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 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 which they may be working.

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 minimum of 12 month’s full-time equivalent of supervised clinical experiences during a student’s academic career must be supervised by a current CCC-A holder for application.) Refer to AHSA’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 fulfil 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 Au.D 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
Summer, Fall and Spring semesters.

*Students who fail to meet satisfactory requirements of professionalism (including attendance, dress, interaction
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 – Set-up chat time with instructor for June
- Professional Organization Chart (20 points) – due by noon on **Friday, July 2**
- Progressive Portfolio (20 points) – due by noon on **Thursday, August 5**

**Mandatory Clinic Check-Out**

Documents Required for Clinic Check-Out due **Thursday, August 5:**

- Signed hours form
- Site/preceptor evaluation & experience summary
- Course & instructor evaluation, completed on SPOT – email confirmation to course instructor
- Core competency evaluation
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%
D = 60 – 69.9%
I = Incomplete

*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.

Assignment Details

Individual Chat with Instructor
- Schedule chat for June with instructor via online sheet provided
- The chat will last no longer than 15 minutes
- Please be prepared to discuss the following topics:
  - Transitioning to your new location
  - Supervision and work environment
  - Duties & Responsibilities
  - Comments & Concerns

Professional Organization Chart (20 points)

It can be difficult to decide on an organization to join when there are so many to choose from. Groups have different priorities and offer varied services to their members. You want to make sure to join an organization that aligns with your goals. To help you make a decision you will create a chart of the major professional organizations (at least 6).

Include membership fees, member benefits and available resources, goals and ideals of the organization, perks for recent grads, current supported legislation, and any additional information that may help make your decision on which group you want to represent you. This chart will help you make a quicker and easier selection when the time comes.

Progressive Portfolio (20 points)

Similar to your previous semesters, you will keep a portfolio of your clinical work and experiences this semester. Coupled with this portfolio will be an electronic journal that can be transmitted by email to your Course Instructor for review. Each week, you will document what types of patients you saw and/or what procedures you performed (e.g., pediatrics, frequency-compression hearing aid fitting, real-ear verification, cochlear implant mapping, newborn ABR, VNG, VEMP, etc.) (Appendix A).

In addition, you will record your overall perception of how you believe you performed that week, what guidance, if any, the audiologist offered that was beneficial or detrimental, what you felt you did well, and
where you feel you can improve the next week. Enough detail should be included so that you can look back at
the end of the semester and see a variety of learning experiences, ways that adversity was overcome, as well as
celebration in mastered concepts and self-confidence. You may include commentary regarding supervisors and
site if you wish.

De-identified copies of audiograms, ABR tracings, VNG tracings, and hearing evaluations, in accordance with
HIPAA privacy laws, should be routinely included as part of the portfolio, as a record for the student and
Clinical Director to gauge the variety, quality and accuracy of their experiences.

At the end of the semester, you will review your portfolio to identify areas of growth achieved and write goals
for your next semester. The UNT Course Instructor and/or Clinical Director reserve the right to request the
portfolio for review at any time during the semester.

**This portfolio is written on a weekly basis, so you will discuss overall patients and performance per
week, rather than per day. You do not need to write an entry for each individual day.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences:

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in
behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism,
and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging
from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation:

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation
must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is
verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private
discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA
notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet
with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at
disability.unt.edu.

Course Safety Procedures (for Laboratory Courses):

Students enrolled in laboratory courses are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in
UNT Policy 06.038 Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected
and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on
slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should
be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All
students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not
have insurance coverage should consider Standard Syllabus Statements Related Policy 06.049 Course Syllabi
Requirements obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student
Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the
Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an
insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this
facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an
emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.
Emergency Notification & Procedures:

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure,

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.