

East Carolina University
Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR
PROGRAM ADMISSION AND CONTINUED ENROLLMENT**

The Essential Functions and Technical Standards for admission and continued enrollment establishes the expectations and requisite abilities considered necessary for professionals in the fields of speech-language pathology or communication sciences (M.S.) and audiology (Au.D.). Graduate students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSDI) at East Carolina University are to achieve the level of competency required for graduation and practice as applicable. It is recognized that degrees of ability vary widely among individuals. Admission candidates who feel they may not be able to acquire the essential functions set forth are encouraged to contact the CSDI Department. Any admission candidate who may require academic accommodations to fulfill the essential functions due to a disability are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 252-737-1016 or dssdept@ecu.edu. The CSDI Department at East Carolina University seeks to ensure that qualified persons with disabilities are not denied admission or subject to discrimination in admissions. The Department is committed to enabling students by any reasonable means or accommodations to complete the course of study leading to the degree in the program to which they are enrolled in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

To be successful in the graduate speech-language pathology and audiology programs and perform the roles of these professionals, a student must consistently:

1. Utilize appropriate and effective spoken, written, and nonverbal communication with clients/patients and professionals from a variety of cultural backgrounds.
2. Have the cognitive ability to learn complex information, be able to perform clinical problem solving, and synthesize and apply information from the discipline of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders and related disciplines to formulate diagnostic and treatment judgments.
2. Possess sufficient motor, sensory, memory, and coordination abilities to perform routine client/patient care in speech-language pathology and audiology.
3. Have the capacity to maintain composure and emotional stability during periods of high stress.
4. Demonstrate affective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality client/patient care.
5. Demonstrate flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in an academic or clinical environment.
6. Have the ability to reliably and critically self-evaluate their professional, technical, and personal skills that contribute to positive client outcomes.
7. Have the ability to accept constructive criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND CONTINUED ENROLLMENT

The technical standards for admission to and continued enrollment in the graduate degree programs in CSDI reflect the essential qualities and abilities that are considered necessary to a student's academic and/or clinical performance. Ability to meet these technical standards is required for admission and must be maintained throughout a student's progress in a CSDI graduate degree program. Students should carefully review the technical standards below to determine if assistance is needed to perform any of the required tasks.

Communication Skills

A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

- Speak, hear and observe others for the purpose of eliciting and/or perceiving information.
- Communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms.
- Modify his/her communication style to meet diverse communicative needs.

Psychomotor Skills

A student must possess adequate motor skills to:

- Execute movements reasonably required to move from area to area, maneuver in small places, use equipment, materials and technology (*i.e.* microphones, hearing aids, computers, AAC devices, *etc.*) as needed to provide clients with appropriate general care.
- Access transportation to clinical and academic placements.
- Participate in classroom and clinical activities for the defined workday.

Intellectual / Cognitive Abilities

A student must possess adequate intellectual, ethical, emotional, and cognitive skills to:

- Achieve academic and clinical knowledge and lifelong learning skills.
- Participate in clinical settings and achieve the levels of competence required by the academic and clinical faculty and off-campus supervisors.
- Solve problems critical to the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology.
- Self evaluate, identify, and communicate limits of one's own knowledge and skills.
- Identify and utilize resources in order to increase knowledge and skills.

- Utilize detailed written and oral instruction in order to make independent decisions.
- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, judge, and synthesize as needed in the academic and clinical arenas.

Sensory / Observational Skills

A student must possess adequate senses of vision and hearing to:

- Accurately observe clients and interpret and analyze their behaviors.
- Adequately treat clients and use equipment appropriately.

Behavioral / Social Skills

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 of different ages, genders, races, religions, sexual orientations, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, and disabilities.
- Recognize when a client or client's family does or does not understand the clinician's written and/or oral communication.
- Maintain emotional and mental health to fully utilize their intellectual abilities and exercise good judgment including prompt completion of all academic and clinical responsibilities.
- Demonstrate honesty, integrity, and professionalism.
- Maintain confidentiality of client/patient information.

Candidates for the graduate degree programs in the CSDI Department who have been accepted for admission will be required to verify that they understand and meet these essential functions. Admission decisions are made on the assumption that each candidate can meet the essential functions and fulfill essential functions without consideration of disability.

The Disability Support Services office at ECU will review a student's request for accommodation and confirm that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws.

If an applicant states he/she can meet the essential functions with accommodation, the department will determine whether it agrees with the applicant; this includes a review of whether the accommodation would jeopardize client safety or the educational process of the student, other students, or the institution, including all course work and

internship/practicum placements deemed essential to graduation. At any time in the course of a student's enrollment in the department, should his/her needs change, the student can request accommodation through the Disability Support Services office.

Disability Support Services and the CSDI Department at East Carolina University will jointly decide what accommodations are suitable and possible in terms of reasonable accommodation that will render the applicant as a student capable of performing all essential functions established by the program.

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards of admission and that I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards without accommodation.

Applicant Signature

Date

Alternative statement for students requesting accommodations:

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards of admission and that I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with certain accommodations. I will contact the Office of Disabilities Support Services at East Carolina University to determine what accommodations are available.

Applicant Signature

Date