Department of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology  
Clinical Audiology Externship – ASLP 6090  
Spring 2020

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Course Description

ASLP 6090 is designed to provide direct practical experience to help the student develop the skills necessary for independent assessment of hearing and balance. This course, in direct participation with the externship site, provides the student opportunities to develop and hone skills that include, but are not limited to, the following in a variety of clinical patients:

- interview techniques and patient follow-up
- counseling
- assessment of hearing and balance function
- hearing aid evaluation and fitting
- assessment and fitting of assistive listening devices
- aural habilitation
- ABR and advanced electrophysiological measures
- ENG/VNG
- cochlear implant topics including candidacy, counseling and mapping.

Additional duties may include but are not limited to the following:

- billing for audiological services
- monitoring site inventory and ordering devices and/or supplies
- marketing
- scheduling.

Participation in ASLP 6090 will take place via regularly scheduled chats or through assignments posted to Canvas (https://unt.instructure.com/).

Learning Outcomes

Through participation in daily clinical service delivery, discussions, and readings the student will:

- Independently perform complete audiological evaluations including immittance, OAE, and audiometric measures and interpret the outcomes at entry level skill proficiency for an audiologist
- Develop effective communication through case history interviews, counseling, and report writing
- Perform specialized testing like APD, ABR, ENG/VNG, and cochlear implant mapping at entry-level skill proficiency
- Dispense hearing instruments and ALD devices independently at entry-level skill proficiency
• Practice daily patient care and case management
• Present and discuss case studies with peers
• Compare aspects of different clinical settings with peers
• Formulate questions and discuss critical issues of clinical service delivery.

Externship Year Overview and Requirements

Au.D. externship in the fourth year is equivalent to full-time employment. The externship may be acquired with or without compensation, as determined by the host site. During the externship year, the Au.D. student must acquire a minimum of 1600 hours of supervised clinical work completed over at least 42 weeks (divided over three semesters). Activities will involve primarily clinical activities such as assessment, diagnosis, evaluation, screening, treatment, report writing, family/client consultation, and/or counseling related to the management process of individuals as outlined by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Each student is required to meet state laws and guidelines regarding licensure or documentation before beginning the site in each respective state.

In the event the student is unable to acquire the required clinical practicum hours or the attendance requirement of 42 weeks by the conclusion of the spring semester of the 4th-year of doctoral study, the student must continue to enroll in ASLP 6090 until the required hours and weeks are accumulated and documented.

The externship supervisor may monitor other activities indirectly via correspondence through review of video recording and/or audio recordings, evaluation of written reports, phone conferences with the extern, or evaluation by professional colleagues. The supervisor should evaluate the Au.D. extern regularly, with direct communication on strengths and areas of improvement. The externship supervisor will complete a formal evaluation at the end of each externship semester to be turned in to the Instructor of this course. It is the responsibility of the extern to ensure that these evaluations are submitted to the university representative on or before the designated due date.

Should the extern elect to pursue ASHA certification, it is the sole responsibility of the extern to ensure that his/her supervisor of record holds current the ASHA CCC-A prior to beginning the externship period and maintenance thereof throughout the externship experience. (A total of 1820 hours over the course of the student’s academic career must be supervised by a current CCC-A holder for application.) Refer to AHSAs’s handbook for specific information regarding the supervisory process required for ASHA certification.

Clinical Onsite Experience and Overall Attendance

Daily attendance to the externship site and attendance to all online course sessions is required over the course of the entire semester. Students are required to adhere to their site’s own attendance, tardiness and request-for-leave policies. Externships are not required to adhere to University calendar holidays.

Students are required, over the course of the externship, to complete at least 42 total weeks of onsite clinical experience. If the student is unable complete the 42-week attendance requirement due to the site’s start date (not the date chosen by the student), the student may work with the Clinical Director and course instructor to determine an alternate start date in the UNT Speech and Hearing Center to close the attendance gap. Final determination of the length of an alternate plan rests with the Clinical Director and may or may not fulfill the gap to meet 42 weeks.

Two student-initiated absences at the externship site is permitted in this semester for this course. Excessive absences (site or class) due to illness or emergency will be discussed with the course instructor and/or Clinical Director. More than two absences will be reported on the Extern Core Competencies worksheet and will affect the grade on this portion of the course.
Tardiness is unacceptable. Unscheduled tardiness of 15 minutes or more to your site will be considered an absence and will count toward the two permissible absences. Any anticipation of tardiness should be immediately relayed to the supervisor with an approximate arrival time as a courtesy to the supervisor. This step does not resolve your tardiness, and an absence will still be documented.

The Au.D. Extern is responsible for maintaining a record of clinical clock hours on the designated form and securing the signature of the extern supervisor(s). This semester, clinical clock hours are required to be informally submitted to the Course Instructor by the last day of class as scheduled on the UNT calendar. Formal, signed hours will be submitted to the department at the completion of the externship, or in the event the student changes placements within the academic year. It is the Au.D. extern’s responsibility to submit hour documentation to the UNT Course Instructor on time at clinic check-out.

The Au.D. Extern is required to follow the policies of the externship facility regarding health/safety protocols, privacy policies, assessment protocol, attendance, timeliness, and dress.

Dismissal from Site

In the event a student is dismissed from an externship site for professionalism, clinical skill deficiency or violation of the site’s policies and protocols, the student will receive a failing grade for the semester and will work with the Course Instructor, Clinical Director and Program Director to determine a new or remediation course for continuation of the externship, which may impact graduation dates.

Core Competency Evaluation (60% of overall grade)

The UNT AuD Extern Core Competencies worksheet is a reference document to guide expectations related to the level of professionalism and clinical competence during the 4th-year externship.

Each competency skill will be marked by your supervisor as Absent, Developing, Consistent or Mastery. These categories correspond to defined percentages of time you can independently achieve the competency with no assistance from your preceptor or other on-site audiologists. Your preceptors are instructed to rate you according to your true skill level. A skill that is not observed will be left blank. Evaluations will occur at final of Fall and Spring semesters.

Students who fail to meet satisfactory requirements of professionalism (including attendance, dress, collegiality with staff/coworkers, and following of policy) will not receive credit for this portion of the course. According to the UNT degree plan, failure of a clinical course is unacceptable, and requires repeating that course. The student assumes all responsibility for delay of graduation and enrollment in extra semester(s) of ASLP 6090 in this instance. It is the Au.D. extern’s responsibility to ensure this form has been submitted to the UNT Course Instructor on time at clinic check-out.

Course Assignments (40% of grade)

- Individual Chat – Schedule chat time with instructor for January
- Clinical Grand Rounds (20 points) – due Monday, March 9th by NOON
- Audiology State of Affairs (20 points) – due Monday, March 16th by NOON
  * A letter grade will be deducted for each day an assignment is turned in late

Mandatory Clinic Check-Out

Documents Required for Final Clinic Check-Out due Thursday, April 30th at NOON:
• Signed hours form
• Site/preceptor evaluation & experience summary
• Course & instructor evaluation, completed on SPOT – email confirmation
• Core competency evaluation
• Permanent Contact Information
• Exit Interview
* Documents should be sent directly to Kathleen Long (kathleenlong@my.unt.edu) as Dr. Powell will be out on leave at this time*

It is the student’s responsibility to obtain signatures and documents from preceptors in a timely manner to meet course deadlines. Late or incomplete submissions will automatically result in a deduction of one letter grade. Submissions not received by the last day of the semester will result in a second letter grade reduction and an interview with the Clinical Director.

Course Grading

Semester grades are determined by the supervisor evaluation (encompassing professionalism), completion of course assignments, and completing clinic check-out.

A = 90 – 100%
B = 80 – 89.9%
C = 70 – 79.9% (If a C or lower is obtained, the semester must be repeated; the extern contract will be revisited after discussion with the externship site and the Clinical Director; any course repeats will affect graduation dates)
D = 60 – 69.9%
I = Incomplete

Assignment Details

Clinical Grand Rounds: Difficult Case
a. Choose a case from your externship placement that has given you considerable professional difficulty.
b. In addition to providing the standard audiologic information reported in previous grand rounds assignments, describe in detail the steps you took to overcome the challenge.
   i. This may include any training opportunities, outside research, or any additional resources you used that have increased your skill and knowledge in the noted area of difficulty.
   ii. You may include a specific etiology, cultural difference, psychological component that complicated your particular case, or technology in which you felt less than prepared.
c. You must demonstrate how this better prepared you in meeting the needs of this and future patients.
d. Present a summary in your own words to include the following components (each component is worth 10 points):
   iii. Pertinent Medical/Psychosocial History
   iv. Otoscopic Findings
   v. Immittance Measures
   vi. Audiometric Data
   vii. Special Testing (if none conducted, what tests could have been used?)
   viii. Current or Proposed Amplification/Technology
   ix. Recommendations including medical or audiological follow-up
x. Provide a detailed summary of the steps you took to overcome (training/research/resources) and how that contributed to enhance the services provided for this patient and/or future patients

xi. Provide insight into what this experience has taught you and how it can be applied to help others in the future

xii. Comment on each presentation (may include if you’ve had a similar experience, how you would have handled the situation, etc.)

e. Be sure to site references.

f. Post your presentation to the Discussion Board by noon on March 9th for review by all class participants.

g. Comments on each presentation for credit must be posted by noon on March 16th.

h. Responses to comments must be posted by noon on March 23rd.

Audiology State of Affairs

a. Research the current and proposed legislative changes to audiological billing and reimbursement as well as the changes to hearing aid/amplification regulations

b. Write a 2-3 page evaluation on these changes and their effect on the field of audiology

c. Be sure to site references

d. Documents to be submitted by email to the professor by Monday, March 16th at noon.

Academic Dishonesty

Any kind of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in formal disciplinary action.

Special Accommodations:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Note:
This syllabus is by no means a contract. The instructor may change the contents of the syllabus to suit the needs of the course and enhance the effectiveness of assignments. Students will be notified of any changes.