Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders
CSU East Bay, Hayward, CA

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

In order to acquire the knowledge and skills requisite to the practice of speech-language pathology including the ability to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of client care, students enrolled in the CSD Program at CSUEB must demonstrate skills and attributes in five areas: Academic Performance, Written Language, Oral Communication, Hearing, and Interpersonal Management & Professional Skills as described below.

If proficiency is not demonstrated in any area noted, a follow-up plan of action will be implemented with input from the Graduate Coordinator, student, advisor and Clinic Director) before a student is cleared to enter Clinical Practicum.

1. Academic Performance:
   a. All students must achieve a grade of at least a “B” in both Clinical Methods (SPPA 4852/6052) and in Diagnosis of Speech Language Disorders (SPPA 4854/6854) in order to enter and/or continue in Clinical Practicum in Speech Pathology and Audiology (SPPA 4856/6056).
   b. All students must maintain at least a 3.5 GPA in the major (speech-language pathology coursework) and have two faculty members’ recommendations to enter Clinical Practicum.

2. Written Language:
   a. During the first two quarters of enrollment, all students will complete a written assignment which will serve as an initial assessment of their writing proficiency.
   b. Prior to enrollment in Clinical Practicum, all students will complete a second writing sample.
   c. Students who do not pass the writing assessment will meet with their advisor to design a plan of action to remediate their writing deficiencies.
   d. When Plan of Action is successfully completed and approved by advisor, students may schedule a writing re-screening with their advisor. Students’ writing samples will be evaluated by at least two CSD faculty/staff members.
   e. Students who pass the re-screening will be cleared to enter Clinical Practicum. Clearance must occur by the fifth week of the quarter preceding entrance into the first Clinical Practicum.
   f. Students who do not pass the writing re-screening will not be allowed to enter Clinical Practicum. Students will meet with their advisor to discuss options.
3. **Oral Communication:**

All students will participate in an oral communication screening sometime during their first two quarters of enrollment in the CSD Program by graduate student clinicians under the supervision of an ASHA certified professional who will confirm oral communication proficiency. Initial “passing” of CSD Screening is based on a brief one time meeting and does not necessarily assure readiness for clinic if during the course of other interactions with faculty and staff, concerns arise which indicate a failure to demonstrate *Essential Functions*, including Interpersonal Management and Professional Skills, which may be identified as pragmatics in the CSD Screening Process.

In accordance with ASHA policy, to demonstrate oral English proficiency, the student should be easily understood by familiar and unfamiliar listeners. The student’s articulation, phonology, grammar and syntax abilities must be sufficient to enable them to provide reasonably accurate models in spoken English for their clients/patients.

a. Students who do not pass the oral screening will meet with the advisor and/or Clinic Director to design a Plan of Action to address possible concerns. Possible actions might include one or more of the following: re-screen, full assessment with recommendations (e.g., home program, therapy and/or re-check.)

b. When Plan of Action is successfully completed, students will be re-screened by advisor and/or Clinic Director. Students who pass the re-screening will be cleared to enter Clinical Practicum. Clearance must occur by the eighth week of the quarter preceding entrance into the first Clinical Practicum.

c. Students who do not pass the re-screening will not be allowed to enter Clinical Practicum. Students will meet with their advisor to discuss options.

4. **Hearing:**

All students will participate in an audiometric screening during their first quarter of enrollment in the CSD Program by graduate student clinicians under the supervision of an ASHA certified professional who will confirm hearing proficiency.

5. **Interpersonal Management & Professional Skills:**

All students must be recommended for clinic by two CSD faculty members, where in students’ interpersonal management and professional skills, (e.g., effective relationships, respect, reasoning, ethics, compassion, maturity, integrity and social interaction) have been evaluated

6. **Appeals:**

Students who are denied entrance into Clinical Practicum may formally appeal the decision by requesting a meeting with the CSD Department Chair and Clinic Director for a review.