

## **Assessment Report M.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders 2021-2022**

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Speech-Language Pathology in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program ensures that degree candidates meet the minimum academic and clinical practicum requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Program goals are based on the knowledge and skills recommended by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Graduate students are expected to demonstrate knowledge and skills related to the

- 1) foundations of communication and professional practice
- 2) screening, assessment, evaluation, and diagnosis of communication disorders and
- 3) planning, implementation, and evaluation of treatment.

Students must pass a comprehensive exam administered by the program and a national Praxis examination in speech-language pathology to qualify for licensure and certification. Graduate students must also earn a minimum of 400 clinical clock hours during their program, with a final minimum competency rating of “3” on a 4-point scale on each of 205 skills.

Final data for employment of the 2020-2022 cohort are not available at the time of this report.

### **Academic Assessment for 2020-2021**

#### *Program Goals Learning Outcomes and Student Performance*

The student will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of communication and swallowing disorders and differences, including the appropriate etiologies, characteristics, anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates in articulation, fluency, voice, resonance, language, hearing, cognitive aspects of communication, social aspects
- Differentiate between normal and disordered articulation, language, voice, resonance, swallowing, fluency, and pragmatics.

#### **Student Outcomes:**

- 2020-2022 Cohort CDIS Comprehensive exam – 100% pass
- 2020-2022 Praxis Exam in SLP – (19/23) 83% pass; 4 students in process of retaking the exam and all were within 10 points of passing on the first attempt.
- 2020-2022 96% (21/22) Passed All coursework with 80% accuracy or higher. 1 student discontinued the program after fall 2021.
- 2021-2023 96% (22/22) Passed All coursework with 80% accuracy or higher.

The student will:

- Identify appropriate methods of evaluating a variety of speech, language, and swallowing disorders.
- Demonstrate knowledge of processes used in research and of the integration of research principles into evidence-based clinical practice.
- Evaluate the current evidence base for a variety of assessment and intervention strategies
- The student will complete clinical experiences sufficient in breadth and depth to achieve adequate skills in evaluation, intervention, and interaction/personal qualities.
- Demonstrate competency in obtaining both subjective and objective measures of speech, language, and hearing ability.
- Demonstrate competency in assessing speech and language abilities/disorders for clients of varying ages, genders, and cultures.
- Demonstrate competency in planning and performing intervention for a variety of communication disorders with clients of varying ages, genders, and cultures

### **Clinical Education Outcomes**

Between May 2021 and May 2022, the graduate program coordinated:

- Over 7,600 graduate level clinical education training hours for the 2022 graduating cohort.
- Over 2,100 graduate level clinical education training hours for the 2023 graduating cohort.
  
- CDIS 5383, Summer 2021: (22 students) yielded 66 graduate credit hours
- CDIS 5183, Fall 2021: (22 students) yielded 66 graduate credit hours
- CDIS 5443, Fall 2021: (22 students) yielded 66 graduate credit hours
- CDIS 5663, Spring: (22 students) yielded 66 graduate credit hours
- CDIS 5283, Spring: (22 students) yielded 66 graduate credit hours
  
- Total Graduate Credit Hours completed for Clinical Education = 330

### **Student Outcomes:**

2020-2022 Cohort Final Clinical Skills Ratings 3+ – 100%

2020-2022 Cohort Clinic Practicum Grade – 100% at 80% or higher

2021-2023 Cohort Clinic Practicum Grade -100% at 80% or higher

**Assessment Plan:** Based on the results, no changes in the assessment process are planned for the next academic year. CDIS Faculty reported a concern in the availability of clinical faculty workload to cover the needed clinical education responsibilities for graduate students. Additionally, the accreditation consultant from fall 2021 recommended the addition or substitution of a required course that focuses on adult language skills, specifically Traumatic Brain Injury or Cognitive Communication. Faculty also reported a concern with being on the borderline for accreditation regarding the number of Ph.D. level faculty teaching at the graduate level. Currently 4/9 required courses are taught by master's level faculty. To maintain accreditation standards, the program must have a minimum of 50% of required academic courses to be taught by doctoral level (Ph.D. or Ed.D.) faculty. Faculty reported this concern to the Department Chair and plan to continue to document the need for additional clinical faculty for the graduate and undergraduate program needs.