

**SCHOOL OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND HEARING SCIENCES**

**DOCTORAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

**CLINICAL TRAINING**

**THE CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE (CCC)**

**THE CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP (CF)**

Revision approved by the SLHS Speech-Language Faculty  
May 2013

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### **Meeting CAA-ASHA Competencies while a PhD student**

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SLHS has an educational and clinical program in speech-language pathology that is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

Revised CAA standards go into effect January 2013.

Revised CFCC Standards go into effect September, 2014.

**Students who enter the program with a master's degree (or equivalent) in Communication Sciences and Disorders:** Please see section - Completing a Clinical Fellowship while a PhD student

**Students who enter the program without a master's degree (or equivalent) in Communication Sciences and Disorders:**

Ph.D. students interested in meeting the requirements to obtain the CAA-ASHA competency and clinical hour requirements to be eligible for a CF should be advised that additional coursework will be required (likely adding an additional year(s) to the Ph.D. timeline) while still meeting Ph.D. requirements. Students taking SLP clinical coursework will be responsible for paying for those additional units each term (fall, spring and summer) unless other previous arrangements with your research advisor and the JDP directors have been made. However, access to clinical training is not automatic nor is it guaranteed. Initiation of clinical training requires the approval of the S-L Division faculty and the availability of openings in the clinical program. Students wishing to consider this route **must** discuss it with their research advisor, Ph.D. directors and get approval from the Speech-Language faculty (via the JDP S-L Clinical Coordinator and S-L Division Head). Students completing this sequence will not be able to complete the CF/RPE during their doctoral studies (unless under unique circumstances approved by the SL Division and JDP Executive Committee).

Students with a communication disorders undergraduate background will likely not require fundamental courses prior to enrolling in MA level courses, while students without an undergraduate background in communication disorders will require courses in audiology and normal speech and language processes prior to starting MA level courses. These specific courses and guidelines will vary on a case-by-case situation.

Please be advised that your primary goal during the first two years of the JDP is to become fully acclimated to research and doctoral student expectations. Therefore, the suggested course sequence for students wishing to meet the ASHA competency and clinical hour requirements are as follows (see proposed course sequence):

#### **General Guidelines**

**Years 1 and 2:** Typical JDP course sequence\* (statistics, seminars, research projects)  
*If you do not have a prior communication disorders background, it is suggested that you take the undergraduate prerequisites in Year 2. These prerequisites MUST be met prior to enrolling in the graduate coursework for clinical competency.*

**Year 3:** Courses required to meet ASHA competencies and begin clinical coursework.

**Years 4 and 5:** Advance to candidacy by end of 4<sup>th</sup> year. Years 4 and 5 can also involve completing clinical hours (If you wish to obtain a school credential, you must complete a rotation in the schools. Otherwise, competencies can be met at other clinical sites.)

**Summers:** At least 2 of the courses are only taught during the summer sessions.  
*Fee support for summer clinical requirements is not available for doctoral students.*

**Proposed course sequence for JDP students wishing to pursue clinical training**

	Fall	Spring
<b>Year 1</b>	Statistics sequence 790 Anatomy (if needed) Meet with JDP S-L Clinical Coordinator to determine course equivalencies for previous courses During first year, complete 15 hours of clinical observation  <i>Program approval to continue</i>	Normal child language 793 Meet with JDP S-L Clinical Coordinator, Advisor, and JDP Directors to ensure clinical training is appropriate
<b>Year 2*</b>	305 Phonetics 609a 794 *Any of the below courses if they are appropriate to your research interests  <i>Program approval to continue</i>	340/340L 609b
<b>Year 3</b>	Bootcamp Start clinic – 1 TX 617 525 607 and/or 613	Clinic – 1 TX, 1DX 608 525 614 (if taken 613)
<b>Summer</b>	Clinic 1 TX, 1 DX 570 546  <i>Program approval to continue</i>	
<b>Year 4</b>	607 and/or 613 606 Off campus clinic 929/939 (if doing school/hospital placement)	614 (if not taken) 675 Off campus clinic ADVANCE 929/939 (if doing school/hospital placement)
<b>Summer</b>	Continue with clinic if needed	
<b>Year 5</b>	Continue with clinic if needed	
	<b>Total additional academic courses</b>	<b>14 (40 credits) + clinic (~10)</b>

**Proposed course sequence for JDP students wishing to pursue clinical training (11/2/12)**

A number of the courses all JDP students take in their first two years meet certain competency requirements. These include seminars in a number of areas (e.g., normal and disordered child language development, multilingual language and language disorders, and adult language) and anatomy and research method courses. **See proposed schedule above for examples.** Prior to beginning the clinical course sequences, written approval from the S-L Division and JDP Executive Committee must be obtained. An electronic clinical tracking program will be used to identify the courses taken, students are required to subscribe to the program and keep forms updated each term.

If students are obtaining clinical hours, under the direction of an ASHA certified and licensed SLP, as part of the research experiences, these hours must be discussed with the JDP S-L Clinical Coordinator beforehand. Documentation of the supervising SLP's ASHA and CA license must be provided to the S-L Clinic Director in advance of accruing clinical hours. The hours may not be counted toward the 400 total hours until after the student has completed Bootcamp. In addition, the hours will need to be documented following the clinic guidelines and reported each semester to the Clinic Director. Hours not approved ahead of time and turned in by the end of finals week will not be counted.

Ph.D. students in clinical training are reminded that they are taking courses and clinical practica equivalent to the MA program during the course of their doctoral studies. As such, Ph.D. students must understand and adhere to the MA program guidelines and policies included in course syllabi, through advising and in MA program handbooks:

<http://slhs.sdsu.edu/student-resources/current-students/documents/>

### **Completing a Clinical Fellowship while a PhD student**

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For applicants to the JDP program who would be entering with only the CF remaining to obtain your ASHA CCCs, it is important that you indicate this in your application to the JDP program and discuss it with the JDP Program Directors so you are familiar with our policy. If admitted to the doctoral program, you would not be allowed to begin the CF experience until you have successfully completed at least two years in the program. You would then need to meet with the JDP directors, the Speech-Language Division Head, and the S-L Clinic Director to discuss CF options.

Even if a student is CF eligible, approval may not be granted if the student isn't making sufficient progress. If a student qualifies for the CF experience during the course of their doctoral studies, he/she will be expected to secure a paid CF position. Generally, this means doing a 50% CF during the school year so the student maintains full time student status. Should you choose to complete your CF in a CA school, you will need to obtain the school credential prior to starting. You will be eligible for a school credential if you have completed an internship in a school (not simply an internship with school-age children). You should apply for your school credential after completing required coursework and clinical hours, and you will need to apply for a temporary license after securing a CF position. The following is a summary of our policy based upon current ASHA CF regulations. It is your responsibility to keep currency with regard to any changes in ASHA policy pertaining to the CF. This also applies to students seeking the Required Professional Experience (RPE) for State of California licensure.

The SLHS clinical faculty will make every effort to assist you in finding a placement. However, this is not a guarantee. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have found a suitable placement and that you are meeting the ASHA requirements. Be advised, that you will have to complete the CF requirements on a part-time basis, given the demands of the JDP courses and lab rotations. Completing the CF during your doctoral training cannot interfere with your ability to meet all JDP requirements and timelines. It is also necessary to note that receiving funding from an outside agency (including a CF experience) is often in violation of university funding and must be approved by the JDP directors.

#### **Length of Traditional Clinical Fellowship- ASHA Requirements** (see [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org))

The clinical fellowship is defined as no less than 36 weeks of full-time professional employment. A minimum of 30 hours of work per week constitutes full-time employment. At least 80% of the clinical fellowship work week must be in direct client contact (assessment, diagnosis, evaluation, screening, habilitation, or rehabilitation) related to the management process. Thus, in a 30-hour work week, at least 24 hours must be devoted to direct clinical activities. The clinical fellowship requirement can also be met by less than full-time employment. For example, if the clinical fellow works:

25-29 hours per week, the length of the clinical fellowship must be at least 48 weeks.

20-24 hours per week, the length of the clinical fellowship must be at least 60 weeks.

15-19 hours per week, the length of the clinical fellowship must be at least 72 weeks.

To count toward the CF experience at least 5 hours per week of clinical services are required. Additionally, clinical contact, which includes assessment and treatment that is done in the context of

clinical research, is considered a legitimate activity during the CF experience. A CF must be completed within 48 months of the start date.

All Clinical Fellows and their supervisors, whether the CF performed is a modified experience or the traditional experience, will be required to complete and submit the Required Clinical Fellowship Report and Skills Inventory. The skills delineated must be assessed at least once during each third of the CF experience. Supervisors must hold ASHA certification and must maintain that certification throughout the experience.

Most importantly, the CFCC strongly urges Clinical Fellows and supervisors who wish to use the modified CF to check with their individual state licensure boards to determine whether or not this experience will meet state requirements. Some licensure boards have very specific requirements for the CF and they may not be willing to accept a modified Clinical Fellowship experience even if it is acceptable for ASHA certification.

For up to date details on the CF requirements, please visit ASHA's website - <http://www.asha.org/certification/Clinical-Fellowship/>