devices, hearing aids, etc.) in a safe manner.
7. Access technology for clinical management (i.e. billing, charting, therapy programs, etc.).

C. INTELLECTUAL/COGNITIVE

A student must possess adequate intellectual and cognitive skills to:

1. Comprehend, retain, integrate, synthesize, infer, evaluate and apply written and verbal information sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.
2. Identify significant findings from history, evaluation, and data to formulate a diagnosis and develop a treatment plan.
3. Solve problems, reason, and make sound clinical judgments in patient assessment, diagnostic and therapeutic plan and implementation.
4. 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.
5. Utilize detailed written and verbal instruction in order to make unique and independent decisions.

D. SENSORY/OBSERVATIONAL

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

1. 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).
2. Identify the need for alternative modalities of communication.
3. Visualize and identify anatomic structures.
4. Visualize and discriminate imaging findings.
5. Identify and discriminate findings on imaging studies.
6. Discriminate text, numbers, tables, and graphs associated with diagnostic instruments and tests.
7. Recognize when a client's family does or does not understand the clinician's written and/or verbal communication.

E. BEHAVIORAL/SOCIAL/PROFESSIONAL

A student must possess adequate behavioral and social attributes to:

1. Display mature empathetic and effective professional relationships by exhibiting compassion, integrity, and concern for others.
2. Recognize and show respect for individuals with disabilities and for individuals of different ages, genders, race, religions, sexual orientation, and cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
3. Conduct oneself in an ethical and legal manner, upholding the ASHA Code of Ethics and university and federal privacy policies.
4. 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.

5. Adapt to changing and demanding environments (which includes maintaining both professional demeanor and emotional health).
6. Manage the use of time effectively to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic time constraints.
7. Accept appropriate suggestions and constructive criticism and respond by modification of behaviors.
8. Dress appropriately and professionally.

*Please see Communication Skills Policy in the BGSU Clinical Practicum Handbook for Speech-Language Pathology for more specific information.

(https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/health-and-human-services/document/CDIS%20Documents%20-%20CHHS/2014_BGSU%20CDIS_Clinic_Handbook_Effective%202014-Edit10-2015.pdf)

For questions or concerns about these policies please contact the Department Chair, Graduate Coordinator or Clinic Director.

Program Applicant Agreement Statement

As an applicant to the MS program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Bowling Green State University, I attest that I have read all pages of the Eligibility Requirements and Essential Functions document, that I understand its contents, and I am committed to the policies expressed therein.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Program Participant Agreement Statement

As a current student in the MS program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Bowling Green State University, I attest that I have read all pages of the Eligibility Requirements and Essential Functions document, that I understand its contents, that I am committed to the policies expressed therein, and that I may be eligible for dismissal from the program, via faculty vote, should I fail to demonstrate all of the Essential Functions despite reasonable accommodations and reasonable levels of support from the academic and clinical faculty.

Participant's Signature

Date