

Communication Proficiency Policy

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Communication Sciences and Disorders Department promotes linguistic diversity and views the use of different languages and dialects among its students as an asset to our academic and professional community. This is consistent with the official position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (1998).

(<http://www.asha.org/policy/ps1998-00117.htm>)

All graduate students whose degrees are received from a postsecondary institution where English is not the principal language of instruction and/or their native language is not English have to receive a passing score on the *Test of English as a Foreign Language* (TOEFL) prior to admission. Upon admission, all graduate students must meet the *Essential Functions of Performance for Clinical Practicums*, which include proficiency in written and spoken English.

The procedure to follow when a student does not meet this Essential Function is as follows:

- Clinical professor identifies student as not meeting the Essential Function.
- Clinical professor alerts student's academic advisor and department chair (if identified in academic setting) or clinic director (if identified as a part of clinical practicums).
- Students in audiology and speech-language will be brought to the attention of the respective audiology or speech-language pathology Student Clinical Review Committee (SCRC). A conference will be held with the clinical professor(s) assigned to the student, department chair/clinic director, and student's advisor to review the concern(s) with student and determine a recommended course of action. A *Clinical Performance Improvement Plan* may be developed to guide next steps. Documentation of the conference and recommended course of action will be placed in student's file.

The *Clinical Performance Improvement Plan* is meant to be a collaborative process in order to help the student achieve success in their clinical practicum settings. The improvement plan could include the student:

- Enrolling in the intensive English program at UW Madison. (<https://english.wisc.edu/esl/intensive-english-program.htm>)
- Participating in individualized intervention services at UW Speech and Hearing Clinic.
- Working with an ESL tutor. (<https://english.wisc.edu/esl/intensive-english-program.htm>)
- Engaging in English conversation groups.
- Enrolling in English language programs through UW Madison continuing studies. (<http://continuingstudies.wisc.edu/collections/english-language-program/>)

A student's program may be longer than typical and/or their trajectory different in order to meet this Essential Function for clinical performance.