

Eligibility Requirements, Essential Functions and Technical Standards for Doctor of Audiology Program at CSUN

Students of Doctor of Audiology program (Au.D.) in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences must possess the capability to complete, with or without reasonable accommodations, the entire clinical curriculum. The curriculum of Au.D. program, in compliance with Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education (ACAЕ) is designed so that students are admitted to the program, and during their progress of their academic and clinical educations, have the knowledge and skills requisite to the practice of audiology across a broad variety of clinical situations, as well as knowledge and skills to render a wide spectrum of patient care.

Students must have skills and attributes in five areas: sensation/observation, communication, motor strength and coordination, intellectual-cognitive sensory, and behavioral-social-comportment. These skills enable a student to meet graduate and professional requirements as measured by state licensure and national certification. Many of these skills can be learned and developed during the course of the doctoral program through coursework and clinical experience. The identified items (*), however, are skills that are more inherent and should be present when a student begins the program.

SENSATION/OBSERVATION

A student must possess adequate sensation skills (vision, hearing, touch, and smell) and observation skills to:

- *Observe patients' nonverbal and verbal behaviors in responding to sensory stimuli.
- *Visualize the physical status of the anatomic structures of the auditory system. including the shape, orientation and condition of the outer and middle ear, the position of various materials and devices placed in the ear.
- *Observe the condition of hearing and measurement devices.
- *Discriminate text, numbers, tables, and graphs associated with diagnostic instruments and tests.
- Visualize, Discriminate and Identify findings on imaging studies.
- Identify nonverbal cues that recognize client's family does or does not understand the clinician's written and or verbal communication.

COMMUNICATION

A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

- *Communicate proficiently in both oral and written English language. (Language is determined by program.)
- *Possess reading and writing skills sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands, including instructions, technical reports, procedural reports, and other professional materials.
- *Perceive, demonstrate and dynamically adjust as necessary appropriate non-verbal communication for culture and context.
- *Modify communication style to meet the communication needs of clients, caregivers, and other persons served.

- Communicate professionally and intelligibly with patients, colleagues, other healthcare professionals, and community or professional groups.
- Communicate professionally, effectively, and legibly on patient documentation, reports, and scholarly papers required as a part of course work and professional practice.
- Convey written and oral information accurately with relevance and cultural sensitivity.

MOTOR STRENGTH AND COORDINATION

A student must possess adequate motor skills to:

- *Sustain necessary physical activity level in required classroom and clinical activities, including but not limited to prolonged periods of sitting and standing.
- *Respond quickly to provide a safe environment for clients in emergency situations including fire, choking, etc.
- *Participate in classroom and clinical activities for the defined workday.
- Safely perform fine motor procedures in patients' outer ears, as well as gross motor procedures of electrophysiology and vestibular assessments that touch patients' bodies.
- Efficiently manipulate testing and treatment environment and materials without violation of testing protocol and with best therapeutic practice.
- Manipulate patient-utilized equipment (e.g. durable medical equipment to include computers, audiometers, electrophysiology test systems, test systems of vestibular integrity, hearing aids, etc.) in a safe manner.
- Access technology for clinical management (i.e. billing, charting, intervention programs, etc.).
- *Access transportation to clinical and academic placements.

INTELLECTUAL / COGNITIVE

A student must possess adequate intellectual and cognitive skills to:

- *Comprehend three dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of anatomical structures, physiology, pathology and equipment.
- *Comprehend, retain, integrate, synthesize, infer, evaluate and apply written and verbal information sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.
- Identify significant findings from history, evaluation, and data to formulate a diagnosis and develop a treatment plan.
- Effectively solve problems, reason, and make sound clinical judgments in patient assessment, diagnostic and therapeutic plans and implementation of those plans.
- 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.
- Utilize detailed written and verbal instruction in order to make unique and dependent decisions.
- Effectively and efficiently function in a multi-task setting that may include acoustic and/or visual distractions.

BEHAVIORAL/ SOCIAL/COMPORIMENT

A student must possess adequate behavioral and social attributes to:

- *Display mature empathetic and effective professional relationships by exhibiting compassion, integrity, and concern for others.
- *Recognize and show respect for individuals with disabilities and for individuals of different ages, genders, race, religions, sexual orientation, and cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Conduct oneself in an ethical and legal manner, upholding the American Academy of Audiology Code of Ethics, university, and federal privacy policies.
- *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.
- Adapt to changing and demanding environments (which includes maintaining both professional demeanor and emotional health).
- Manage the use of time effectively to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic time constraints, while also being reliable and punctual in the professional environment.
- *Accept appropriate suggestions and constructive criticism and respond by modification of behaviors.
- Dress appropriately and professionally.
- *Foster respectful relations with colleagues, faculty, preceptors and clients.