



Speech-Language Pathology Program SUMMARY OF UNITS AND COURSES

UNIT 1: FUNDAMENTALS OF CLINICAL PRACTICE I: PRINCIPLES, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

UNIT 1 OVERVIEW:

The aim of this unit is to provide students with foundational knowledge related to communication and communication disorders across the lifespan as well as basic skills in clinical practice. Principles include professional ethics, models of disability, inter-professional practice, and evidence-based practice. Knowledge outcomes include anatomy and physiology; psychology and linguistics in the context of communication across the lifespan; and basic constructs in articulation, phonology, and language development. Students develop a framework and basic skills for assessment, intervention, and professional conduct. Within Unit 1, students will complete simulated clinical practicum experiences and a 2-week off-site clinical practicum focused on observation.

UNIT 1 COURSES:

SLP 711/Problem-based Tutorial I

This Unit I tutorial course will introduce students to fundamental knowledge related to communication and communication disorders across the lifespan as well as basic skills in clinical practice. Psychosocial, cultural, and ethical influences on clinical practice will be addressed.

SLP 712/Clinical Skills Lab I

The Unit I Clinical Skills course develops basic skills for observing and recording speech and language, communicating with individuals with communication disorders, and professional conduct. Clinical reasoning and technical skill development are integrated with relevant research evidence and theory. The course includes exposure to typically developing children and adults as well as simulated clinical interactions. The final two weeks of the course is spent offsite completing an observational placement.

SLP 713/Foundational Knowledge I

This first-year course will address foundational knowledge for the speech-language pathologist. Topics include anatomy and physiology; neuroanatomy and neurophysiology; development of articulation, phonology, and language; and psychology and linguistics in the context of communication.

SLP 714/Inquiry Seminar I

This course will provide a forum for introducing topics related to the theory and principles that underlie clinical practice in speech-language pathology, including theories of language acquisition and speech production; theories and models of disability; exploring the perspectives of people with disabilities; interprofessional practice; and evidence-based practice.

UNIT 2: FUNDAMENTALS OF CLINICAL PRACTICE II: ROLES AND PRACTICE SETTINGS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

UNIT 2 OVERVIEW:

The aim of this unit is to further develop students' foundational knowledge and skills and to introduce them to varied contexts of speech-language pathology practice. Knowledge and skill outcomes address professional performance as a direct service provider, consultant, collaborator and team member, manager and supervisor, and advocate. Settings include children's treatment centers, early childhood centers, schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, home healthcare, long-term care facilities, and private community-based practice. Within Unit 2, students will continue to learn via simulated clinical experiences. Then, following the academic portion of

Unit 2, students will complete a 5-week off-site clinical practicum focused on evidence-based practice. Knowledge outcomes include fundamentals of counseling, speech perception and acoustics, and instrumentation. In Unit 2, students will obtain the first 10 of their 20 required clinical hours in Audiology, with the goal of gaining an appreciation of audiology and aural rehabilitation. Hours will be obtained in part through development and implementation of free hearing screenings in the community, under the supervision of a licensed Audiologist. This experience will introduce students to hearing assessment and referral, and communication strategies for individuals with hearing loss and their communication partners. Knowledge outcomes include assessment and intervention related to hearing disorders, as well as strategies for prevention of hearing loss.

UNIT 2 COURSES:

SLP 721/Problem-based Tutorial II

This Unit II tutorial course will further develop students' fundamental knowledge and skills and provide an overview of roles and contexts relevant to speech-language pathology practice in diverse settings and across the lifespan.

SLP 722/Clinical Skills Lab II

This Unit II clinical skills course further develops skills in screening and assessment, including hearing screening and hearing conservation, and introduces skills in outcome evaluation and reporting. Simulated clinical experiences will provide a context for learning fundamentals of counseling. Clinical reasoning and technical skill development are integrated with relevant research evidence and theory.

SLP 723/Foundational Knowledge II

This Unit II course will address foundational knowledge related to speech perception and acoustics, and instrumentation related to assessment and intervention.

SLP 724/Inquiry Seminar II

This course will provide a forum for discussing topics related to the theory and principles underlying clinical practice in speech-language pathology across settings and populations, including models and frameworks for assessment and intervention; principles of measurement related to conducting clinical assessments; fundamental knowledge related to working with individuals who have hearing disorders; perspectives of individuals with communication disorders and their families/caretakers; professional ethics; and evidence-based practice.

SLP 725/Clinical Practice I

Students will complete a 5-week full-time clinical practicum experience focused on evidence-based practice. Clinical settings may include hospitals, school boards, children's treatment centres, preschool services, home care, and private practices.

UNIT 3: CLINICAL PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH, & YOUNG ADULTS

UNIT 3 OVERVIEW:

The aim of this unit is to introduce students to developmental communication disorders. Knowledge outcomes relate to developmental articulation, phonological, and language disorders; speech and language impairments associated with cognitive disabilities, and voice and fluency disorders. Students also will build on knowledge outcomes related to hearing disorders, this time in the context of young children, and will explore genetic influences on communication. Key themes of Unit 3 are family-centered service, service delivery models for children, and transition to adulthood. Following Unit 3, students will complete a 6-week off-site clinical practicum that may be in a school, community, hospital, rehabilitation, or role-emerging setting (i.e., a setting in which there is potential to promote community engagement and develop SLP services in a non-traditional venue).

UNIT 3 COURSES:

SLP 731/Problem-based Tutorial III

This Unit III tutorial course will introduce students to screening, assessment, and treatment issues related to developmental communication disorders, including speech, language, voice, fluency, hearing, and cognitive-communication disorders in children, youth, and young adults.

SLP 732/Clinical Skills Lab III

This Unit III clinical skills course will provide students with the clinical problem solving skills to assess and treat children with communication disorders, including developing skills needed to differentiate language differences associated with multilingualism from language disorders associated with underlying impairments. Students will use appropriate assessment tools and clinical processes to set goals for intervention. Clinical reasoning and technical skill development are integrated with relevant research evidence and theory.

SLP 733/Foundational Knowledge III

This first-year course will address foundational knowledge for the speech-language pathologist. Topics will build on those addressed in 613 and 623 and will include foundations of genetics in relation to communication disorders.

SLP 734/Inquiry Seminar III

This course will provide a forum for considering topics related to the clinical practice with children, including family-centered service, service delivery models, and transition to adulthood.

SLP 735/Clinical Practice II

Students will complete a 6-week clinical practicum experience in a school, community, hospital, rehabilitation, or role-emerging setting.

UNIT 4: CLINICAL PRACTICE WITH ADULTS AND OLDER ADULTS

UNIT 4 OVERVIEW:

This unit emphasizes assessment and treatment of individuals with acquired communication disorders, with a special emphasis on problems of older adults. Knowledge outcomes relate to acquired speech, language, and cognitive disorders, with a focus on neurologically based communication disorders; dysphagia in adults; and normal aging of speech, hearing, and language. Students will build further on knowledge outcomes related to hearing disorders and aural rehabilitation, this time in contexts relevant to older adults. Following Unit 4, students will complete a 6-week off-site clinical practicum that may be in a community, hospital, rehabilitation, or role-emerging setting.

UNIT 4 COURSES:

SLP 741/Problem-based Tutorial IV

This Unit IV tutorial course will introduce students to screening, assessment, and treatment issues related to adults, with a special emphasis on acquired speech, language, voice, swallowing, or hearing disorders, and aging with a communication disorder.

SLP 742/Clinical Skills Lab IV

This Unit IV clinical skills course will provide students with opportunities to develop advanced clinical reasoning skills necessary to assess and treat individuals with acquired communication or swallowing disorders, with a focus on neurological disorders and differentiating communication disorders from normal aging. Students will use appropriate assessment tools and clinical processes to set goals for intervention. Clinical reasoning and technical skill development are integrated with relevant research evidence and theory.

SLP 743/Evidence-based Practice and Clinical Research

This 2nd year course over two terms will enable students to critically analyze the literature and collaborate on a research project relevant to speech-language pathology. During the first term of this course, students will be provided with information on study design, data acquisition, and data analysis. They will acquire skills in searching the literature, analyzing and interpreting data, presenting results and making clinical decisions that incorporate best evidence, patient values and clinical expertise. During the second term of the course, students will work in teams to participate in an ongoing research project under the supervision of a faculty member or clinician.

SLP 744/Inquiry Seminar IV

This course will provide a forum for considering topics related to clinical practice with adults, such as client-centered service, caregiver training, end-of-life services, and innovative service delivery models for older adults.

SLP 745/Clinical Practice III

Students will complete a 6-week clinical practicum experience in a community, hospital, rehabilitation, or role-emerging setting.

UNIT 5: COMPLEX PRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL TRANSITION

UNIT 5 OVERVIEW:

The aim of this unit is to prepare students for the transition to professional practice. This advanced unit provides students with knowledge and skills to assume current and emergent health care roles in the community, with an emphasis on complex conditions across the lifespan. With respect to children, knowledge outcomes relate to populations with multiple or complex disabilities, advanced hearing technology (e.g., cochlear implants) and aural rehabilitation, augmentative and alternative communication, and pediatric dysphagia. With respect to adults, key themes of Unit 5 are client-centered service, end-of-life decisions, chronic health conditions and aging with a communication disorder, and communication partner training. Medical intervention and pharmacology will be considered for both children and adults. Following Unit 5, students will complete a 10-week off-site clinical practicum that may be in a community, hospital, rehabilitation, or role-emerging setting.

UNIT 5 COURSES:

SLP 751/Problem-based Tutorial V

This Unit V tutorial course will provide students the opportunity to explore clinical practice with clients of all ages who have complex health conditions for which multiple systems and a range of health care issues are likely to be involved. Knowledge outcomes include frameworks for medical intervention, and foundations in pharmacology. Students are expected to use both previous and new knowledge when planning assessment and intervention.

SLP 752/Clinical Skills Lab V

This Unit V clinical laboratory course will provide students with advanced skills that will enable them to assume traditional and emerging roles in clinical practice. Students will acquire the skills needed to assess and manage clients with complex health conditions that involve multiple systems and a range of health care issues, including skills related to Augmentative and Alternative Communication, advanced hearing technology, aural rehabilitation, assessment and treatment of swallowing in children with complex medical conditions, and assessment and treatment of children with resonance disorders.

SLP 753/Inquiry Seminar V

The focus of this course will be on providing students with the opportunity to examine current issues within the speech-language pathology profession, including the diverse roles of the SLP in the health and education systems, aging and end-of life decisions, and living with a chronic health condition. Students will also learn management and business skills that will prepare them for the transition to practice upon graduation.

SLP 754/Clinical Practice IV

Students will complete a 10-week clinical practicum experience in a community, hospital, rehabilitation, or role-emerging setting.