

COURSE: SPPA 270 PRECLINICAL OBSERVATION AND PARTICIPATION
Spring 2009 Time: Arranged Credit: 1

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PURPOSE: This course was designed to give you the opportunity to observe actual diagnostic and therapy sessions in either speech-language pathology and/or audiology, and to talk with clinicians in these fields about their professions.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. You are to complete a total of 25 hours of observation by the end of the semester. It is advisable that you attend at least 2-3 therapy sessions/evaluations per week in order to accrue the necessary hours. **These hours must be done with an ASHA certified Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist.** You are responsible for asking them to make sure they are certified. If possible, meet with the audiologist, or speech-language pathologist before the session begins to discuss the plan of action for the session. If you have not completed a minimum of 12.5 hours by the midpoint of the semester, which is March 2nd, you will be expected to drop this class.
2. If you completed hours during Christmas break, all forms for those observations are due by January 12th, 2009. If they are not turned in, you will not be able to count those observations as part of your 25 cumulative hours.
3. **Permission** must be obtained from the clinician and the client or the client's caregiver in order to observe sessions. Failure to obtain permission is considered a breach of confidentiality and causes us or you to be liable for a lawsuit.
4. Professional dress is required, as befits a representative of Andrews University, and professional speech-language pathologists and audiologists. If you are not sure what "professional dress" would be appropriate, please ask someone at the facility where you will be observing.
5. Punctuality for diagnostic and therapy sessions is extremely important, so that the clinical and patient are not interrupted. If you arrive after the session has already begun, you will not be allowed to observe.
6. Following **each session**, write a concise report about the events of the therapy/evaluation session and your reactions to them. These reports are **due no later than one week from the time the session was observed.** If the reports are not completed by the deadline, they will not be accepted, and the hours recorded will not count toward your 25 hour total. The reports must be written in a professional manner with usage of professional language. They must be legible. In addition, turn

in your observation log each time you turn in a report so your observation time can be verified.

7. All your observation reports as well as a completed record of observation hours are **due the Thursday before exam week**. A copy of your record of observation hours will be kept on file in the department, with the original being returned to you.
8. You may request a list of clinicians/facilities in the Berrien County area where you may observe. You will need to contact the clinician or facility the day before you plan to observe in order to request permission to observe at a particular time, and to verify patient/clinician availability. Please remember that these individuals are doing you a favor.

GRADING SCALE:

S = Satisfactory

U = Unsatisfactory

FINAL NOTES:

Anything that you observe, read, or hear about a client in any facility is strictly **CONFIDENTIAL**. The client is legally entitled to this confidentiality. If you wish to discuss a client, do so with a member of the staff. You may not mention anything you observe about a patient and his/her treatment to your friends or family.

Be aware that none of the clinic staff can guarantee that patients will come to their appointments or will allow you to observe. Therefore, it is important you allow yourself some extra time to complete your observation hours. It is your responsibility to complete course requirements in spite of patients canceling appointments which you had planned on observing.

If you qualify for accommodations under the American Disabilities Act, please see the instructor as soon as possible for referral and assistance in arranging such accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty: Falsification of reports or records of observation hours will result in an unsatisfactory grade in the course and dismissal from the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology program at Andrews University. Additional action may be taken with the consensus of Departmental faculty.