

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH-LANAGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

COURSE: SPPA 270 PRECLINICAL OBSERVATION AND PARTICIPATION
Spring 2014
Time: Arranged
Credit: 1

INSTRUCTOR: **Heather Ferguson MS – CCC/SLP**
Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students observe and write reports on a total of 30 hours of therapy and/or diagnostic sessions in the areas of speech-language pathology and audiology. They also participate in discussions of procedures used by the professionals during therapeutic interventions.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Each student is to complete 30 hours of observation in the areas of speech-language pathology and audiology by the end of the semester. To accomplish the observations in a timely fashion it is advised that 2 to 3 sessions of observation be completed each week. Approximately 15 hours should be completed by **February 26, 2014** (mid-semester). Students who fail to meet the required 30 hours of observation will receive an unsatisfactory grade and be required to repeat the course. Observation hours completed during this semester may not be applied toward the new course if an unsatisfactory grade is received.
2. **Each observation must be completed with an ASHA certified Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist.** Hours completed with an individual who is not ASHA certified will not count toward the 30 observation hours.
3. Students are able to observe professionals on the Andrews University Campus as well as off the University Campus. To complete off-campus observations permission must be obtained by the professional being observed as well as the patient (care-giver) being observed. Failure to obtain permission is considered a breach of confidentiality and which leaves the university and the student open to lawsuits.
4. Appropriate professional dress is required for ALL observation experiences. If unclear as to what constitutes “professional dress” a department faculty member may be asked to offer guidance. The professional that will be observed may also be consulted for guidance.
5. Students will need to contact the clinician or facility a few days before planned observations 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. Be courteous and gracious.**

6. **Punctuality** for all observation sessions is extremely important. It is suggested that a student arrive at least 15 minutes before the session is expected to begin. Please refer to professional being observed for further guidance. If students arrive after the session has begun the student will not be permitted to observe the session.
7. Each student will be required to record their observation on a department approved record form. Once an observation form is filled it is to be turned in to Mrs. Ferguson. Each observation should be accompanied by a summary sheet. Observation hours turned in without a summary form will not be counted toward the 30 hours needed to complete this course. A copy of the completed form will be made and returned to the student noting the total observation hours to date. Please recheck the calculations as errors in calculation are possible.
8. All observation hours and reports are due on **Thursday, December 5, 2013**. Once hours are reviewed and verified, a copy of each student's observation hours will be kept on file in the department. **Each student is required to keep the original observations with noted signature and ASHA numbers.** These hours are extremely important. They will be needed for permission to complete practicum experience. These hours will also be needed for permission to begin practicum. These hours must be completed to begin practicum in graduate school as well. This is an ASHA requirement.
9. Students may request a list of clinicians/facilities in the Berrien County area where you may observe.

GRADING SCALE

S = Satisfactory

U = Unsatisfactory

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COURSE POLICIES:

- Any sessions observed, information heard or read about a client in any facility is strictly **CONFIDENTIAL**. The client is legally entitled to this confidentiality. If students wish to discuss a client this should be conducted with a member of the staff only.
- When observing therapy sessions in the student observation room, headphones must be used at all times. Not wearing headphones breaches the universities confidentiality agreement.
- While observing therapy sessions in the student observation room, it is important to keep conversations to a minimum and keep in mind that sound does travel and families and patients are often able to hear conversation coming from the room.
- Be aware that clinic staff cannot guarantee that patients will keep their appointments or allow students to observe. For this reason it is important that students allow enough time during the semester to complete observations.
- **Cell phones:** Cell phones are to be turned off during **ALL** observations. Ringing and/or vibrating cell phones are a distraction to professionals and clients being observed. **If this is reported by any professional the students may receive an unsatisfactory grade and be required to repeat the course.**
- **Academic Integrity:** In harmony with the mission statement of Andrews University, it is expected that

all students will demonstrate moral integrity. Therefore, plagiarism, copying other students work, stealing quizzes or exams is a serious offense. Possible consequences are a warning, reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the class, expulsion from the university, and/or degree cancellation.

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