

COMMUNICATION DISORDERS GRADUATE PROGRAM

ADVISING MANUAL

OVERVIEW

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world—*Anne Frank*

Welcome to the Communication Disorders program at New Mexico State University! As you begin your tenure as a CD graduate student, you will have many questions regarding your responsibilities, rights, and privileges. You will work with a variety of requirements from ASHA, the CD Program, the Department of Special Education/Communication Disorders, the College of Education, and the Graduate School. This manual is intended to guide you and help you get answers as you work your way through your program of study.

The CD program is part of a combined department, Special Education/Communication Disorders (SPED/CD), housed within the College of Education, which offers training in Developmental Disabilities, Bilingual Special Education, School Psychology, Educational Diagnostics, Early Childhood Special Education, Deaf Education, and the Visual Impairment/Orientation and Mobility Program. In addition, the Department offers doctoral training in Special Education and Communication Disorders. So, some of the graduate students in your department are not training to become SLPs as you are, but are interested in many of the same issues as you.

You will be interacting with faculty and students within the CD Program and SPED/CD Department. A list of current SPED/CD faculty members is included in this manual. The SPED/CD Department is administered by the Department Head. To assist the Department Head, the SPED and CD components in the Department each have a Program Director. A Program Director is responsible for consulting with both the Department Head and the SPED/CD Faculty in order to carry out many of the daily administrative tasks for their components. The CD Program Director also functions as a liaison between NMSU and the national professional organization that accredits the CD Program, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The Graduate Faculty members in SPED/CD (Assistant, Associate and Full professors) teach, supervise students and pursue research in their areas of expertise. The faculty meets both as a department, and as component groups, to advise the administrators regarding issues concerning staff and faculty, academics, personnel, and other matters of relevance to students in the Department. Each component also has a Program Faculty that includes College Instructors, and full and part-time professional staff who teach some of the undergraduate courses, supervise students and/or assist in administration of special projects. The work in the Department and CD Program is supported by the SPED/CD office staff, which includes two Departmental Secretaries, a Speech & Hearing Center secretary, and work-study students.

Housed in the SPED/CD Department is the NMSU Speech & Hearing Center. The primary purpose of the Center is to provide training opportunities for CD students, but it also provides a service to the community by offering supervised speech, language, hearing, and swallowing services to persons with communication disorders. The Coordinator of Clinical Services, who is also a CD faculty member, and the Center Secretary schedule student clinical training activities and coordinate the daily administration of the Center.

Much of your coursework and clinical activities are completed in the Speech Building on the NMSU Campus. The Departmental office is located in the Speech Building, Room 245. Many of the CD faculty offices are also located on the second floor of the building, with other faculty. The Speech and Hearing Center office (Room 158), student mailroom and materials room (Room 163), Student Work Room (Room 188) instrumentation training laboratories and clinical service facilities, including an Audiology Suite and AAC Lab (Room 190), are located on the first floor of the Speech building. Since you are also a student in the Graduate School and College of Education, there are several other places you will want to locate. The Graduate School offices are located in the Educational Services Building. Hadley Hall houses the offices of much of the university-wide administration, including the office of the NMSU President. The bookstore and many of the other facilities that serve students, including eateries, are located in Corbett Center. There are two library buildings at the center of campus, the Zuhl Library and Branson Hall. Both libraries house electronic and print media available for use by CD students.

One factor that determines your course of study is the requirements set forth by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the national governing body for the professions of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. It is ASHA that issues the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) to professionals who have met a set of defined standards (see Appendix A, *ASHA Professional Standards*, pp. 21-35). ASHA is also the accreditation agency for graduate educational training programs through its Council of Academic Accreditation. As of January 1994, only students who are graduates of an ASHA-accredited training program are eligible for the CCC. The CD Program at NMSU is ASHA accredited through February 28, 2009. ASHA requires that the academic coursework you take include curriculum and clinical practica in a number of specific areas. Appendix B (pp. 36-40) includes the *Advising and Tracking Form* that will be used to document your progress through the program. ASHA also requires that the clinical education you experience include working with specific types of persons with a variety of communication disorders, and that these experiences occur in distinctly different kinds of work settings. You will meet these requirements through your clinical practica before you graduate. The *Clinical Program Manual*, which you purchase for the practicum course CD 589, is designed to provide you with detailed information and forms that are needed to complete your clinical education successfully.

One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar—*Helen Keller*

The CD Program has a list of 10 competencies that you will demonstrate through your academic and clinical work in the program. A table listing the competencies, how each relates to the ASHA Standards, and where within the curriculum each competency is addressed is presented Appendix C, pp. 41-42).

Another factor determining your individual requirements for graduation from the CD Program is the NMSU requirements. At all levels of the university, including the Department and Program, there are rules and requirements that must be followed by all students. You can find specific statements of those requirements in several publications, including the NMSU Graduate Bulletin and the Student Handbook. A few of these are restated here for your attention.

1. All graduate students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) in order to remain in good standing with the Graduate School. If you fall below this GPA you will be placed on academic probation the following semester. If you are unable to improve your GPA, you will be subject to disenrollment and will not be able to apply for readmission into the program for 5 years.
2. CD graduate students must earn a grade of “B” or higher in all CD courses in order for that course to apply toward graduation. If you earn a grade of “C” or lower, you may repeat the course once in an attempt to improve that grade. Any other arrangements regarding grade improvement will be subject to the review and approval of your Academic Advisor, the CD Graduate Faculty, the CD Program Director and the SPED/CD Department Head. A departmental Selective Review Committee may be formed to consider your options for further progress in the CD Program.
3. In order to participate in clinical practica, CD graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. If your GPA falls below 3.0, you will not be allowed to enroll in CD 589 or do any clinical work to earn clock hours until the 3.0 has been re-established.
4. All CD graduate students must successfully complete all Academic and Clinical Program requirements prior to graduation. Graduation from an ASHA-accredited program implies that you have completed the Academic and Clinical Program that ASHA approved. The CD Program Director must certify that you are academically qualified by signing the forms that you submit to ASHA as a part of the requirements for obtaining your Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech and Language (CCC-SLP). That signature will be given only after all Program requirements have been completed prior to obtaining the Master of Arts degree from NMSU. Your degree will be a Master of Arts in Education with a major in Communication Disorders and specialization in Speech-Language Pathology.