

Essential Functions of Audiologists & Speech-Language Pathologists

Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

Purdue University

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Essential functions refer to those physical, behavioral and social, and cognitive and intellectual abilities that are necessary for satisfactory mastery of the academic and clinical curriculum. The Essential Functions of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists establish expectations and requisite abilities considered necessary for graduate students and professionals in the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology.

It is recognized that degrees of ability vary widely among individuals. Candidates for admission who believe they may not have or be able to acquire essential functions set forth in this document are encouraged to contact the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences if they have questions about their individual situations. Any admission candidate who anticipates requiring academic accommodations to fulfill essential functions due to a disability is encouraged to contact Purdue's Office of Disability Resource Center at (765) 494-1247, www.purdue.edu/drc. The Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at Purdue University seeks to ensure that qualified persons with disabilities are not denied admission or are subject to discrimination in admissions. The Department is committed to enabling students by reasonable means or accommodations to complete their course of study.

The following essential functions are consistent with the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association's commitment to ensure that all people with speech, language, and hearing disorders receive services to help them communicate effectively.

Physical Abilities:

- Participate in classroom, laboratory, clinical, and other professional responsibilities and activities for up to four-hour blocks of time with one short break.
- Move independently to, from, and within the work setting.
- Provide for one's own personal hygiene.
- Manipulate laboratory, evaluation and intervention materials, including completion of all academic and client-related forms and paperwork (*e.g.*, lesson plans, data collection forms, SOAP notes, reports).
- Provide a safe environment for others in responding quickly to emergency situations (*e.g.*, fire, choking, etc.) and in application of universal precautions (*e.g.*, standardized approach to infection control).
- Visually monitor patient responses and materials.
- Make accurate judgments about speech and acoustic signals.

Behavioral and Social Attributes:

- Maintain emotional and mental health necessary to use one's intellectual abilities, to promptly complete responsibilities, and to develop appropriate relationships with faculty, supervisors, staff, peers, clients, parents or caregivers, and other professionals.
- Maintain composure and emotional stability in demanding situations.
- Adapt to changing environments and situations.
- Communicate effectively in person, by phone, and in written form while considering the communication needs and cultural values of the listener or reader.
- Understand and respect faculty and supervisory authority.
- Maintain appropriate professional behavior including punctuality, regular attendance, maintaining client confidentiality, and completing all duties and assignments pursuant to one's academic plan.
- Demonstrate compassion, integrity, interest, and motivation in delivering professional services.
- Collaborate with other professionals.
- Comply with administrative, ethical, legal, and regulatory policies.

Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities:

- Demonstrate the mental capacity to learn and assimilate professional information, including the ability to comprehend oral and written professional literature and reports.
- Solve academic and clinical problems through critical analysis.
- Seek relevant case information. Synthesize and apply concepts and information from various sources and disciplines.
- Write discipline-specific papers and clinical reports in Standard American English.
- Speak Standard American English intelligibly. Discriminate correct production of and model Standard American English phonemes, vocabulary, grammatical forms, and prosodic patterns.
- Analyze, synthesize, and interpret ideas and concepts in academic and clinical settings, and express these in an accurate manner in verbal and written form.
- Maintain attention and concentration necessary to complete clinical activities for up to four-hour blocks of time with one short break.
- Organize, schedule, and prioritize activities, and provide documentation in a timely manner.

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