

Specialization at the Masters Level:  
A New Program in  
Medical Speech-Language  
Pathology

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# New Medical SLP Master's Program

- Three years from inception to now
- Accepted 26 students into MedSLP program
- Maintain “Core” Masters program
  - 20 students with a focus on Public Schools (but continues to be a “generalist” degree)
- Also expanded Postbac program from 8/yr to 20/yr

# Context of Shortages

- Motivation for new Medical SLP Masters program
  - Public School SLPs
    - New program doubled enrollment
  - Medical SLPs
    - Specialization promotes better preparation
  - Professorial SLP
    - Inclusion of CF & research training facilitates continuity into doctoral program

# Obstacles & Challenges

- Funding
- Getting faculty on board
- Getting local SLP community organized
- Curricular changes
- Infra-structure accommodations
- Marketing & dissemination

# Self Sustaining Program

- Partnered with Educational Outreach
  - Division of university that provides administrative support for evening programs, continuing education, certificate programs, and degree programs (like ours)
- Arts & Sciences Administration cooperation
  - 5% of tuition revenue to support infrastructure
  - Agreement to allow expanded faculty lines (entirely funded by MedSLP revenue)

# MedSLP Curriculum: Year 1

Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer
Clinical Methods in Speech Language Pathology (4)	Assessment & Treatment of Voice Disorders (4)	Assessment & Treatment of Elementary School-Age Communication Disorders (4)	Medical Speech Language Pathology (3)
Assessment & Treatment of Pre-School (Birth-4) Communication Disorders (4)	Assessment & Treatment of Fluency Disorders (4)	Assessment & Treatment of Adult Communication Disorders (4)	Assessment & Treatment of Adolescent Communication Disorders (3)
Assessment & Treatment of Childhood Speech & Phonologic Disorders (4)	Neural Bases of Speech & Language (4)	Assessment & Treatment of Dysphagia (4)	Assessment & Treatment of Pediatric Feeding, Speech, and Motor Development (3)
Professional Seminar I (1)	Professional Seminar I (1)		
Practicum UW SHC (2)	Practicum UW SHC (2)	Practicum UW SHC (4)	Practicum UW SHC (4)
<b>15 credits</b>	<b>15 credits</b>	<b>16 credits</b>	<b>13 credits</b>

# MedSLP Curriculum: Year 2

Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer
Advanced Neurological Language Disorders (4)	Augmentative & Alternative Communication - Developmental (4)	Augmentative & Alternative Communication – Acquired (4)	Counseling (3)
Assessment & Treatment of Voice Disorders in Medical Settings (4)	Assessment & Treatment of Cognitive Communication Disorders (4)	Advanced Neurological Motor Speech Disorders (4)	Ethics Medical Speech Language Pathology (3)
Evidence-based Practice I (3)	Evidence-based Practice II (3)	Evidence-based Practice III (3)	
Practicum-Externship (5)	Practicum-Externship (5)	Practicum-Externship (5)	Practicum-Externship (10)
<b>16 credits</b>	<b>16 credits</b>	<b>16 credits</b>	<b>16 credits</b>

# MedSLP Curriculum: Year 3

<b>Autumn</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
Clinical & Research Forum (3)	Clinical & Research Forum (3)	Clinical & Research Forum (3)	Clinical & Research Forum (3)
Clinical Fellowship (12)	Clinical Fellowship (12)	Clinical Fellowship (12)	Clinical Fellowship (12)
<b>15 credits</b>	<b>15 credits</b>	<b>15 credits</b>	<b>15 credits</b>



# First Year Practica

- PIP – Pronunciation Improvement Program
- Secondary Clinician in Public Schools
- Assessment Clinic (26 pediatric & 26 adult cases)
- Summer Treatment Clinic (same clients)

# Externships

- Second year practica in outside placements
  - Hospitals
  - Clinics
  - Private practices
- Paid supervision

# Clinical Fellowship

- Third year
- Placements are determined by facilities, MedSLP coordinator, and student
- Students are paid *per diem*
- 12 months – 25 hours/week
- Mentoring and supervision accomplished through Clinical and Research Forum

# Evidence-Based Practice I

(Both Core and MedSLP)

- Understanding research as a consumer
- Evaluation of the components of research – from developing questions to results/discussion
- Understanding of the hierarchy of evidence
- Research designs:
  - descriptive (case study, developmental, normative, qualitative, surveys);
  - exploratory (correlational and differential);
  - experimental (single-subject designs, randomized control trials, treatment efficacy)
- Issues related to human subjects and ethical considerations in research
- Issues related to measurement (validity, reliability, replicability, specificity, sensitivity)
- Individual student assignment: Review clinical research article & conduct class discussion about article

# Evidence-Based Practice II

(MedSLP students only)

- Learn how to conduct a *Critically Appraised Topic*
- Measurement issues reviewed and expanded
  - Specificity and Sensitivity
  - Likelihood Ratios
  - Power
  - Effect Size
- Review of EBP systematic reviews and meta-analyses in Medical Speech-Language Pathology
  - Dysarthria
  - Apraxia of Speech
  - Aphasia
  - Traumatic Brain Injury
  - Dementia
  - Voice
  - Dysphagia
- Individual student assignment: Conduct and present a *Critically Appraised Topic*

# Evidence-Based Practice III

(MedSLP students only)

- The course is designed to prepare students for their *Feasibility Projects* which are conducted during their CFY
- Data collection in the clinical environment for examining clinical outcome and quality assurance with emphasis on the following:
  - Challenges of data collection in the clinical environment
  - Kinds of questions that can be asked in a clinical environment pertaining to assessment, treatment, interdisciplinary
  - Methods that lend themselves to a clinical environment
  - Single subject design elements for demonstrating functional relationships/experimental control
  - Case studies
  - Qualitative techniques (interviews, questionnaires)
- Review of articles that illustrate data collection in a clinical setting
- Individual student assignment: Propose (Introduction and Methods) a Feasibility project

# Clinical and Research Forum

- Once weekly evening course coinciding with the CFY
- UW faculty and SLP supervisors from CF facilities attend
  - Provides CFY mentoring
    - Caseload, procedures and responsibilities
    - Difficult and unusual cases
    - Successful and challenging situations
    - Inservices on clinical topics
  - Supports planning and implementing students' *Feasibility Projects*
    - *Feasibility project* is meant to illustrate to students how data at “any level” supports evidence-based practice & can be conducted in most clinical settings
    - Students pose a question, design a project, collect and interpret data
    - Data collection may be related to assessment techniques, treatment approaches, quality assurance, interdisciplinary communication
    - The challenge is for students to come up with an appropriate question for their sites, determine what data can address their question, collect and interpret data.

# Progress to date

- Accepted 26 students
- Started this week
- Have affiliation agreements with over 30 facilities including 17 hospitals, 12 clinics, and 6 private practices in Puget Sound region
- Hired 5 new supervisors in UW Speech & Hearing Clinic