ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

For

SLP MA/MS and AuD Degree Students in Communication Science and Disorders


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Welcome!

This handbook is for students entering the following degree programs in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders (CSD) during the Fall Term of 2016 (also known as 2171):

- Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MS) in Communication Science and Disorders with a concentration in Speech-Language Pathology
- Students can conclude their audiology training with the Master of Arts or Master of Science degrees with a concentration in Audiology. This degree will not allow clinical practice in the U.S.
- Doctor of Audiology (AuD)

This handbook contains information about the academic requirements for these degree programs only. Information about the clinical requirements for these degrees is found in the relevant clinical handbooks.

This academic handbook is organized into three sections:

- **Section I** contains general information affecting all students, regardless of the degree program. (Examples include policies on academic integrity, advising, financial aid, etc. This information is organized alphabetically.)
- **Section II** includes information about the AuD program in Audiology.
- **Section III** includes information about the MA/MS programs in Speech-Language Pathology.

Please read this handbook carefully. **Students are responsible for all information contained herein.** To ensure your familiarity with this information, **students must sign and submit the statement at the back of the handbook (Appendix E) confirming that they have read the material** within the first 2 weeks of your first semester in the program. **Students must also pass a quiz on the content of the handbook in their first semester** (the quiz is part of the ProSeminar course).

Students should also become familiar with information in the following additional resources:

- The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS) Bulletin (http://www.bulletins.pitt.edu/graduate/shrs.htm)
- The SHRS Graduate Student Handbook (http://www.shrs.pitt.edu/student.aspx?id=3514&sbp=4086)
- The Department Course Descriptions (http://www.shrs.pitt.edu/csd/)
- The University Calendar and Schedule of Classes (http://www.pitt.edu/calendars.html)
- The University Guidelines on Academic Integrity (http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html)
- The Membership and voluntary Certification requirements for the American Academy of Audiology (AAA, specific to Audiology students) (http://www.audiology.org/about-us/american-academy-audiology-foundation)

In addition to offering these degrees, the Department of Communication Science and Disorders provides the opportunity for students to meet the academic and clinical training requirements for:

- ASHA’s Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) and Audiology (CCC-A) (http://www.asha.org/certification/AboutCertificationGenInfo.htm)
- American Board of Audiology (ABA) Certification (http://www.americanboardofaudiology.org/)
- Pennsylvania Educational Certification: Speech-Language Impaired (http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/certifications/7199)
- Pennsylvania State Licensure in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology (http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/cwp/view.asp?a=1104&q=433205)

Each of these credentials has separate standards and requirements, and **students are responsible for monitoring and documenting their progress** toward meeting these standards. Please see the relevant sections of this handbook devoted to these credentials for more information about them.
The Department of Communication Science and Disorders reserves the right to make changes and corrections to this document as necessary. If students have questions about the information contained in this handbook, they should consult their academic advisor.
Section I: General Information
(Applicable to All Students, Regardless of Degree Program)

Academic Integrity

According to the SHRS Academic Policies Manual (posted on the SHRS website):

“Students have the responsibility to be honest and to conduct themselves in an ethical manner while pursuing academic studies. Students have the right to be treated by faculty in a fair and conscientious manner in accordance with the ethical standards generally recognized within the academic community (as well as those recognized within the profession). Should a student be accused of a breach of academic integrity or have questions regarding faculty responsibilities, procedural safeguards including provisions of due process have been designed to protect student rights. These may be found in the SHRS Guidelines on Academic Integrity: Student and Faculty Obligations and Hearing Procedures.”

*It is every student's obligation to know and abide by the University of Pittsburgh’s code for academic integrity*, which can be found at [http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html](http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html). CSD adds an additional requirement: *Students should not submit for credit any work previously or concurrently submitted for credit in another course without prior consent of the instructor.*

Students found in violation of this code will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with the policies and procedures stated in the SHRS Guidelines on Academic Integrity: Student and Faculty Obligations and Hearing Procedures ([http://www.shrs.pitt.edu/student.aspx?id=3513&sbp=4088](http://www.shrs.pitt.edu/student.aspx?id=3513&sbp=4088))

Academic Probation

To maintain full graduate status, students must achieve a minimum GPA of 3.000 (based on a 4.000 grading scale) in their graduate study. Students whose cumulative GPA drops below a 3.000 who have completed at least 9 credits, will be placed on academic probation and will receive written notification of this status. At that point, *it is the student’s responsibility* to meet with his or her academic and/or clinical advisor. To be removed from academic probation, students will need to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.000 within the next two terms of study. Failure to do so may result in immediate dismissal from the program at the discretion of the Department Chair.

**Graduate students must have a 3.000 cumulative GPA to be eligible to graduate.** Students on probation are not eligible to graduate, defend thesis projects, or take comprehensive examinations.

Students who fail to demonstrate satisfactory progress toward meeting graduation requirements in a timely manner may be placed on academic probation or be dismissed from the program at the discretion of the Department Chair. Additional information about minimum passing grade requirements can be found under “grading policies” in this handbook.

Advising

Students are assigned an advisor when they enter the department. The faculty advisor is responsible for monitoring their advisees’ progress through the program. Other faculty in the department will communicate regularly with the faculty advisors, to ensure that the advisors are aware of their advisees’ performance in classes or clinical assignments. As described under “Annual Review,” student performance will also be discussed by faculty at during a specially designated faculty meeting to ensure that all students are receiving the support they need in the program. Notes from such meetings will be documented in students’ advising files by the faculty advisors.

*Students should contact their advisors at any time if they encounter problems or have questions about any aspect of the program.*
Before registering each term, students must meet with their advisor to discuss their courses and progress in the program. Advisors will also track any discussions and meetings with their advisees in an electronic advising form, accessible only to staff and faculty in the program. This form will be updated at regularly scheduled advising meetings, which must occur at least once each semester. Additional documentation will be conducted during any additional advising meetings that the student and advisor may schedule. Supplemental meetings will be scheduled as the student nears graduation to ensure that all requirements have been met. Other faculty may also enter information into the electronic student advising form.

The initial assignment of advisors is random. Students may request a change at any time. Out of courtesy, students should first meet with both the original and potential new advisors before initiating changes. For students completing a Master’s thesis, the thesis director will typically become the advisor, though students should discuss any such change with the thesis director and academic advisor.

If a student desires to change their advisor at any point during their graduate education, s/he must complete a change of advisor form, which is available in the department office. This form requires the signatures of the previous advisor, the new advisor, and the program director. The change of advisor will not be official until this form is completed and submitted to the Department Office. The Department Office will submit the form to SHRS Student Services, at which point the change will be made in PeopleSoft.

**Annual Review**

CSD faculty and staff conduct a yearly review of all graduate students. The purposes of this review are (a) to verify each student’s progress toward the degree, (b) to identify students who are experiencing difficulty, and (c) to discuss solutions to problems that are faced. Additional reviews will be conducted as necessary if concerns are identified by faculty. The clinic committee also reviews student performance on an ongoing basis as needed.

**Appeals**

If a student has a concern with a faculty or staff member or with another student, he or she is encouraged to first address this concern with that individual directly. If the concern remains unresolved, the student should speak first with their faculty advisor, their program director, and then, if needed the Department Chair. The student may also consult with the SHRS Academic Integrity Officer for graduate students: Kelley Fitzgerald, PhD. Policies for this, and further appeals, are described in the “SHRS Guidelines on Academic Integrity.” This document can be found on the SHRS website at: http://www.shrs.pitt.edu/student.aspx?id=3513&sbp=4088.

**Attendance**

It is expected that students will attend all classroom and clinical obligations throughout their programs. If a student must miss a class, s/he must notify both the faculty member teaching the course and his/her academic advisor. This notification may be provided from the student’s regular Pitt email account. The student is responsible for obtaining information and notes from missed classes, and all assignments must be completed on-time unless accommodations are made by the instructor. Excessive absences may be the cause for receiving a failing grade in the course even if the student’s performance in the class would otherwise indicating a passing grade.

If student must miss clinic, s/he must contact both his/her clinical supervisor and either Dr. Cheryl Messick (for SLP students) or Dr. Elaine Mormer (for AuD students). Notification to the clinical supervisor must be provided in-person, or by both telephone and email for missed clinical sessions. Notification can be provided to Drs. Messick or Mormer via email (cmessick@pitt.edu; emormer@pitt.edu).
Note that it is not acceptable for students to miss clinic due to any classroom assignments except during the specific timeslot when they are taking their final comprehensive examination. **It is not permissible for students to miss clinic to prepare for the comprehensive examination or for another assignment or project in any other course at any time during their program.** Excessive absences may be cause for receiving a failing grade in the clinical practicum experience.

**Awards**

There are two awards available to second-year MA/MS students in speech-language pathology and second-year students in the Doctor of Audiology (AuD) program.

- The *Emeritus Award* was established in 2002 from an endowment funded by an emeritus CSD faculty member. This award recognizes outstanding academic achievement.
- The *Lisa Levy Award* was originally established in 1985 to recognize outstanding overall achievement and contributions. Following the creation of the *Emeritus Award* in 2002, the *Lisa Levy* award was selected to honor outstanding clinical achievement.

Once per year, usually during the Fall term, faculty nominate students for these awards by submitting letters of support outlining nominees’ accomplishments and contributions during their graduate school careers. Faculty then vote to select the recipient from this pool of nominees. Up to two awards are provided each year. The recipient of each award receives a letter of acknowledgment and a monetary award. The recipients’ names are also inscribed on a plaque that is displayed in the main Department office (6035 Forbes Tower).

There is one funded award open to graduate students in Audiology only. The *Avada Book Award* is given each term to the Audiology student who has achieved the highest ranking in combined clinical and didactic quality point average (QPA) values from the previous semester. The recipient receives a monetary award intended to cover the cost of textbooks for one semester. This award will remain available as long as the annual funding is available.

The *Audrey Holland Endowed Award* was established to support undergraduate and graduate students to design and conduct research in CSD and is open to all CSD students. The awardee may use the award for research-related supplies and equipment, subject participation, statistical support, travel to present research findings, and other related items. Students conducting or planning to conduct research may self-nominate for the award. For detailed application procedures, see Appendix C. The Award amount will be announced each year based on available funds. Awardees are honored at the University Honors Convocation and SHRS Recognition Day ceremony.

**Certification**

*American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC)*

The Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC), offered by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), indicates professional certification in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology. **Students apply for the CCC after graduation, though they should learn about the CCC application process and requirements before graduating.**

For information, see ASHA’s Membership and Certification Handbook Questions about ASHA’s requirements for the CCC may be addressed to the ASHA Telephone Hotline (1-800-498-2071) or consult the ASHA website (http://www.asha.org/certification/AboutCertificationGenInfo.htm) for more information. Students should be sure to use the correct form for the standards under which they are applying (2014 standards).

Procedure for pursuing the ASHA CCC:

2. The signature page will be included in the student’s folder. Following the final check out meeting with the academic advisor, the form will be signed by Dr. McNeil.

3. Students will contact Pam Morocco when the form is required for submission to ASHA (after graduation and completion of the clinical fellowship).

4. The form will be provided by electronically so the student can complete the CCC application.

American Board of Audiology Certification (ABA)

The American Board of Audiology Certification program is provided by the American Academy of Audiology and provides professional certification in Audiology. For more information on obtaining ABA certification, please go to [http://www.americanboardofaudiology.org](http://www.americanboardofaudiology.org). The ABA provides both an entry level certificate which graduating AuD students will qualify for from the University of Pittsburgh and specialty certification which would be obtained after practice and continuing education in a specialty area. Individuals interested in specialty certification provide written materials in support of their application and sit for a national examination in that specialty area.

Clinical Requirements

Clinical requirements can be found in the CSD Department Clinical Education Handbook.

Comprehensive Examinations

CSD graduate students seeking clinical degrees must pass a two-part oral and written comprehensive examination. The comprehensive examination assesses students’ ability to think critically, to communicate their thoughts to others in written and oral form, and to demonstrate their grasp of the major academic and clinical content provided in their graduate program. The requirements for the comprehensive examinations are specific to the degree programs in which students are enrolled. Additional information can be found in the sections on Comprehensive Examinations in the portion of this handbook describing each degree program.

Dates and guidelines for scheduling and submitting oral and written comprehensive examinations are strictly enforced. For example, due to scheduling requirements, no comprehensive examinations for SLP students are scheduled during the summer term. Students should review the dates for their degree program carefully. Students who do not pass the comprehensive exams prior to the due dates, or in their last semester of study, may be required to register for an additional semester in order to graduate. Students should ask their academic advisor if they have any questions about comprehensive examinations.

Students seeking the non-clinical graduate MS Degree are not required to complete the oral or written comprehensive examination. Instead, they will complete other requirements associated with the thesis (including a written thesis and oral thesis defense).

Computers and Laptops

Students are permitted to use computers to take notes in class, provided that their participation in class—and the participation of their classmates—is not adversely affected. Students are expressly forbidden from using social media or other applications that are unrelated to their coursework during class time. Individual faculty may place limitations or restrictions on computer use in their classes. These will be announced to students in class or described in the course syllabus.

Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) – Student Appeals

The clinical entry degree programs in Audiology (AuD degree) and Speech/Language Pathology (MA and clinical MS in SLP) are accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA). CAA provides
oversight of clinical entry level degree programs to ensure that they allow students to meet the requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC).

Students, faculty, staff and members of the public who feel that a clinical program is not in compliance with CAA standards may submit a complaint to CAA. (See compliance guidelines at: http://www.asha.org/academic/accreditation/accredmanual/section3.htm.) CAA may be reached by phone at 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700. Written communication can also be mailed to: CAA at ASHA, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, MD 20850-3289.

Disability Accommodation

Students who are or may be requesting accommodation for a disability should contact their course instructors and the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS) at 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) (http://www.drs.pitt.edu/) as early as possible each term. DRS will verify the disability and determine reasonable accommodations for each course.

Email Communication

All students are required to check their University of Pittsburgh email accounts regularly for communication from the department or school. While students may forward their mail to other accounts, faculty and staff are only permitted to use students’ official University of Pittsburgh email addresses. Students should check frequently to ensure that mail is not blocked due to full mailboxes or misdirected forwarding addresses. Students are responsible for all requests, deadlines, information, etc. that are sent to their Pitt email accounts.

In order to be consistent with Health Sciences Professional Programs, if students choose to indicate their area of study in their email signature line or in other correspondence, they should indicate “Audiology Student” or “Speech Language Pathology Student.” There should be no reference to the degree being pursued.

Faculty and Staff

CSD faculty members are available to assist students with any aspect of their academic and clinical training. Current biographical sketches can be found at https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/CSDdirectory/.

Financial Aid

The CSD policy statement on financial aid (August, 1991) states that departmental aid will reward academic merit. Thus, students with the strongest academic credentials and highest rankings within their programs have the most opportunities for aid. The chair of the Financial Aid Committee can provide information about funding opportunities. As new information is received, it is sent via email to all groups of students that meet the predetermined criteria and can be found at https://shrs.pitt.edu/csd_funding/. The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid provides information about student loans (412-624-7488; http://www.oafa.pitt.edu/), and other resources may be found online (e.g., http://www.fastweb.com, http://www.finaid.org). Students may want to investigate programs for student loan forgiveness based on 10 years of work for a 501c3 (non-profit).

- http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/ed-debt/students/public-service-loan-forgiveness

Grading Policy

The minimum required passing grade in any course taken in a graduate program is a C. Any course in which a graduate student receives a grade of C- or lower will not count toward degree requirements. Students receiving such a grade in a required course (undergraduate or graduate) must repeat the course and achieve a higher grade. If the grade of C- or lower is received in an elective course, students may
either repeat the course or choose a replacement. In keeping with SHRS policies, there is a limit on the number of times a student may repeat a course: if a student does not receive a passing grade after the second opportunity to take a course, the student may be dismissed from the program. The full regulations can be found in the SHRS graduate student handbook http://www.shrs.pitt.edu/student.aspx?id=3514&sbp=4086.

Note that it is possible for a student to achieve a non-passing grade (C- or below) even if the scoring of points for the class indicates a higher grade. Such situations may occur when a student has an excessive number of unexcused absences, fails to complete an assigned remediation demonstrating acquisition of intended knowledge and skills, or does not complete all assignments. Thus, the mathematical calculation of a final score for a class can be overridden by faculty in order to reflect whether a student has met all of the goals outlined in the class syllabus. A passing grade of C or above is available only to those students who have achieved the intended knowledge and skills, regardless of the numerical score that might be attained.

If a grade of C- or lower is received for a clinic assignment, neither the credit nor any of the clinical hours will be counted toward either the degree or ASHA certification requirements. Furthermore, there is a limit to the number of times a student may complete a remediation or repeat a clinical practicum experience. According to the CSD clinical handbooks:

- Across a student’s graduate education program, they will be permitted to participate in no more than two formal clinic Remediation Plans.
- Students who receive a failing grade in more than two practicum experiences (Network, Outplacement or Externship practicum) will no longer be permitted to participate in practicum education.

Selected courses may require a grade higher than the “C.” All such courses will be specified in the course syllabus.

Graduation

At the beginning of the term in which a student plans to graduate, the student must file an Application for Graduation in the Office of Student Services (Room 4024, Forbes Tower). Students also must be certain to indicate the degree designator they are seeking. (For example, students in the clinical master’s program would typically receive an MA, though students who have completed a thesis would instead receive a MS.) Reminders may not be issued; it is the students’ responsibility to remember this requirement when nearing graduation!

Students must be registered for at least 1 credit during the term in which they plan to graduate, and they must have been registered for a minimum of 3 credits during the 12 months preceding their graduation month. Thus, if a student has completed all coursework and clinic requirements but has not yet passed the comprehensive exam, s/he must register for at least one credit of examination (or other legitimate credit) in the term in which the examination is taken in order to graduate that term.

Before a student can graduate, his or her advisor must (a) verify that the student has met the academic requirements for the degree program (including passing all required classes and completing the minimum number of credits); (b) certify that any courses having grades of “G” (work incomplete for reasons beyond student’s control), “I” (work incomplete for academic reasons), or “NC” (unsatisfactory) are not required for the degree. All “I,” “G,” or “NC” grades must be removed before graduation if they were received in classes that are required for the degree; and (c) have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0.

The advisor will ensure that the student’s file contains a completed Graduation Clearance Form, which has the signatures of each of the following individuals, where applicable:

- the academic advisor verifying completion of all academic degree requirements, and clinic practicum credits
- the thesis advisor, verifying completion of the thesis (if the student has completed a thesis)
● the Clinic Coordinator, verifying completion of all clinic requirements and ASHA clinical requirements (if the student has completed a clinical program). The clinic coordinator also oversees documentation of requirements towards PDE Certification for SLP students

● the Department Chair, for final approval for graduation.

Early in the term in which they plan to graduate, students should contact their academic advisor and the Director of Clinical Education (SLP students) or Audiology Coordinator (AuD students) to hold appointments to clear them for graduation. Students do not need to hold an individual appointment with the Department Chair.

Students that are graduating, sometimes need letters verifying that they have graduated; that letter verifying graduation must to come from the SHRS Registrar, currently Kellie Beach. You must send Kellie an email to ask for a letter of verification. NO letter will be provided until all grades are in and your file has been certified for graduation. If you need a letter before that, it will state that you are expected to graduated.

Organizations, Professional and Student

National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA)

The University of Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is open to all CSD graduate and undergraduate students. NSSLHA is responsive to students’ professional and social needs and is an active and integral part of the department. Information about NSSLHA meetings, along with other announcements of coming events, will be placed in students’ mailboxes, as well as on the bulletin board in 6035 Forbes Tower.

Student Academy of Audiology (SAA)

The Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) is the professional student organization dedicated to the advancement of educational and clinical training in the profession of Audiology with emphasis in enhanced patient care. SAA is affiliated with the American Academy of Audiology. The Pitt Chapter of SAA promotes public awareness of Audiology and student involvement in social, community, and educational programs. Information about SAA meetings along with announcements of coming events will be sent via email, placed in students’ mailboxes and posted in the department office.

Pennsylvania State Licensure

In order to engage in clinical practice as a professional in Pennsylvania, graduates must obtain a valid Pennsylvania State License. Questions about licenses for Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology may be addressed to the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language and Hearing, at (717) 783-7156 or at: http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/cwp/view.asp?a=1104&q=433205. On July 2, 2014, Pennsylvania passed Act 106, which includes a requirement for a Provisional License to SLP and AuD graduates prior to them completing full licensure requirements. This act went into effect in September, 2014, so all students should become aware of and follow requirements for provisional licenses within the state of Pennsylvania.

ProSeminar (CSD 2060)

The ProSeminar exposes students to a variety of content, issues, and perspectives from CSD and related fields. To meet the ProSeminar requirement, students must attend three presentations with scientific, clinical, or professional relevance to the discipline on the following schedule:

● MA/MS SLP students must register each fall and spring term for the duration of their program.
● CScD students must register each fall and spring term for the first two years in their program.
● AuD students must register each fall and spring for the first three years in their program.
● There is no ProSeminar requirement in the summer.

Qualifying presentations include seminars; colloquia in CSD and other departments; lectures at Pitt, CMU or other universities; Matthews-Rubin lectures or other presentations; professional meetings; clinical forums; etc. Because of the broad nature of the assignment and the vast array of acceptable presentations, there is no need to verify that a session qualifies, as long as it is related to the field in a meaningful way. Lectures and videos available on the internet can also be counted as meeting the requirements for the ProSeminar experience. Following each presentation, students answer a series of questions on the ProSeminar CourseWeb/BlackBoard site to allow faculty to verify that the requirement has been met.

**Key Reminders about the ProSeminar Requirement**

- Students do not need to obtain approval for presentations they attend as long as the presentations are related to the field of Communication Science and Disorders in a meaningful way.
- If a student attends more than one session at a state or national convention or other multi-session event, all of the sessions attended can be counted toward the ProSeminar requirement, provided that the student writes each session up separately as described in the documentation section.
- A helpful list of presentation can be found at the Pitt Health School’s Calendar of Events (http://www.health.pitt.edu/). Other presentations may be announced on CourseWeb/BlackBoard as they are brought to the faculty’s attention. Students can post a note to the ProSeminar discussion board if they learn of any other presentations.

**Registration and Tuition**

During the fall and spring terms, graduate students registered for full-time study (between 9 and 15 credits) are charged a single full-time tuition fee. During the summer term, tuition is charged individually for each credit taken. Students are not permitted to register for more than 15 graduate credits in a term without written permission from the Dean of the academic center in which the student is pursuing a degree. Students should recognize that such permission is extremely difficult to obtain and almost never granted. Graduate students are granted permission to register for more than 15 credits will be billed for each additional credit that exceeds their full-time rate. Individual schools and departments may restrict the maximum load of their graduate students. The program code for the registration form is 390615.

**Registration Procedures**

The University of Pittsburgh uses an online registration system for course selection. Each semester, students will receive an email indicating when registration for the following term is available. Students must meet with their academic advisors prior to using the online registration system to discuss their courses for the upcoming term and review their progress in the program. They should contact their academic advisor in advance to set up an advising meeting. Questions about registration should be directed to student services: http://www.shrs.pitt.edu/StudentServices.aspx?id=3697&sbp=3833.

**Research Projects**

All graduate students are strongly encouraged to contact individual faculty members to learn about opportunities to participate in research projects within the department. Information on research opportunities is available on the department’s website. AuD students are required to complete a research project (see the Audiology Section for specific requirements).

**Substitution of Courses/Course Equivalency**

Students who believe that they have fulfilled the requirements of a graduate course through a different course may request review of that course by the current instructor of the course for which they are
requesting substitution. The student should bring all relevant materials available about the content and scope of the course that he or she has completed (including the course syllabus, the textbook used, class notes, examinations, papers, projects, etc.) to the current course instructor in order to determine whether the courses are equivalent. **The current course instructor has the sole responsibility and authority to make this determination.** If the instructor approves the course equivalency, he or she will place a signed and dated letter in the student’s departmental academic file. **Approval of course a substitution or equivalence does not reduce the number of required credits for the degree.**

**Technical Standards**

To acquire requisite knowledge and skills to practice as an audiologist or speech language pathologist, graduate students must be able to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and provide a wide spectrum of patient care. Students must possess certain skills and abilities to successfully complete both the academic and clinical components of the curriculum with or without reasonable accommodations for disabilities. All graduates must be able to perform tasks such as taking a case history and completing diagnostic evaluations. They must also be able to synthesize these findings into a diagnosis and plan of treatment. Ultimately, these tasks must be accomplished independently, without aid of an intermediary.

These skills and abilities are divided into five areas: *communication, motor, intellectual-cognitive, sensory-observational and behavioral-social*. Students must be able to undertake all curricular requirements to the satisfaction of faculty to become competent and reliable practitioners. To this end, the Faculty of the Department of Communication Science & Disorders has established the non-academic criteria (Technical Standards) that graduate students must possess to enroll in and to continue in academic courses and clinical placements required for the AuD or MA/MS SLP degree.

These technical standards are shown in Appendix B. **All students must carefully review the specific technical standards for their program (Audiology or Speech-Language Pathology), sign the statement in the Appendix, and submit it the department by the time of acceptance into the program.** All students’ confirmations that they meet the technical standards are kept on file in the department.
Section II: Audiology Degree Programs

Overview

The following is a curriculum outline for the four-year Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree.

AuD Students First Obtain a Master’s Degree:

Students making successful progress towards meeting the requirements for the AuD degree will be awarded the MA degree after the requirements for that degree are met, usually the 3rd spring. Students must make application for the MA degree. The University will not allow students to get the MA and the AuD degrees at the same time. Students will apply for the AuD degree to be granted during the 4th year.

While it is not typically recommended, students can conclude their training with the Master of Arts or Master of Science degrees in Audiology. Please consult your adviser if you intend to obtain either of these degrees rather than the AuD degree. Students also should be aware of the option to pursue a PhD degree before or after the AuD is obtained.

AuD students have some flexibility in what and when they choose to register for elective courses. Possible opportunities to schedule elective requirements have been noted in italics.

- You are required to take **3 electives**. Electives must be pre-approved by your advisor and must include:
  - 1 graduate level course (2000 or higher)
  - 1 "other" elective (any level)
  - 1 speech-language pathology graduate-level course
- Students must register for **2 credits** of Research Practicum (CSD 2971). Both credits may be taken in the same or in different semesters.
- Students must register for **5 semesters** of Clinical Procedures Lab (1-1, 1-2, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3)--one credit each of the first 5 semesters.
- Students will register for **6 semesters** of Advanced Clinical Seminar (3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 4-1, 4-2, 4-3)--one credit for the last 6 semesters.
- Students must register for Pro Seminar (CSD 2060) for the fall and spring semesters of the first 3 years of study. In the third year of the program, if your clinic schedule permits, ProSeminar will require your attendance at Research Roundtable, organized by PhD students in the CSD program.

Each semester you will be instructed by the Audiology Clinic Coordinator, to register for as many as **4 credits** of clinic. Please be sure to verify the appropriate number of clinic credits for which you must register each semester. Clinic registration will vary for each student by semester; however, you MUST register for:

- a minimum of 1 credit in any given term, excepting under special circumstances arranged with the Audiology clinical education coordinator and/or externship coordinator
- a minimum total of 13 credits over the first 8 semesters (the first three years of the program) are required

All students must register for **1 credit** of Speech Practicum Network (CSD 2065) in either the 1st fall or 1st spring of the program. The semester you will register for this will be determined by the Audiology Clinic Coordinator.
## Doctor of Audiology (AuD): Required Coursework

### Fall 1st year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSD2040</td>
<td>Audiolologic Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2042</td>
<td>Audiolologic Assessment Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2021</td>
<td>Clinical Procedures Lab 1-1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2047</td>
<td>Amplification I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2048</td>
<td>Sound and Vibration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2056</td>
<td>Audiology Practicum Network - AuD</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2060</td>
<td>ProSeminar</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2068</td>
<td>Speech Practicum Network*</td>
<td>1*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some students will be assigned to an SLP practicum this semester.

Total: 12 - 13 credits

### Spring 1st year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSD2046</td>
<td>Pediatric Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2045</td>
<td>Physiological Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2055</td>
<td>Pediatric Auditory Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2051</td>
<td>Clinical Procedures Lab 1-2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2056</td>
<td>Audiology Practicum Network - AuD</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2060</td>
<td>ProSeminar</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2068</td>
<td>Speech Practicum Network*</td>
<td>1*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students who did not register for this in the fall.

Total: 12-13 credits

### Summer 2nd year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSD2044</td>
<td>Differential Assessment</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2252</td>
<td>Advanced Physiological Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2602</td>
<td>Educational Audiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2053</td>
<td>Clinical Procedures Lab 2-1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2056</td>
<td>Audiology Practicum Network - AuD</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 14-15 credits

### Fall 2nd year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSD2022</td>
<td>Clinical Procedures Lab 2-2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRS2927</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Health Sciences Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2454</td>
<td>Amplification 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2041</td>
<td>Management of Adult Hearing Problems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2057</td>
<td>Audiology Practicum Outplacement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2060</td>
<td>ProSeminar</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total: 12 credits

### Spring 2nd year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HRS2928</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Health Sciences Research II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2054</td>
<td>Implantable Hearing Devices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2110</td>
<td>Neuroscience of Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2052</td>
<td>Clinical Procedures Lab 2-3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2062</td>
<td>Introduction to clinician-client communications</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2057</td>
<td>Audiology Practicum Outplacement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2972</td>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD2060</td>
<td>ProSeminar</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 14 credits
Summer 3rd year
CSD XXXX  SLP Graduate Level Course  2-3
CSD2251  Vestibular Assessment and Rehabilitation  3
CSD2049  Aging Auditory System  3
CSD2603  Human Genetics for Hearing and Speech Disorders  2
CSD2652  Advanced Clinical Seminar 3-1  1
CSD2057  Audiology Practicum Outplacement  2
Total: 10-11 credits

Fall 3rd year
XXX  Elective (2000 level or higher)  2
CSD2600  Interprofessional Rotation  1
CSD2601  Supervision  1
CSD2971  Research Practicum*  1
CSD2081  Research Strategies and Tactics  3
CSD2654  Practice Management  3
CSD2661  Advanced Clinical Seminar 3-2  1
CSD 2057  Audiology Practicum Outplacement  2
CSD2060  ProSeminar/Research Round Table  0
Total: 14 credits

*The Research Practicum credit can be taken any of the first 8 semesters but should be completed before the end of the Spring semester of the 3rd year.

Spring 3rd year
CSD2456  Developmental Speech Perception  3
CSD2971  Research Practicum*  1
CSD2063  Developing Clinician-Client Communication  1
CSD2657  Advanced Clinical Seminar 3-3  1
CSD2057  Audiology Practicum-Outplacement  2
CSD2060  ProSeminar/Research Round Table  0
XXX  Elective (any level) *  2
Total: 10 credits

*This is the last chance to fulfill elective requirements. The order in which electives are taken can vary.

Summer 4th year
CSD2655  Advanced Clinical Seminar 4-1  1
CSD2659  Externship  4
Total: 5 credits

Fall 4th year
CSD2660  Advanced Clinical Seminar 4-2  1
CSD2659  Externship  4
Total: 5 credits

Spring 4th year
CSD2658  Advanced Clinical Seminar 4-3  1
CSD2659  Externship  4
Total: 5 credits

Total Minimum Credits = 115
(updated 8/06/15)
Notes:
• AuD students are required to complete 4-6 credits of statistics. The 2 course sequence listed above is recommended but other options are available. Students should discuss these options with their advisor.
• The AuD program curriculum outlined above is the anticipated/suggested plan of study and is subject to change. Variability may occur due to teaching loads of instructors or other scheduling issues.
• The Externship year will place you on a part-time registration. Please be aware of potential consequences in changing to part-time student status (loans, health care, etc.). It is your responsibility to investigate the possible consequences of part-time registration. You may choose to continue full-time registration (minimum 9 credits).
• Students must have completed all course and clinic work successfully (no failures or incompletes) including research credits prior to starting externship placements.
• Students wanting to graduate in April of the 4th year must begin the AuD externship by June 1 of the previous year. Students must complete a minimum of 11 months of externship in order to graduate with the AuD degree (see Externship Handbook). Keep in mind that if you start your externship after June 1st you will not graduate until August of the next year. You will be required to return to the program and defend your comprehensive examination in the summer term of graduation.

Required and Recommended Opportunities

Required: AuD and MA audiology students are required to attend the Audiology Friday Seminar, which is usually held the first Friday of every month (7:00-8:00 a.m.) in the months of October, November, December, January, February, March and April in Forbes Tower room 4060. These seminars introduce supplementary topics to the curriculum and involve community audiologists as well as students and faculty. Students are required to attend Technology Tuesday which is held the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 4-5pm in the Eye and Ear Board Room (room 520, 5th floor, Eye and Ear Institute, 203 Lothrop Street; the room is subject to change and an email will be sent to inform you of the room if it has changed). Technology Tuesday provides a forum for our Industry partners to update us on the latest technology and allows students to observe and participate in interactions between clinicians and industry representatives.

Audiology students also are encouraged to take advantage of the following opportunities as often as possible:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What / Contact</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Saturday of every month at 10:00 am</td>
<td>Hearing Loss Association of America</td>
<td>DePaul Institute 6202 Alder Avenue, Shadyside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Tuesday of each month 7:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Implant Rounds-Otology/Audiology Adults and Pediatrics</td>
<td>Eye and Ear Institute 4th Floor, Meeting Room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: for the Eye and Ear Meeting it is wise to confirm that they are taking place – call 412-647-2030

Several journals provide free subscriptions to students. Ear and Hearing and Journal of the American Academy of Audiology contact the department and request a list of current students when they provide free subscriptions. This will be taken care of for you. In order to receive free online access to Seminars in Hearing, go to www.thieme.com; search “Seminars in Hearing”; Select “Seminars in Hearing”; select “Graduate students – click here for free subscriptions”. Go to www.hearingjournal.com and select “Magazine Subscriptions” to receive a complimentary subscription to the Hearing Journal. Students can access Audiology Online.
Audiology Online has numerous educational talks that may assist you in your course and clinic work. Go on the site to get a sense of what it has to offer.

**Comprehensive Examinations**

Students in the AuD program are required to successfully complete two comprehensive examinations before the degree can be awarded.

**Comprehensive Exam I**

The first comprehensive examination will be completed in the Spring of the second year of study. This will be in an oral test format that will test the depth and breadth of the student’s knowledge attained during the first four semesters of graduate study through the use of questions related to a clinical case provided to the student at the time of the exam.

An ad hoc committee of Audiology faculty members will administer this comprehensive examination. The exam is given prior to Spring Break each year. Students are expected to demonstrate competency in three areas: Basic Science, Diagnostics and Habilitation/Rehabilitation. Competency is defined as a score of 80% or better for each of the areas. Failure to achieve this level of performance will necessitate a retake of the examination for those areas failed. The retake exam will include a new case and will be offered within one month of the initial exam. On the retake, students failing to achieve an 80% score will be required to complete a remediation plan developed by the faculty examination committee. Remediation activities will be developed by the audiology faculty in an attempt to fill in the knowledge base in the areas of deficiency and will often include the retake of course work in the content area. Upon completion of the remediation, the student will have a third chance to pass the oral comprehensive examination in the specific area(s) they have failed. Failure to pass at 80% will prompt a recommendation for dismissal to the program Chair.

**Comprehensive Exam II**

The Comprehensive Examination II process begins when the student selects a case for which he/she has substantial ownership in case management. This case should include all necessary diagnostic and treatment information. Permission to present this case MUST be given by the externship preceptor/site supervisor and be in accordance with HIPAA regulations. The student will then submit a brief description of the proposed case to the student’s advisor for approval prior to writing. The comprehensive examination consists of a written and an oral component.

**NOTE:** Students complete the written document during their 4th year externship placement. Although the case will come from the clinical activity in the 4th year placement, the student should expect to do all of the work on the document (literature review, analysis, etc.) on their own time and not during their clinical externship time. This may include needing to come early or stay after hours in the clinic to access records and working in the evenings and weekends to complete the document and prepare for the oral examination.

**Required Content for the Written and Oral Components:**

- Detailed background history of the case. Include assessment tools and results (student-administered and others), interpretation, treatment plan, outcome measures, etc.
- Explanation of missing information
- In-depth review of literature relevant to the case
- Critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of case as executed (e.g., did practices meet standards of care – medical or discipline specific?)
- Support of evidence-based practice
- The document is not to exceed 40 pages (not including references)
Pass/Failure of the written portion of the comprehensive examination will be determined by the assigned comprehensive examination committee of three faculty members. Students who do not pass the written portion will be given general feedback and one opportunity to rewrite the document. Students do not progress to the oral defense until the written document is accepted. Students who do not pass the oral portion will be given general feedback and one opportunity to re-present the same case. The oral comprehensive presentation is open to students, faculty, and the professional community. Students are required to attend these presentations in years 1-3 of the program and will be excused from classes and clinic during these presentations. The presentations for 2017 spring graduation will be on Friday March 17th. The date for orals for the summer graduation will be determined at a later date.

Guidelines for the Comprehensive Examination II

A rubric to help guide students in this process can be found in Appendix D.

Written Document
1. ALL CLINICAL TEST RESULTS SHOULD BE DISPLAYED ANONOMOUSLY AS PER HIPAA REGULATIONS and confidentially requirements. Put test results onto blank formats (no clinic designation) and eliminate names of patients, families and professional practitioners.
2. Submit an electronic copy to your academic advisor.
3. After receipt of your document, your comprehensive committee will be established and provided with copies of your document.
4. If necessary, as determined by the committee, the student may be asked to redo the written document and/or the presentation. When directed by your committee, you will submit an electronic copy to www.turnitin.com after final approval from your committee.
5. Documents must be written using the most recently published APA format, in 12 point Arial or Times New Roman type, double spaced, with one inch margins on all sides.
6. Number pages with a running header (not to exceed 40 pages, not including references)
7. You are advised to submit the written document as early as possible. See the timeline below.
8. The written comprehensive must be PASSED by your committee before the oral defense will be scheduled.

Oral Defense
1. Students will present the “case,” not the paper. Specifically, present background/case history for your patient; test results; follow-up/management. Give information on syndromes, unusual aspects of the case as appropriate.
2. All test results should be displayed anonymously as per regulatory and confidentiality requirements. Copy any test results onto blank formats (no clinic designation) and eliminate names of patients, families and professional practitioners.
3. Presentation slides (e.g., PowerPoint) should contain no more than 6 lines per slide, 6 words per line. Slides are to be used as prompts, not scripts; students will not be allowed to read slides.
4. Briefly explain clinical decisions during the presentation with evidence cited as appropriate.
5. Case presentation should take approximately 30 minutes.
6. After you have finished, members of the audience (students & faculty) will ask questions OF ANY TYPE. Following a finite period of time allocated to audience questions, your committee will commence the oral examination. Your responses and answers should reflect evidence provided in your written paper as well as an understanding of the education you have achieved.
7. When all questions have been answered, you will be asked to leave the room, as will other non-committee members. The committee will vote on your pass/fail/re-presentation (if first oral presentation) for the clinical doctoral comprehensive oral examination and impart the results to you.

Timeline for a Spring Semester Graduation:
1. Submit your written comprehensive document no later than **October 1** of your final or externship year. As indicated above, earlier is better. Anyone submitting the written document after October 1st may jeopardize the ability to defend orally on the scheduled date and therefore may not be eligible for an April graduation.

2. The student should receive feedback from the committee chair within a month of submitting their written document. This should occur no later than **December 1**.

3. If a rewrite is required, it should be submitted by **January 1**.

4. Upon receipt of the re-written document, the committee will have 3 weeks to review it and provide feedback to the committee chair. As with the initial submission, the committee chair should give the student feedback within a month of receipt of the document. This should occur no later than **February 1**.

5. The oral defense is scheduled by the department and you will be expected to arrange to be present for the defense by organizing appropriate travel from your externship. Fourth year students are required to attend their classmates’ oral comprehensive examinations and to schedule their travel plans accordingly. You will be provided with the specific date of the oral defense at the beginning of your externship.

6. If a retake of the oral defense is required, it will be scheduled by the department. Individuals requiring an additional oral defense may not be eligible for April graduation.

**Timeline for a Summer Semester Graduation:**

1. Submit your written comprehensive document no later than **January 1** of your final or externship year. As indicated above, earlier is better. Anyone submitting the written document after December 1st may jeopardize the ability to defend orally on the scheduled date and therefore may not be eligible for a summer graduation.

2. The student should receive feedback from the committee chair within a month of submitting their written document. This should occur no later than **March 1**.

3. If a rewrite is required, it should be submitted by **April 1**.

4. Upon receipt of the re-written document, the committee will have 3 weeks to review it and provide feedback to the committee chair. As with the initial submission, the committee chair should give the student feedback within a month of receipt of the document. This should occur no later than **May 1**.

5. The oral defense is scheduled by the department and you will be expected to arrange to be present for the defense by organizing appropriate travel from your externship. Fourth year students are required to attend their classmates’ oral comprehensive examinations and to schedule their travel plans accordingly. You will be provided with the specific date of the oral defense at the beginning of your externship.

6. If a retake of the oral defense is required, it will be scheduled by the department. Individuals requiring an additional oral defense may not be eligible for summer graduation.

**NOTE:** For the 2nd Comprehensive Exam, you must submit to Pam Morocco the following information on October 1st for students defending in the spring and January 1st for students defending in the summer. Failure to submit these materials on time will make you ineligible to proceed with the comprehensive exams. Because we open these presentations up to the community, these materials are necessary in order to provide continuing education credits and must be submitted by the department well in advance of the event.

1. Title
2. Abstract
3. Learning Outcomes
4. Assessment Tool (3-4 questions)
5. Biographical Information
6. Disclosure forms (available from Pam Morocco)
All Audiology students are expected to pass their comprehensive examination(s). Failure to pass either of the above examinations within three examination cycles will result in the student’s dismissal from the Audiology program.

Research Project Information and Guidelines for AuD Students

Research projects are required for students in the AuD program. These projects are completed under the direction of a faculty advisor during the first three years of study. AuD students should discuss this requirement with their faculty advisor early in their program of study. The research project required by students pursuing the AuD must ultimately meet requirements mutually agreed upon by the student and the supervising faculty member. Supervising faculty must be members of the graduate faculty of the University of Pittsburgh but need not be the student’s academic advisor.

Minimum requirements for the project:
- Research question(s), data collection and analysis and written requirements as decided and agreed upon by the student and supervising faculty member or Systematic Review to answer a specific clinical question. Keep in mind that a systematic review is a standardized way of approaching a clinical question and not simply a review of the literature. You will need to work with a faculty member in this area of interest to understand this methodology.
- Poster presentation of study to CSD faculty, students, and community during the lunch break at the Comprehensive Examinations of 4th year students. This will be a poster presentation of either your research project or systematic review. You and your advisor may decide to submit your work as a poster or presentation to other meetings as well.

Additional requirements:
- Students must complete research modules for IRB and HIPAA compliance
- Students must complete research agreement with supervising faculty

Timeline for AuD Student Research Practicum

Summer Semester, 2nd year: Identify the lab/faculty member with whom you will be working. Fill out the research agreement with the faculty member so you are both clear on what will be accomplished. Create a timeline that will allow you to have a poster ready to present the spring of your third year in the program.

Spring Semester, 3rd Year
- Complete project to the satisfaction of supervising faculty and present your poster at the 4th year comprehensive exams lunch break to faculty, students, and community.

Research Practicum by AuD Students outside the Department

AuD students may complete their research practicum requirements under the supervision of a qualified faculty member outside the department providing their research supervisor is a University of Pittsburgh graduate faculty member and the student has received pre-approval from their academic advisor to complete their research outside the department. As with all projects, a clear prospectus outlining the background, methods and procedures of the project should be approved by the advisor (or other faculty member with expertise in the area of the proposed research) and the outside project director before it is initiated. The academic advisor (or designated departmental faculty member) is the ultimate judge of the completion of the project and has the responsibility of signing off on the project and documenting its completion. While this is not a “co-directorship” per se, a close collaboration between CSD faculty and the outside research project advisor is essential under this arrangement.
Section III: Speech-Language Pathology Degree Programs

Overview

Graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology may pursue:
- one of the Master’s degree options described below (MA or MS in Speech-Language Pathology)
- the Doctor of Clinical Science in Medical Speech-Language Pathology (CScD), an advanced degree for those seeking additional clinical education, specialization, and teaching careers
- the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree, for those planning to pursue research and teaching careers.

This section of the handbook describes requirements for the SLP master’s programs only; the CScD and PhD programs are described in separate handbooks.

Master’s Degrees in CSD with a Concentration in Speech-Language Pathology

Two options are available to students seeking a master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology:
- Students who wish to become licensed and certified Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) must successfully complete the coursework and clinical practicum requirements listed below, in addition to either a comprehensive examination or a master’s thesis (both described below). Those completing the comprehensive examination will be awarded the Master of Arts degree; those completing a thesis will be awarded the Master of Science degree.
- Students interested in master’s-level research preparation rather than clinical practice in Speech-Language Pathology should complete all of the academic coursework listed below. In place of 10 credits of clinical practicum, students in the “research track” complete 6 credits of coursework in statistics or research design approved by their academic advisor, up to 6 credits of research practicum in a setting approved by the academic advisor, and a thesis.

Note: Students who do not complete the clinical training will be required to complete a thesis and receive the Master of Science degree. They will not be eligible to seek clinical licensure or certification in Speech-Language Pathology upon graduation. (Students who complete both the clinical requirements and the thesis will receive the Master of Science degree and be eligible for licensure and certification in Speech-Language Pathology.)

Prerequisites Courses

Prior to enrolling in required courses for the Master’s degree or AuD programs, students must complete several prerequisite courses that are required for ASHA certification. This includes courses in biological sciences, physical sciences, social/behavioral sciences, and statistics.

Typically, these prerequisite are completed as part of an undergraduate or post-Baccalaureate program prior to admission into the Communication Science and Disorders graduate program.

During the initial advising meeting, students verify with their advisors that they have completed all of the prerequisite coursework. If a student is missing any of the required prerequisite courses, these will need to be taken during the graduate program, either at the University of Pittsburgh or outside the University. Students will not be able to achieve certification unless all of the prerequisite courses are accounted for.

In order to apply for clinical certification, students must document the completion of 12 prerequisite undergraduate credits (3 each in the areas of biological science, physical science, social/behavioral science, and statistics).
**Required Coursework**

Following is a *sample* schedule listing the required courses for the clinical Speech-Language Pathology Master’s Degree. Due to scheduling changes, or individualization, a student’s actual program may not match this sample exactly, though the sample lists all coursework required at the time that this handbook was prepared. Students will be provided with a plan of study form at the beginning of their program for review. Working with their advisors, students will update and maintain their plan of study form regularly throughout the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Term #1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2060 ProSeminar</td>
<td>2060 ProSeminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2064 Clinical Decision Making</td>
<td>2020 Audiologic Assessment for SLP Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2070 Articulation &amp; Phonological Disorders</td>
<td>2042 Audiologic Assessment Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>2071 Child Language Disorders I</td>
<td>2077 Augmentative Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>2076 Dysphasia</td>
<td>2081 Research Strategies &amp; Tactics</td>
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<td>2065 Network Clinic Practicum</td>
<td>2275 Cognitive-Communicative Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>2059 Aud Network Practicum (Fall or Spring)</td>
<td>2041 Management of Hearing Problems*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2065/66/67 Clinic Practicum</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2069 Comprehensive Examination in SLP**</td>
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<td><strong>Spring Term #1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2060 ProSeminar</td>
<td>2060 ProSeminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2062 Intro to Client- clinician communication</td>
<td>2063 Developing clinician-client communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>2039 Motor Speech Disorders</td>
<td>2073 Voice Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>2055 Pediatric Audiologic Rehabilitation*</td>
<td>2250 Child Language Disorders II</td>
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<td>2072 Fluency Disorders</td>
<td>2066/67 Clinic Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>2075 Aphasia</td>
<td>2069 Comprehensive Examination in SLP**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2065 Network Clinic Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Term #1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer Term #2 (as needed)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2074 Cleft Palate/Craniofacial Disorders</td>
<td>2074 Cleft Palate/Craniofacial Disorders</td>
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<td>(taken during 1st or 2nd year)</td>
<td>(taken during 1st or 2nd year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2082 Professional Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>(taken during 1st or 2nd year)</td>
<td>(taken during 1st or 2nd year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2065/66 Clinic Practicum</td>
<td>2066 Clinic Practicum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Optional Coursework** (both offered in the Summer term)

- 2500 Medical SLP
- 2514 School-based Service Delivery

*SLP students take either CSD 2055 (Pediatric Audiologic Rehabilitation) or 2041 (Management of Hearing Problems).

**CSD 2069 (comprehensive examination) must be taken in either Fall or Spring Semester of the student’s final year. (Typically, this is the second year, though some students may extend their programs to take the comprehensive class in the third year.).

Students must complete a total of 60 graduate credits in the master’s program in order to receive the Master’s degree in Communication Science and Disorders. Of these, at least 50 will be required graduate credits and at least 10 will be required clinical credits. (Note that students generally take more than the minimum number of required credits, with 62 to 63 credits being common to allow for optional classes and to ensure that the requisite number of clinical hours are achieved.)
Clinical Practicum Credits

As part of the required coursework, students seeking clinical certification must take 10 credits of clinic practicum (CSD 2065/2066/2067). At least 1 of these 10 practicum credits will be the Audiology Practicum (CSD 2059). This course is typically scheduled during the fall or spring term of the first year. Students will be notified by the Director of Clinical Education when they should register for this credit.

Comprehensive Examinations for SLP Students

The comprehensive examination for SLP Master’s degree students consists of a 1-credit course (CSD 2069), taken in the fall or spring semester of their last year in the program, which includes a final oral examination. The determination of whether a student takes the comprehensive examination course in the fall or spring term is based on their clinical placements during the second year of the program. In general, students who are in an outplacement during their first summer term will take the comprehensive examination in the fall, while students who are in the network during their first summer term will take the comprehensive examination. The timing of the comprehensive examination is ultimately determined based on the student’s overall progress toward the didactic and clinical requirements for the degree. Students will be informed by the faculty about when they will register for the comprehensive examination class during the middle of their first summer term.

The comprehensive examination course focuses on developing and evaluating students’ ability to think critically, to evaluate literature, to provide concise and coherent summaries of clinical and academic information to others in written and oral form, and to demonstrate their grasp of the major academic and clinical content provided in their graduate program. The final oral examination consists of a brief presentation by the student followed by an extended question-and-answer session by selected members of the faculty.

Requirements for passing the comprehensive examination course are provided in the course syllabus. Students who do not pass the examination during their last semester of study may be required to register for an additional semester in order to graduate. Specific details about the course and the final case presentation are provided during the course, though students should be sure to ask their academic advisors if they have any questions about comprehensive examinations.

Note: Students do NOT need to do any preparation in advance of the comprehensive examination course. Specifically, they do not need to gather information about their clients in clinical practicum experiences, take notes on testing results, or identify cases for their comprehensive examinations in advance. All of the work necessary for successful completion of the comprehensive examination will be done within the term that the student takes the comprehensive examination.

Thesis Option

Students who complete a Master’s thesis (in either in the clinical track or the non-clinical track) are exempt from the comprehensive examination and will be awarded a Master of Science degree.

Specific information about the thesis process will be available in a separate file to be distributed to students via CourseWeb shortly after the start of the fall 2016 term.

Pennsylvania Educational Certification Requirements

Graduate students completing the requirements for clinical certification in Speech-Language Pathology have the option of meeting requirements for Pennsylvania Educational Certification Program in Speech & Language Impaired. This certification is required in Pennsylvania for SLPs who work in school settings and is highly recommended for SLP students who have an interest in working with pediatric populations during their careers.
Students typically apply to be admitted to the Certification program in their second term of graduate education by completing the Application for Educational Certification form. Educational Certification requires completion of all master’s degree requirements as well as the supplemental requirements defined in the Checklist for Pennsylvania Educational Certification in Special Education: Speech & Language Impaired (available in the CSD Department). The department requires that all SLP master’s students complete the “Checklist” regardless of whether they plan to seek certification in Pennsylvania. This provides a mechanism for documenting which requirements were in place when the student was in the program and whether each requirement was met.

The supplemental requirements for PA Educational Certification currently include Level II Praxis Exams Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge and Speech/Language Pathology (ASHA exam). Students must have completed coursework in Child/Human Development, Language Development and the School-Based Service Delivery course (offered in Summer term) prior to participating a School Practicum experience. Students should be aware that requirements for educational certification in Pennsylvania can change based on Pennsylvania regulations. Those interested in practicing as an SLP in the schools in another state should contact the state education departments directly, as standards vary from state to state.

For questions about educational certification, contact the Director of Clinical Education (Dr. Cheryl Messick) or the PA Department of Education, Division of Teacher Education at (717) 787-3470.

**SLP Clinical Fellowship (CF) Requirement**

SLP master’s degree students who have completed all of the academic and practicum requirements for Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) may begin their Clinical Fellowship (CF). The CSD Department does not manage CF positions. Rather, students apply for and interview for such positions on their own. Announcements for potential CF positions are sent out via email to all graduating students. For additional information on CF requirements, see ASHA’s current Membership and Certification Handbook or the ASHA website (http://www.asha.org).
Appendix A: Research Agreement for AuD Students

Student_____________________________________ Expected graduation ____________

Supervising Faculty ___________________________

Brief description of research project

Proposed analysis

Expected Product

Assessment of product

I have discussed the above research with the student and agree to supervise this project.

_________________________________________  ___________________________
Faculty                                        Date

_________________________________________  ___________________________
Student                                       Date
Appendix B: Audiology Technical Standards

To acquire requisite knowledge and skills to practice as an audiologist, graduate students must be able to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and provide a wide spectrum of patient care. Students must possess certain skills and abilities to successfully complete both the academic and clinical components of the curriculum with or without reasonable accommodations for disabilities. All graduates must be able to perform tasks such as: taking a case history, completing a diagnostic evaluation of hearing sensitivity and auditory function. They must also be able to synthesize these findings into a diagnosis and plan of treatment. Ultimately, these tasks must be accomplished independently, without aid of an intermediary.

These skills and abilities are divided into five areas: communication, motor, intellectual-cognitive, sensory-observational and behavioral-social. Students must be able to undertake all curricular requirements to the satisfaction of faculty to become competent and reliable practitioners. To this end, the Faculty of the Department of Communication Science & Disorders has established the non-academic criteria (Technical Standards) that graduate students must possess to enroll in and to continue in academic courses and clinical placements required for the AuD degree.

General Guidelines

The Doctorate in Clinical Audiology is a four-year program that requires the acquisition of professional attitudes, skills and behavior as well as the accumulation of scientific knowledge. Graduates of the program will complete three years of resident didactic and clinical education with a fourth year clinical externship experience. The AuD degree certifies that the student has acquired the broad base of knowledge and skills required for the practice of audiology and is eligible for professional certification and licensure. These standards are rigorous and exacting so admission can be offered only to those individuals best-qualified to meet the performance standards of the profession.

Acceptance is offered to those who present the highest qualifications for the study and practice of audiology. Graduates of the program must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Candidates for the AuD degree must have somatic sensation and the functional use of the senses of vision, hearing and smell. Diagnostic skills will be lessened if the student does not have functional use of the sense of balance and sufficient motor function to permit them to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. They must be able consistently, quickly and accurately to integrate all information received by whatever sense(s) employed, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data.

Candidates for the AuD degree must have abilities and skills in the five areas outlined below. Technological compensation or reasonable accommodations can be made for some disabilities in certain of these areas but a candidate should be able to perform all of these tasks in a reasonably independent manner.
Audiology Technical Standards (cont.)

**Communication.** A student must possess adequate communication skills to:
- Communicate effectively and proficiently in oral and written English
  - English language skills must be at a level that can be easily understood by clients and colleagues for general interactions, for administration of tests and implementation of treatment as judged by a panel of CSD faculty.
- Read and write to meet curricular and clinical demands
- Demonstrate and perceive non-verbal communication that is appropriate for culture and context
- Communicate with patients, families, peers and colleagues at an appropriate and professional level
- Clearly record examination results, treatment observations and treatment plans
- Compose both clinical reports and scholarly papers required of clinical practicum and academic courses
- Accurately convey information with relevance and cultural sensitivity

**Motor.** A student must possess adequate motor skills to:
- Sustain the necessary physical activity level required in classroom and clinical activities
- Respond quickly in the event of an emergency situation (fire, choking, etc.) to provide patients a safe environment
- Access transportation to clinical and academic placement sites
- Participate in classroom and clinical activities for the required days and evenings.
- Manage the clinical environment without compromising either test protocol or best practice guidelines
- Safely and reliably access and control clinic and patient equipment (i.e. audiometers, hearing aids, computers, etc.)
- Safely and reliably perform procedures in the outer ear (ear mold impressions, otoscopy, etc.)
- Access technology for clinical and academic requirements (e.g., billing, medical charts, CourseWeb, etc.)

**Intellectual/Cognitive.** A student must possess adequate intellectual and cognitive skills to:
- Comprehend, retain, assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate concepts and problem solve
- Formulate written and verbal assessments and therapeutic judgments to meet curricular and clinical demands
- Identify and communicate the limits of their own knowledge and skills
- Utilize resources to increase their own base of knowledge and skills

**Sensory/Observational.** A student must possess adequate sensory skills of vision, hearing, tactile, and smell to:
- Effectively observe and function (in visual and auditory modalities) in both clinical and academic settings
  - Observe a patient’s verbal and non-verbal responses to sensory stimuli
- Identify abnormality of the outer and middle ear as may be observed with otoscopy
- Visualize and identify anatomic structures of the hearing and speech mechanisms
- Correctly insert or place earphones
  - Manipulate equipment to complete auditory and vestibular assessments
- Complete an ear mold impression
- Assess and troubleshoot amplification and assistive listening systems
- Identify the need for alternative communication modalities
- Comprehend text, numbers and graphs
Behavioral/Social. A student must possess:

- Appropriate interpersonal skills and the demeanor and rapport necessary for quality patient care
- The emotional health to carry out the tasks set forth above
- The capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress
- The perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete professional program requirements
- The flexibility and the ability to adjust to the changing situations and uncertainty inherent in clinical situations
- The ability to critically evaluate his or her own performance and identify tactics to improve performance, both with and independent of faculty assistance
- Compassion, integrity and empathy for others
- The ability to show respect for individuals with disabilities and those of differing backgrounds, races, religions and/or sexual orientations

Candidates for graduate degrees in the Department of Communication Science & Disorders are required to meet the above technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation for disabilities. Disability self-identification is voluntary and confidential. The University of Pittsburgh offers academic support accommodations for qualified, eligible students with disabilities. Please contact our Office of Disability Resources and Services (412-648-7890) for information regarding eligibility requirements and deadlines that will ensure reasonable accommodations (which may require extensive preparation time) can be arranged before the beginning of the term.
AuD Technical Standards Statement

I certify that I have read and understand the attached technical standards and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I am able to meet each of these standards.

☐ without accommodation  ☐ with reasonable accommodation for a disability

I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without reasonable accommodation now or in the future, I will be denied permission to enroll or continue in the program.

____________________________________________
Please Print Name

_____________________________________________
___________________  ___________________
Signature                  Date

RESOURCES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

If you need disability-related accommodation to satisfy the requirements of this program, you must contact the University of Pittsburgh Disability Resources and Services Office (412-648-7890) for an assessment of your eligibility for and the reasonableness of accommodations.

________________________________________________________________________

The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in University programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations. For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs and complaint/grievance procedures, please contact: University of Pittsburgh, Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity and Inclusion, Pamela Connelly, Director (and Title IX, 504 and ADA Coordinator), 412 Bellefield Hall, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (412) 648-7860.
Appendix B: Speech-Language Pathology Technical Standards

Technical Standards

Graduate Clinical Program in Speech-Language Pathology (MA/MS-SLP)

To acquire requisite knowledge and skills to practice as a speech-language pathologist, graduate students must be able to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and provide a wide spectrum of patient care. Students must possess certain skills and abilities to successfully complete both the academic and clinical components of the curriculum with or without reasonable accommodations for disabilities. All graduates must be able to perform tasks such as: taking a case history, completing a diagnostic evaluation of speech, language and swallowing function. They must also be able to synthesize these findings into a diagnosis and plan of treatment. Ultimately, these tasks must be accomplished independently, without aid of an intermediary.

These skills and abilities are divided into five areas: communication, motor, intellectual-cognitive, sensory-observational and behavioral-social. Students must be able to undertake all curricular requirements to the satisfaction of faculty to become competent and reliable practitioners. To this end, the Faculty of the Department of Communication Science & Disorders has established the non-academic criteria (Technical Standards) that graduate students must possess to enroll in and to continue in academic courses and clinical placements required for the MA/MS degree.

General Guidelines

The Master’s degree in Speech Language Pathology (SLP) is typically a two-year program that requires the acquisition of professional attitudes, skills and behavior as well as the accumulation of scientific knowledge. Graduates of the program will complete resident didactic and clinical education. The SLP degree certifies that the student has acquired the broad base of knowledge and skills required for the practice of speech language pathology and is eligible to begin the Clinical Fellowship, leading to professional certification and licensure. These standards are rigorous and exacting so admission can be offered only to those individuals best-qualified to meet the performance standards of the profession.

Acceptance is offered to those who present the highest qualifications for the study and practice of speech-language pathology. Graduates of the program must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. Candidates for the MA/MS-SLP degree must have somatic sensation and the functional use of the senses of vision, hearing and smell. Diagnostic skills will be lessened if the student does not have functional use of the sense of balance and sufficient motor function to permit them to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. They must be able consistently, quickly and accurately to integrate all information received by whatever sense(s) employed, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data.

Candidates for the MA/MS-SLP degree must have abilities and skills in the five areas outlined below. Technological compensation or reasonable accommodations can be made for some disabilities in certain of these areas but a candidate should be able to perform all of these tasks in a reasonably independent manner.
Speech-Language Pathology Technical Standards (cont.)

Communication. A student must possess adequate communication skills to:
- Communicate effectively and proficiently in oral and written English
  - English language skills must be at a level that can be easily understood by clients and colleagues for general interactions, for administration of tests and implementation of treatment as judged by a panel of CSD faculty.
- Read and write to meet curricular and clinical demands
- Demonstrate and perceive non-verbal communication that is appropriate for culture and context
- Perceive the speech of clients and accurately judge its quality
- Appropriately model examples of articulation, resonance, fluency, voice, English grammar and syntax for clients
- Communicate with patients, families, peers and colleagues at an appropriate and professional level
- Clearly record examination results, treatment observations and treatment plans
- Compose both clinical reports and scholarly papers required of clinical practicum and academic courses
- Accurately convey information with relevance and cultural sensitivity

Motor. A student must possess adequate motor skills to:
- Sustain the necessary physical activity level required in classroom and clinical activities
- Respond quickly in the event of an emergency situation (fire, choking, etc.) to provide patients a safe environment
- Access transportation to clinical and academic placement sites
- Participate in classroom and clinical activities for the required days and evenings.
- Manage the clinical environment without compromising either test protocol or best practice guidelines
- Safely and reliably manipulate patient equipment (e.g., computers, Nasometer, Visipitch, hearing aids, AAC devices, etc.)
- Safely and reliably perform an examination of the oral mechanism (e.g., conduct oral musculature palpation)
- Access technology for clinical and academic requirements (e.g., billing, medical charts, CourseWeb, etc.)

Intellectual/Cognitive. A student must possess adequate intellectual and cognitive skills to:
- Comprehend, retain, assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate concepts and problem solve
- Formulate written and verbal assessments and therapeutic judgments to meet curricular and clinical demands
- Identify and communicate the limits of their own knowledge and skills
- Utilize resources to increase their own base of knowledge and skills

Sensory/Observational. A student must possess adequate sensory skills of vision, hearing, tactile, and smell to:
- Effectively observe and function (in visual and auditory modalities) in both clinical and academic settings
  - Record and evaluate physical status as well as verbal and non-verbal responses to sensory stimuli
- Visually identify anatomic structures of the speech mechanisms
  - Accurately complete a visual examination of oral, pharyngeal and respiratory mechanisms
- Identify the need for alternative communication modalities
- Comprehend text, numbers and graphs
Behavioral/Social. A student must possess:

- Appropriate interpersonal skills and the demeanor and rapport necessary for quality patient care
- The emotional health to carry out the tasks set forth above
- The capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress
- The perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete professional program requirements
- The flexibility and the ability to adjust to the changing situations and uncertainty inherent in clinical situations
- The ability to critically evaluate his or her own performance and identify tactics to improve performance, both with and independent of faculty assistance
- Compassion, integrity and empathy for others
- The ability to show respect for individuals with disabilities and those of differing cultural and linguistic backgrounds, races, religions and/or sexual orientations

Candidates for graduate degrees in the Department of Communication Science & Disorders are required to meet the above technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation for disabilities. Disability self-identification is voluntary and confidential. The University of Pittsburgh offers academic support accommodations for qualified, eligible students with disabilities. Please contact our Office of Disability Resources and Services (412-648-7890) for information regarding eligibility requirements and deadlines that will ensure reasonable accommodations (which may require extensive preparation time) can be arranged before the beginning of the term.
Speech and Language Pathology Technical Standards Statement

I certify that I have read and understand the attached technical standards and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I am able to meet each of these standards.

☐ without accommodation ☐ with reasonable accommodation for a disability

I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without reasonable accommodation now or in the future, I will be denied permission to enroll or continue in the program.

____________________________________________
Please Print Name

____________________________________________
Signature Date

RESOURCES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

If you need disability-related accommodation to satisfy the requirements of this program, you must contact the University of Pittsburgh Disability Resources and Services Office (412-648-7890) for an assessment of your eligibility for and the reasonableness of accommodations.

The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University’s mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in University programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations. For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs and complaint/grievance procedures, please contact: University of Pittsburgh, Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity and Inclusion, Pamela Connelly, Director (and Title IX, 504 and ADA Coordinator), 412 Bellefield Hall, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (412) 648-7860.
Appendix C: Audrey Holland Endowed Award

Audrey Holland Endowed Award
The Audrey Holland Endowed Award has been established to support undergraduate and graduate students to design and conduct research in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders. The awardee may use the award for research related supplies and equipment, subject participation, statistical support, travel to present research findings, and other related items.

How to compete for this award
The award is competitive and all CSD students are eligible. Students conducting or planning to conduct research may self-nominate. The award amount will be announced each year.

ELIGIBILITY
- CSD undergraduate or graduate student
- Research for which the award is being sought must meet one of the following criteria:
  - Human subjects research (full board review, expedited review or exempt status) approved by the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Review Board (IRB)
  - An active and approved IRB number will be required in the application
  - Human subjects research (full board review, expedited review or exempt status) that is sufficiently complete in its design as to be ready for IRB submission. The committee will judge the application’s readiness for IRB submission.
  - A design that does not involve human subjects and therefore does not require IRB approval. Examples include systematic review or meta-analysis
- Student researcher-applicant must have a faculty mentor actively involved in the research, who will indicate their support of the research with their signature on the application.
- Applications must be submitted one week before the Thanksgiving break (actual date will be announced when the award is announced annually)

APPLICATION PROCEDURES
Download and complete the application electronically (available at https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/csd_funding) for the Audrey Holland Endowed Award following all instructions. The application packet includes
- the project title,
- list of supplies/equipment/subject payments and other items for which the award is being requested and their approximate cost,
- a brief narrative of the research including need, purpose, specific aims, methods, and a brief literature review (5 pages or less)
- the student applicant’s bio sketch including undergraduate and graduate grade point average, degree program currently enrolled in, and year and milestone in the degree program. Some examples include the following: “M.A. SLP program, second year student, thesis project” or “Ph.D. third year student, predissertation project”, or “undergraduate Honors project for B.Phil. degree”, or “Ph.D. student, second year, research practicum”

All application and supporting materials are due on the Wednesday preceding the first day of the University’s official Thanksgiving Break (typically the second-to-last Wednesday of each November). The actual due date will be announced with the call for applications. Applications must be submitted electronically by email (please compile all materials into a single Word or PDF document) to the CSD Director of Student Financial Aid and Awards (currently at jcoyle@pitt.edu) before noon EST on the due date.
SELECTION COMMITTEE

The award recipient will be determined by a faculty committee consisting of the directors of the five degree programs in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders: CSD Undergraduate, Master’s Degree Program in SLP, Doctor of Audiology (AuD) Program, Doctor of Clinical Science in Speech Language Pathology Program (CScD), and CSD Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Program.

- Committee members serving as research mentors for submitted applications for the Audrey Holland Endowed Award will recuse themselves from the selection committee.
- The committee members will assign scores according to the following scoring rubric, to each of the following criteria. The application receiving the highest number of total points will receive the award.
- Applicant
  - Is the applicant’s academic record of high quality?
  - Does the applicant have the potential for, and commitment to, becoming an important contributor to biomedical, behavioral or clinical science as a clinician-scientist?
  - Is there a good match between the proposed project and the applicant’s education, experience, and reasons for doing the research (as gleaned from the bio sketch)?
  - Has the applicant had any prior research experience or publications? Does the applicant fellow have a questioning mind?
- Purpose, specific aims, literature review, significance of project, importance of project
  - Is the proposed research plan of high scientific quality, and does it relate to the applicant's education, experience, and reasons for doing the research (per the bio sketch)?
  - Is the research plan consistent with the applicant's stage of research development?
  - Will the research plan provide the applicant with individualized and supervised experiences that will develop research skills needed for his/her independent and productive research career?
  - Will the research plan provide the applicant with individualized and supervised experiences that will help develop research skills needed for participation in future research, scholarly, and/or clinical investigative activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Comments on Strengths/Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
<td>Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Very strong with only some minor weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Strong with numerous minor weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Strong but with at least one moderate weakness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Some strengths with at least one major weakness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>A few strengths and a few major weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Scoring Rubric
- In the event of a tie vote, the Department of Communication Science and Disorders Director of Student Financial Aid and Awards will give the tiebreaking vote.
- If the director is serving as research mentor for any submitted applications, the Chair of the Department of Communication Science and Disorders will serve as the tiebreaker vote.
Next in line to generate the tiebreaker vote is the CSD Department Vice Chair.

AUDREY HOLLAND ENDOWED FUND
Application Form

Student Last Name: _____________________________________________
Student First Name: _____________________________________________
Middle Initial: _________
Credentials (indicate current highest earned degree): ________________
Address: Number & Street_______________________________________
City, State, Zip Code: ___________________________________________
Phone number including area code: ________________________________
Applicant is a (check all that apply):
___CSD undergraduate student
___CSD MA-SLP student
___CSD AuD student
___CSD CScD student
___CSD PhD student

TITLE OF PROJECT:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

LIST OF ITEMS FOR WHICH THE AWARD WILL BE USED: Indicate item (see instructions above) and approximate cost. Please use the form below. A sample list is attached to the application. Include in the Project Narrative, where each item fits into the research plan (see next paragraph).

PROJECT NARRATIVE (5 PAGES OR LESS): include purpose of research and plan of execution. Please insert the information in the following outline modeled after the University of Pittsburgh IRB application, or create a separate document using this outline. Please add a “Project Narrative” header to each page of the Narrative.

1. Project Title, Principal Investigator’s Name

2. Objective: What is the overall purpose of this research study? (Limit response to 1-2 sentences.)

3. Specific Aims: List the goals of the proposed study (e.g., describe the relevant hypotheses or the specific problems or issues that will be addressed by the study).

4. Background: Briefly describe previous findings or observations that provide the background leading to this proposal.

5. Significance: Why is it important that this research be conducted? What gaps in existing information or knowledge is this research intended to fill?

6. Innovation: Indicate any innovative aspects of your research proposal or design.
BIOSKETCH OF THE STUDENT APPLICANT. Highlight your education and experience which enable you to do this research, your motivation for embarking on this research, and reasons for doing the research. Include your undergraduate and graduate grade point average, degree program and level/year, and milestone in the degree program (see instructions above). Please add a “Bio sketch” header to the bio sketch.

CURRICULUM VITAE OF THE STUDENT APPLICANT. Please add a “Curriculum Vitae” header to each page of the CV.

AUDREY HOLLAND ENDOWED AWARD

LIST OF SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, SUBJECT PAYMENTS FOR WHICH AWARD IS SOUGHT

(Please copy this table and paste into your application document)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
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PLEASE ADD ROWS TO THIS TABLE AS NECESSARY
### Appendix D: AuD Comps Scoring Rubric

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>Primary clinical focus clearly communicated; author concisely presents complexity of the case and acknowledges contradictions, limits, inconsistencies; defines terms.</td>
<td>Statement of clinical case lacks some information; author begins to acknowledge complexity of the case; attempts to define terms.</td>
<td>Presents clinical case in general terms, in platitudes or clichés; author fails to acknowledge complexity of the case; shows some lapses in understanding; little or no definition of terms.</td>
<td>Presents only a vague idea of the clinical case; information indicates a misunderstanding of the case.</td>
<td>No introduction provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical History</strong></td>
<td>Author follows a logical structure to present patient’s history; presents information central to the case; embeds clinical information into visual representation (table, chart, figure); demonstrates logical links between major points.</td>
<td>Author shows a logical progression of the case history but does not link information; presents information visually with minor lapses in presentation.</td>
<td>Author lists information relevant to the patient’s case in sequential fashion; few links between history information provided; speaks in generalities rather than specifics; little visual information.</td>
<td>Random organization of the clinical case history given without sequential or logical presentation; no visual information provided.</td>
<td>No clinical history provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Appointment</strong></td>
<td>Author summarizes tests used to assess patient and provides comprehensive report; utilizes visual representation to present all information clearly and concisely; interprets results from assessment.</td>
<td>Author summarizes tests used to assess patient but leaves out some information; visual representation provided, but not complete; interpretations provided but not complete.</td>
<td>Author lists tests used to assess patient Sequentially and fails to properly interpret test results.</td>
<td>Test information is not provided and/or is not interpreted.</td>
<td>No information about clinical appointment provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interpretation of Test Results</strong></td>
<td>All assessment procedures interpreted with comparison and contrasting of different results; interpretation of results made with justification (e.g., differential diagnostic chart).</td>
<td>All assessment procedures interpreted with insufficient comparison and contrasting of different results;</td>
<td>Assessment procedures interpreted incompletely; little or no comparison or contrast of different results and no justification.</td>
<td>No interpretation of assessment procedures.</td>
<td>No interpretation of clinical assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence for Clinical Interpretation</td>
<td>Comprehensive background information provided to support interpretation of test results; references all appropriate and current (or seminal).</td>
<td>Background information provided to support interpretation of test results, but some references not totally appropriate or out-of-date.</td>
<td>Very little background information provided to support interpretation of test results, few references given.</td>
<td>No background information provided (no references).</td>
<td>No evidence provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treatment Plan</td>
<td>Recommendations clearly stated; plan presented with logical links to clinical test results; alternative approaches discussed, compared and contrasted.</td>
<td>Recommendations stated with some links to clinical test results; alternative approaches discussed with minimal comparison.</td>
<td>Recommendations presented but not linked to clinical test results; alternative approaches not compared or contrasted.</td>
<td>No treatment plan discussed.</td>
<td>No treatment plan discussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence for Treatment Plan</td>
<td>Appropriate and current references are provided to support treatment plan.</td>
<td>References are provided, but some are not totally appropriate or are out-of-date.</td>
<td>Few references provided.</td>
<td>No evidence for treatment plan presented.</td>
<td>No evidence for treatment plan presented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Outcomes</td>
<td>A systematic, evidence-based plan of measuring outcomes is described in detail; reasoning for a comparison between baseline and outcome measures is provided; information obtained is compared to evidence-based standards.</td>
<td>A plan is provided for measuring outcomes with limited reasoning for comparison to baseline measures; information obtained is presented without reference to evidence-based standards.</td>
<td>Outcomes are reported with little reference to evidence-based standards.</td>
<td>Outcomes are not included in the paper and author fails to consider what outcomes might have been measured.</td>
<td>Outcomes are not mentioned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence for Outcomes</td>
<td>Appropriate and current references are provided to support outcomes.</td>
<td>References are provided, but some are not totally appropriate or are out-of-date.</td>
<td>Few references are provided.</td>
<td>No evidence for outcome measures is provided.</td>
<td>No evidence for outcome measures is provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrap-up</td>
<td>Author demonstrates an understanding of the complexity of the argument presented.</td>
<td>Little understanding of the complexity of the argument presented.</td>
<td>Wrap-up presented in general terms</td>
<td>No wrap-up is provided.</td>
<td>No wrap-up is provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex Case</td>
<td>Some Information Lacking</td>
<td>Comprehensive Links</td>
<td>Links Made but Not Discussed</td>
<td>Without Links</td>
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**EXPLANATION**

**Introduction**
In this section, the author should briefly and concisely state the principal components of the clinical case that is going to be presented. This should include the presenting chief complaint/s, the clinical findings and the resolution. It should also state the extent to which evidence-based standards of current practice were followed during assessment, intervention, and measurement of outcomes.

**Clinical History**
The author should provide all background information from the clinical record. If information is not available but which would be helpful to the interpretation of the clinical case, the author should discuss how additional information could have helped in case management. The author should clarify which information from the case history is regarded to be most clinically significant and
<table>
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<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Appointment</td>
<td>All assessment procedures used with the patient should be reported, together with a brief justification for using that procedure, i.e. what information were you adding to the clinical case history? Again, embedding the information into the text itself is preferred over placing it in an appendix.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation of Test Results</td>
<td>All assessment procedures should be interpreted and compared to previous test results. Inconsistencies should be noted and discussed. By comparing and contrasting the results from the current appointment to any previous appointments (or by simply comparing and contrasting results across this appointment), the author should demonstrate a clear understanding of what the test results mean and how they might be used to direct treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence for Clinical Interpretation</td>
<td>The evidence basis of clinical assessment and interpretation should be documented for the procedures used. All references should be from original source peer-reviewed literature (not from textbooks or internet sources). The author should provide a critical review of the evidence and demonstrate its appropriate application to the clinical case.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Plan</td>
<td>The author should state how this case was managed. If several options are available, the author should document the benefits and disadvantages of each option for this particular case. The author should further provide a justification for the selection made and discuss any additional information that was used in making choices for treatment. If the clinical case did not involve a treatment, the author should state whether or not a treatment plan should have been involved and present evidence-based information supporting whatever position is taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence for Treatment Plan</td>
<td>The evidence basis for treatment should be documented for the plan contemplated and/or chosen. All references should be from</td>
</tr>
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original source peer-reviewed literature (not from textbooks or internet sources). The author should provide a critical review of the evidence and demonstrate its appropriate application to the clinical case.

**Clinical Outcomes**

The author should state whether or not clinical outcomes were measured. If they were not, there should be a justification of why no outcomes were measured in this case and a discussion of whether they would have enhanced the case had they been made. If outcomes were measured, the author should document what outcomes were obtained, whether or not they were compared to baseline measures and how they were interpreted. Were outcome measures chosen based on current evidence or not?

**Evidence for Outcomes**

The evidence basis for outcome measures should be documented for the measures chosen. All references should be from original source peer-reviewed literature (not from textbooks or internet sources). The author should provide a critical review of the evidence and demonstrate its appropriate application to the clinical case.
### WRAP-UP

This part of the paper should briefly summarize information presented in all of the above areas. Was the case handled according to standards strongly based in evidence? If not, what could have been done to improve the delivery of audiological services? What questions from the case remain unanswered? Does this case provide any new insights into clinical practice or does it challenge conventional wisdom in audiology? How did this case enhance the author’s clinical education? Would information from another professional have been helpful and if so, what would it have added to your case?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WRITING RUBRIC FOR 4TH YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PAPER</th>
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<td><strong>The A Paper</strong></td>
<td><strong>The B Paper</strong></td>
<td><strong>The C Paper</strong></td>
<td><strong>The D Paper</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Each paragraph has a topic sentence; sentences within each paragraph relate to each other and are subordinate to the topic. Introduction and wrap-up effectively related to the whole.</td>
<td>Paragraphs are built on related sentences that logically develop the main points. No major digressions. Introduction and wrap-up effectively related to the whole.</td>
<td>Most points are logically developed. There may be a few minor digressions but no major ones. Introduction and wrap-up are somewhat effective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice</td>
<td>Voice and tone are consistent and appropriate to the audience/purpose.</td>
<td>Voice and tone consistent and appropriate although somewhat generic or predictable in places.</td>
<td>Voice and tone adequate to audience/purpose although often generic or predictable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Composition</td>
<td>Full variety of sentence structures used correctly. Word choice interesting, accurate and contributes to the writer's ability to communicate the purpose.</td>
<td>Variety of sentence structures used correctly despite an occasional flaw. Accurate and varied word choice.</td>
<td>Sentences and word choice predictable. Occasional errors in sentence structure, usage and mechanics do not interfere with writer's ability to communicate the purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Format</td>
<td>Writer adheres to APA format.</td>
<td>Writer generally adheres to APA format.</td>
<td>Writer adheres to APA format with some errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>Few, if any, minor errors in sentence construction, usage, grammar or mechanics.</td>
<td>There may be a few minor or major errors in sentence construction, usage, grammar or mechanics.</td>
<td>There are some common errors (major and minor) in sentence construction and mechanics but the writer generally demonstrates a correct sense of syntax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources</td>
<td>Source material is incorporated logically and insightfully. Sources are documented accurately.</td>
<td>Source material incorporated logically. Sources documented accurately.</td>
<td>Source material incorporated adequately and usually documented accurately.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Handbook Statement

ALL STUDENTS MUST SIGN THE STATEMENT BELOW:

I certify that I have read and understand the academic and clinical handbooks for my program and that I am responsible for all of the information they contain.

Program (circle one): MA/MS SLP       AuD

____________________________________________
Please Print Name

____________________________________________  ________________
Signature                                      Date

This statement must be signed and submitted to the Department Office in the Communication Science and Disorders Department no later than September 6, 2016.