

# ULM Degree Program Assessment

(SLPM) MS - Speech-Language Pathology - 2011-2012

**Explanation** of changes made based on the results and analysis of the 2010-2011 cycle of assessment:

Wording of the criteria for Objectives 2 and 3 will be changed to indicate "within" 6 months to a year following graduation as most students/employers respond to surveys very soon after graduation. Regarding objective 4: with increased graduate student enrollment anticipated during the 2011-2012 cycle, the format of the research courses will be changed in order to accommodate student needs and faculty workload. Likely students will conduct a literature review within the scope of the 5005 course and develop hypothetical case studies during the 5091 course.

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## **Student Learning Outcome:**

(1) The student will demonstrate advanced knowledge of (a) the basic human communication and swallowing processes; (b) the nature of speech, language, hearing, and communication disorders and differences and swallowing disorders; (c) the principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for people with language, speech, and swallowing disorders; and (d) professional issues including, but not limited to tenets of the Code of Ethics, licensure and credentialing requirements, and scope of practice.

### **Measures:**

(1a) Upon completion of 30 hours of academic course work (excluding 5076 clinic credits), graduate students will take the Praxis exam.

### **Target:**

(1a) On the first or second administration of the Praxis exam, 80% of the graduate students will pass with a score of 600 or better prior to completion of the Clinical Fellowship Experience.

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## **Student Learning Outcome:**

(2) Students and alumni will demonstrate knowledge of the principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for people with communication and swallowing disorders, including consideration of anatomical/physiological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates of the disorders to evaluate, treat, and interact with clients.

### **Measures:**

(2a) Students will complete two eight week long internship experiences in the public schools and/or the medical setting.

(2b) Alumni will complete an Alumni Survey indicating whether or not the academic program provided them with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform as a professional Speech-Language Pathologist.

(2c) Employers will complete an Employer Survey of the employees knowledge and skills appropriate for the work setting (e.g., hospitals, schools)

**Target:**

2a) During the internship experience, 80% of the students will receive a score of 3.75/4.0 or higher, in all areas, on a scale of clinical proficiency as completed by their externship supervisors. Areas evaluated include: client management, assessment, treatment, report writing, professionalism, and interpersonal interactions.

(2b) Six months to one year following completion of the M.S. program in Speech-Language Pathology, 80% of the alumni who respond will indicate agree or strongly agree on the Alumni Survey that the academic program provided them with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform as a professional Speech-Language Pathologist.

(2c) Six months to one year following graduation, 80% of the employers who respond will rate the graduates as possessing good to excellent knowledge and skills appropriate for the work setting on the departmental Employer Survey.

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**Student Learning Outcome:**

(3) Students will demonstrate adequate oral and written communication skills consistent with ASHA's position regarding students and professionals who speak with accents or non-standard dialect and for writing diagnostic, scientific, and technical reports, treatment plans, and professional correspondence.

**Measures:**

(3a) Graduate students will be able to differentiate between adequate/appropriate and inadequate/inappropriate oral communication skills to be used when interacting with faculty, clients, caregivers, and other professionals.

(3b) Graduate students will demonstrate use of professional terminology and writing skills when completing academic and clinical reports.

**Target:**

(3a) By the final semester in graduate school, 100% of the graduate students in communicative disorders will use adequate oral communication skills as reported by their supervisor.

(3b) After completing all academic course work and clinical practica, 100% of the graduate students will demonstrate adequate written language skills as demonstrated by a grade of B or higher during their final semester in clinic (SPLP5076).

**Student Learning Outcome:**

(4) Students will demonstrate knowledge of the principles of conducting research and will use the knowledge and skills learned to conduct research.

**Measures:**

(4a) Graduate students will complete the graduate research course (SPLP 5005), the research project (SPLP 5091), and other research as assigned by faculty.

**Target:**

(4a) After completing the indicated graduate course work and projects, 80% of graduate students will indicate on the departmental KASA form that through the course work and projects they gained the knowledge and skills needed to conduct research.