EVALUATION OF STUDENT CLINICIANS

Student clinicians are provided with feedback each time they are observed using the Clinical Educator Feedback form in Appendix H. They also are evaluated during the first two to three weeks of the practicum experience and at the end of each semester (see Guidelines for Clinical Practicum, Appendix H). The initial evaluation is for the purpose of establishing a baseline and developing clinical performance goals for the semester. Guidelines for establishment of goals and determination of grade are included in Appendix H, as is the Clinical Performance Plan form.

The Clinic Director or designee will be responsible for checking with all clinical educators to determine how students are progressing in their clinical practicum assignments. At the Clinical Issues Committee meetings, student clinician progress will be reviewed periodically during the semester. In this way student progress will be continually monitored.

Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at www.ods.appstate.edu or 828-262-3056. Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations. The student also should let the clinical educator in charge of the case know of the situation. The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders attempts to make every possible accommodation for students with disabilities.

Discussion with a student who is having difficulty should take place with the clinical educator to clarify concerns. The clinical educator and student clinician may develop a list of objectives to remediate the problem. After multiple attempts to provide guidance in shaping the competency, the clinical educator or the clinic coordinator will present the concern at the Clinical Issues Committee meeting. The clinical educator may present concrete examples of issues that interfere with clinical performance. Other clinical educators may comment on observations regarding the competencies of concern. Further strategies may be suggested to further address the student’s difficulty toward successful development during the semester.

It is the responsibility of clinical educators to identify student clinicians who are not meeting the practicum outcomes. The above plan for students who are experiencing difficulty in practicum should have been followed and documented. However, if concerns continue to be evident, the clinical educator should notify the Clinic Director to describe the difficulties. A meeting with all clinical educators assigned to the student clinician during the semester, as well as the student clinician, should be held to outline the specific concerns and to list possible objectives to remediate the problems.

A new plan is devised to assist the student in attaining the objectives, including a timeline toward completion. Completion of the plan must be met in the semester following the development of the plan as a part of practicum assignments. The student in question will have an on-campus assignment. Failure to complete the plan by the end of the following semester would result in a failing grade for clinical practicum and possible removal from the program.

If the student clinician does not agree with the proposed plan, the student should
schedule a meeting with the Clinic Director to discuss the problem. If after meeting with the director the student’s dissatisfaction continues, the student will meet with the Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, following the Conflict Resolution Policy.

In response to our ethical obligations to avoid exploiting students, any decision regarding the fitness of any students to continue training as a speech-language pathologist must be made in consultation with the entire clinical faculty.