Course Outline
SHS 694: Off-Campus Audiology Practicum
Fall 2015-Spring 2016

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Text: Not applicable. The department’s clinic handbook is available to students online at www.usm.edu/shs.

Course Description:
This graduate level off-campus practicum/externship course is designed to provide graduate students with experience in assessment and management of children and adults with a variety of auditory, vestibular and related disorders. Students are assigned to one or more professional off-campus clinical sites affiliated with the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences to obtain needed experience.

General Goal:
Clinical practicum will assist the student to develop knowledge and skills that are needed to provide assessment and treatment for children and adults with a variety of auditory, vestibular and related disorders across the life span. This course will also assist them to develop appropriate communication skills needed in conversing and counseling clients/families and other professionals, as well as further developing professional writing skills.

Learner Outcomes/Action Plan:
The student will demonstrate knowledge and skills included in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Knowledge and Skills Acquisition (KASA) standards. To view specific information on these standards, go to www.usm.edu/shs/audio.htm or www.usm.edu/shs/speech.htm and click on the KASA competencies link. In addition, please refer to the Clinic Handbook for year specific competencies and expectations. The following KASA standards will be accomplished:

IV-B: Foundations of Practice: The student must be competent in the foundations of Audiologic practice. Standard IV-C: Prevention/Identification: The student must be competent in the prevention and identification of auditory and vestibular disorders. Standard IV-D: Evaluation: The student must be competent in the evaluation of individuals with auditory, balance, communication and related systems. IV-E: Treatment: The individual must be competent in the treatment of individuals with auditory, balance and related disorders.
**Course Requirements and Formative/Summative Assessment Procedures:**

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences describes performance criterion for practicum grades of A, B, C, D, F as well as any “+” or “-” indicators. These criteria will be considered in assigning grades in addition to the student’s development of skills and behaviors described in the Practicum Handbook. Grade assignments will also consider factors such as a student’s prior experience, prior and current course work and improvements in performance over the semester and from prior semesters. Clinical grades are recommended by the supervising audiologist and clinic coordinator. The student and the supervising audiologist will participate in the completion of the evaluation form which is to be returned to the Audiology Clinic Coordinator. Students will be assessed in the following areas: screening procedures, diagnostic procedures, rehabilitation techniques including client/family counseling, amplification evaluation and fitting, management of materials and instrumentation, attendance and absences, and any other facility specific responsibilities.

Formative assessments will measure the student’s acquisition of knowledge and skills throughout each semester of practicum. This may include, but is not limited to, question and answer periods and independent clinical demonstration throughout the placement and online bi-weekly clinical meetings, as assigned by the Audiology Clinic Coordinator. The summative assessments will be the final assessment of the successful completion of all course learner outcomes and each semester’s grade based on the student’s ability to acquire and synthesize the knowledge and skills gained during the practicum experience.

In addition, students are expected to follow all on and local off-campus policies and procedures, as well as to complete the total length of the placement as described in the University/Facility Affiliation Agreement with local off-campus sites and to report to the site each day that is required.

**Remediation:**

Students are expected to demonstrate the highest level of professionalism and skills. Therefore, students falling below the expected criteria are responsible for increasing their level of competency by meeting and discussing possible remediation strategies with their externship supervisors and the Audiology Clinic Coordinator, and following a plan of remediation until the desired level of competence is reached. Remediation may include, but is not limited to, additional readings, clinical assignments and/or additional academic coursework.

**Attendance Policy:** In order for the student to receive a complete and comprehensive learning experience in clinic, attendance is mandatory for each clinic session and appointment to which a student is assigned. If a student is assigned to more than one clinical assignment on a given day, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the supervisors of their other clinic obligations prior to that given day. In addition, if a student completes his/her clinic assignment early on that given day, he/she must return to complete the other clinic assignment responsibilities. If a student must miss a clinic assignment due to extenuating circumstances, he/she must notify their clinic supervisor or clinic secretary by phone at least one hour prior to the given day he/she may miss. A
student’s attendance will be considered when evaluating overall performance and will be factored into grade outcomes.

**Americans with Disabilities Statement:**
If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

**Address:** The University of Southern Mississippi, Office for Disability Accommodations, 118 College Drive # 8586, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232
Fax: (601) 266-6035, Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu.