

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

In addition to proven academic ability and other relevant personal characteristics, the M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Program expects all students to possess and be able to demonstrate the skills, attributes, and qualities set forth below, without unreasonable dependence on technology or intermediaries. If you are uncertain about your abilities to meet these Essential Functions, please consult the Graduate Director of the SLP Program to discuss your individual situation.

Physical health: The student must possess the physical health and stamina needed to carry out the SLP Program. The student must be able to continuously sit/stand for several hours.

Intellectual skills: The student must have sufficient powers of intellect to acquire, assimilate, integrate, and apply information and must have the intellectual ability to solve problems.

Motor skills: The student must have sufficient use of motor skills to carry out all necessary clinical procedures, both those involved in learning the fundamental sciences and those required in the clinical environment. This includes the ability: (1) to participate in relevant educational exercises and to extract information from written sources; (2) use a computer keyboard to operate clinical and laboratory equipment; and (3) access transportation to all clinical and academic placements.

Communication: The SLP student must have sufficient use of the sense of speech, hearing and vision, and the English language to communicate effectively with patients, faculty, staff, peers, and other health care professionals in both oral and written form, e.g. therapy plans, progress notes, diagnostic reports, telecommunication.

Sensory abilities: The student must have sufficient use of the sense of vision, hearing, touch, and smell to observe effectively in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical setting. Students must possess the ability to observe both close at hand and at a distance.

Behavior qualities: The student must possess emotional health sufficient to carry out the tasks above, must have good judgment, and must behave in a professional, reliable, mature, and responsible manner. The student must effectively manage the use of time and be able to systematize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks with realistic constraints. The student must be adaptable, possessing sufficient flexibility to function in new and stressful environments. He/she must be able to critically evaluate her/his own

performance, be forthright about errors, accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve academic and clinical performance. The student must show respect for individuals of different age, ethnic background, religion, and/or sexual orientation. The student must exhibit professional behavior by conforming to appropriate standards of dress, appearance, language and public behavior. The student must uphold the Code of Ethics of the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Code of Academic Conduct of the University of South Florida.

Each student must continue to meet all of the *Essential Functions* set forth above. A student may be denied permission to continue in the M.S. in SLP Program at the University of South Florida should the student fail at any time to demonstrate all the required *Essential Functions*.

These Essential Functions have been outlined by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association as well. You can view their document at the following web address: <http://www.capcsd.org/proceedings/2007/talks/EFChecklist.pdf>.