Overview

The graduate curriculum in Communication Sciences and Disorders is a professional program of study that has been sequenced to follow pre-professional studies completed at the undergraduate level. It is a five semester program, including summers. Students who successfully complete the graduate curriculum achieve a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology, meet the academic and clinical requirements for national certification through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and meet state licensure requirements for the practice of speech-language pathology in North Carolina. Additionally, students meet the requirements for North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction licensure in speech-language pathology.

The practicum experience is of vital importance in the training of future speech-language pathologists. It is the opportunity for the student to apply information learned in the classroom and in textbooks. It should be a time of guided learning, improved competency, and progressive independence.

A valuable clinical experience for students is the off-campus practicum and internship experiences. The opportunity to participate in an off-campus placement prepares the student for the practice of speech-language pathology and is critical to the training program. Advanced graduate students are assigned to off-campus placements, which may be medical, educational, private practice, or rehabilitation facilities. Students may be assigned to off-campus placements in their third or fourth semesters. The internship (fifth semester) is always an off-campus placement.

The student who has been placed at your facility will be with you for the agreed time period as stated in our clinic schedule (for off-campus practicum sites) or in the contact letter and schedule (for internship sites). The clinic and internship schedule found on our homepage at www.cdclinic.appstate.edu and the internship schedule sent to participating facilities will contain information concerning the dates when forms are due.

Student clinicians may earn clock hours only for the portion of time they are actively participating in providing services to a client. Students are expected to get diagnostic hours in the off-campus placement. According to ASHA: “Direct supervision must be in real time and must never be less than 25% of the student's total contact with each client/patient and must take place periodically throughout the practicum.” As required for North Carolina licensure, 50% of each diagnostic must be supervised. The clinical educator for the off-campus site will sign for the clock hours and include their ASHA account number on any reporting forms. In accordance with North Carolina law, the clinical educator must be on-site and accessible.

The policies and requirements concerning clinical education are in accordance with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) requirements, the state of North Carolina licensure requirements, and those requirements set forth by the Appalachian State University Graduate School. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is accredited by the Council of Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA).