

**Communication Sciences and Disorders Program
Minimum Skills/ Eligibility Requirements**

In order to acquire the knowledge and skills requisite to the practice of speech-language pathology to function in a broad variety of clinical situations, and to render a wide spectrum of patient care, individuals must have skills and attributes in five areas: sensory-observational, communication, motor, intellectual-cognitive, and behavioral-social. These skills enable a student to meet graduation and professional requirements as measured by state licensure and national certification.

Sensory / Observational Skills

A student must possess adequate hearing, vision and other sensory skills to:

- Recognize disorders of speech fluency
- Recognize abnormal articulation
- Recognize abnormal voice, resonance, and respiration characteristics
- Recognize oral and written language disorders in the areas of semantics, pragmatics, syntax, morphology, and phonology
- Recognize signs of hearing disorders
- Recognize signs of swallowing disorders
- Recognize signs of cognitive disorders
- Recognize signs of abnormal social interaction related to communication disorders
- Identify and use alternative modalities of communication (e.g., sign language or assistive devices)
- Visualize anatomic structures
- Visualize and discriminate findings on radiographic studies and other imaging tests
- Discriminate text, numbers, tables and graphs associated with diagnostic instruments and tests

Communication Skills

A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

- Communicate proficiently in both oral and written English, as well as, possess reading and writing skills sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands
- Communicate professionally and intelligibly with patients, colleagues, other healthcare professionals, community or professional groups
- Communicate professionally and legibly on patient documentation, reports, and scholarly papers required as part of course work.
- Perceive non-verbal communication

Motor Skills

A student must possess adequate motor skills to:

- Manipulate testing and treatment materials
- Manipulate patient utilized equipment (e.g. prostheses, bed controls, etc.)
- Use a computer keyboard to operate diagnostic equipment and instrumentation
- Provide general and emergency treatment to patients
- Access transportation to all clinical and academic placements
- Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work to include prolonged sitting and/or standing

Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

A student must possess adequate intellectual and cognitive skills to:

- Comprehend, retain, integrate, synthesize, and apply information sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands
- Identify significant findings from history, evaluation, and data to formulate a diagnosis and develop a treatment plan
- Problem solve, reason, and make sound clinical judgments in patient assessment, diagnostic planning, and therapeutic planning
- Identify and communicate the limits of their knowledge to others when appropriate
- Follow detailed written and verbal instruction

Behavioral and Social Attributes

A student must possess adequate behavioral and social attributes to:

- Develop mature, empathic, and effective relationships with patients
- Exhibit compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, and motivation
- Recognize and show respect for individuals with disabilities and for individuals of different ages, genders, race, religions, sexual orientation, and cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds
- Adapt to changing and demanding environments while maintaining his/her emotional health
- Manage the use of time effectively and systematize actions to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic time constraints
- Accept appropriate suggestions and constructive criticism and if necessary, respond by modification of behavior
- Conduct oneself in an ethical and legal manner, upholding the ASHA Code of Ethics, the MUSC Student Honor Code, and university and federal privacy policies
- Maintain general good health and self care in order not to jeopardized the health and safety of self and individuals with whom one interacts in the academic and clinical settings

Upon admission, an otherwise-qualified student who discloses a disability (with certification) is assured of reasonable accommodation. These accommodations include: opportunities for individual and group counseling; peer counseling; linkages with community services; faculty advisory committees that are aware of disabled students and their needs; career counseling; assistance with job searches and interview skills; and other enabling services. Students seeking accommodation initiate their request in the Student Services office, College of Health Professions.

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