



**The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Health Sciences
Speech-Language Pathology Program**

Graduate Student Handbook

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Section 1 – General Information

Welcome to the University of Texas El Paso, Speech-Language Pathology Master's Program!

Philosophy

The UTEP Speech-Language Pathology Program (SPLP) and the UTEP Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic are committed to providing a quality educational program to UTEP graduate students with career goals of becoming speech-language pathologists. The UTEP SPLP Program is dedicated to providing the highest quality diagnostic, treatment, and counseling services to the people, we serve. UTEP graduate students are a dynamic force in the Speech, Hearing and Language Clinic, and while in the program will develop the problem-solving skills, ethics, and values to become responsible professionals.

Vision

The Speech-Language Pathology faculty and staff provide the highest quality education to prepare speech-language pathologists who will provide leadership, service and scholarship in meeting the needs of a culturally and linguistically diverse population.

Mission

The program in speech-language pathology is dedicated to the preparation of professional, culturally competent speech-language pathologists to serve a linguistically and culturally diverse community. The preparation includes close collaboration of faculty and students in the areas of teaching, learning, research, scholarship and service to the program, college, university and community in a context of continuing quality measurement and improvement.

Accreditation Statement

The Master of Science (M.S.) program in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Texas at El Paso is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700. UTEP's Accreditation is current 04/01/2021 through 03/31/2029 (renewable).

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) requires that each program post for public review the following information; student completion rate, employment rate for program graduates, number of students enrolled, student pass rate on the Praxis Exam. When CAA approves the yearly CAA report, this information will be posted in such a manner that it complies with FERPA guidelines.



To express questions or concerns regarding UTEP CAA accreditation, visit <https://caa.asha.org/>.

Call for Public Comment on Applicants for CAA

In accordance with the CAA's Public Comment policy and procedures, the CAA is seeking public comment as part of its review of the [clinical doctoral programs in Audiology or master's programs in Speech-Language Pathology](#) that have submitted applications for candidacy or applications for initial or continued accreditation.

How to Submit Comments

Individuals who wish to provide input about a program seeking candidacy or initial accreditation or about a CAA-accredited program, seeking continued accreditation may do so in 2 ways:

- Submit written comments prior to the accreditation site visit in accordance with the procedures specified in the public comment procedures
- Provide comments to the site visit team during the program's scheduled site visit

All comments must. . .

- Relate to a program's compliance with the current Standards for Accreditation
- Identify the specific program seeking candidacy, initial accreditation, or continued accreditation with the CAA
- Comments that do not meet these requirements will not be considered, and the individual or group commenting will be notified.

The Standards for Accreditation and the CAA's Public Comment policy and procedures are available in the Accreditation Handbook. These documents may also be obtained by sending a written request to the Accreditation Office.

Complaints Against Graduate Education Programs

Any individual may submit a complaint about any accredited program or program in candidacy status.

Criteria for Complaints about programs must meet all of the following criteria:

- A. must be against an accredited graduate education program or program in candidacy status in audiology or speech-language pathology;

- B. must relate to the Standards for Accreditation of Entry-Level Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology [PDF], including the relationship of the complaint to the accreditation standards;
- C. must be clearly described, including the specific nature of the charge and the data to support the charge;
- D. must be submitted within the timelines specified below:
 - 1. if the complaint is being filed by a graduate or former student, or a former faculty or staff member, the complaint must be filed within one year of separation* from the program, even if the conduct occurred more than 4 years prior to the date of filing the complaint;
 - 2. if the complaint is being filed by a current student or faculty member, the complaint must be filed as soon as possible, but no longer than 4 years after the date the conduct occurred;
 - 3. if the complaint is being filed by other complainants, the conduct must have occurred at least in part within 4 years prior to the date the complaint is filed.

*Note: For graduates, former students, or former faculty or staff filing a complaint, the date of separation should be the date on which the individual was no longer considered a student in or employee of the graduate program (i.e., graduation, resignation, official notice of withdrawal or termination), and after any institutional grievance or other review processes have been concluded.

Complaints also must meet the following submission requirements:

- A. must include verification, if the complaint is from a student or faculty/instructional staff member, that the complainant exhausted all pertinent institutional grievance and review mechanisms before submitting a complaint to the CAA;
- B. must include the complainant's name, address, and telephone contact information and the complainant's relationship to the program in order for the Accreditation Office staff to verify the source of the information;
- C. must be signed and submitted in writing via U.S. mail, overnight courier, or hand delivery—not via e-mail or as a facsimile—to the following address:

Chair, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard, #310 Rockville, MD 20850.

The complainant's burden of proof is a preponderance, or greater weight, of the evidence. These procedures do not prevent the CAA from considering a complaint against an accredited or candidate program if the program is involved in litigation or other actions by a third party.

Regional Accreditation

The University of Texas at El Paso is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). For more information on SACSCOC, visit their website at <http://www.sacscoc.org>. The University of Texas at El Paso was reaccredited in 2016 for the next 10 years.

Section 2 – Program Overview

The program in Speech-Language Pathology offers a program of study which culminates with the Master of Science Degree. Students who complete the plan qualify for state license as well as the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology. The graduate plan includes 51 semester hours within six semesters (although students typically graduate in five semesters) for completion of the Masters of Science (M.S.) degree in Speech-Language Pathology.

Curriculum

UTEP Graduate Catalog - <http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/college-of-health-sciences/rehabilitation-sciences/speech-language-pathology-ms/>

Required Academic Courses: (36 Credit Hours)

SPLP 5320 Research Design in Communication Disorders
SPLP 5330 Differential Diagnosis of Communication Disorders
SPLP 5359 Fluency Disorders
SPLP 5360 Aphasia and Related Disorders
SPLP 5362 Language Disorders in School Aged Children
SPLP 5363 Phonatory Disorders of Voice
SPLP 5364 Motor Speech Disorders
SPLP 5366 Communication Disorders and Literacy
SPLP 5370 Dysphagia
SPLP 5372 Problems and Projects in Speech-Language Pathology (Elective Courses: see below)
SPLP 5377 Treatment Efficacy in Communication Disorders
SPLP 5380 Augmentative and Alternative Communications

Clinical Practicum Courses: (15 Credit Hours)

SPLP 5369 Graduate Practicum, SPLP, University Clinic (9 credits)
SPLP 5379 Graduate Practicum, SPLP, School Setting (3 credits)
SPLP 5389 Graduate Practicum, SPLP, Hospital/Agency (3 credits)

Elective Courses: (3 Credit Hours)

SPLP 5172 Concussion Management
SPLP 5172 Autism
SPLP 5272 Manual Communication
SPLP 5372 Anatomy – Cadaver Course
SPLP 5372 Structures of Spanish
SPLP 5375 Articulation & Phonological Disorders
SPLP 5376 Multicultural/Multilingual Issues in CD: An Hispanic Focus

SPLP 5398, 5399 Thesis

Graduate electives may be taken in and outside the Program with advisor's approval. Elective courses taken to fulfill a certificate requirement do not count as electives for the M.S. degree. With the non-thesis option, the Capstone paper, Qualifying and Comprehensive examinations are all required. All coursework used to meet M.S. degree requirements must be completed within one six-year period prior to the M.S. degree award.

Total Graduating Hours: 51 Credit Hours

See the Appendix for the Degree Plan.

Specialty Certificates

Additional graduate certificates (i.e. Bilingual, Concussion) will be offered depending on interest and program resources. Contact program faculty with interest no later than midterm during your first fall semester.

Program Completion

Grade Criteria

A grade of D or F in any graduate course will result in immediate dismissal from the graduate program. Consideration of the student for readmission will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

No more than two (2) C grades will be permitted. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average per graduate school requirements. A third C will lead to immediate dismissal from the graduate program.

A final semester grade of C in any clinical practicum course (SPLP 5369, 5379, 5389) will necessitate the repetition of the clinical practicum course. Hours obtained during the practicum in which a C was earned will not count toward the total number of hours (400) required for graduation.

Student Drop Deadline

Classes dropped prior to the official census date of any term will be deleted from the student's transcript. Course drops filed by a student after this period, but prior to the final deadline (end of the 8th week of a long session or end of the 4th week during a summer session) will result in a grade of W (Withdrawal).

After the student drop deadline, students may be dropped from a course with a grade of W only under exceptional circumstances and only with the approval of the instructor for the course and the academic dean. The student must petition for W grade in writing and provide necessary supporting documentation.

Capstone Paper and Qualifying/Comprehensive Exams

In addition to meeting course-by-course and practicum requirements, the student will progress towards degree completion in the program by passing three academic milestones: 1) a capstone paper, 2) a mid-program qualifying exam, and 3) a final comprehensive exam. Students will participate in each milestone as scheduled or upon resolution of any outstanding action plans. Satisfactory performance on each milestone is required for program continuation and/or degree conferral.

The capstone paper is assigned and completed during the first year of study to provide each student with experience in research. The student is required to identify an original research question, develop the single-subject methodology to test it, create hypothetical data, analyze the data, and write a research paper which includes an introduction, literature review, methods, results, and discussion.

The first qualifying exam occurs at the end of the first year as a Praxis-like exam consisting multiple-choice questions drawing from the curriculum with oral retake options as needed. Passing rate for this exam is 80% correct. If less than 80% correct is achieved, areas of concern will be assessed via oral examination by a faculty panel. The oral exam is pass/fail.

Lastly, a final comprehensive examination is held at the end of the second year as an in-depth case study analysis and demonstration of the clinical skills outlined in ASHA certification standards. Grading for this exam is based on a pass/fail rubric with an oral retake option by faculty panel as needed.

Thesis

A master's thesis is original research conducted by the student under the mentorship of a professor within the program and umbrella of ongoing research with that professor. Students who successfully defend a prospectus (thesis planning meeting) and thesis defense are not required to take the qualifying or comprehensive exams. The thesis option is a 2-year process, which requires ongoing consistent attention on the part of the student. Success is dependent upon continual progress, which is the responsibility of each individual student.

Purpose of the Thesis

- A. Demonstrate understanding of research design and process

- B. Culmination project of your graduate work
- C. Written project that is of publishable quality

Thesis Committee

- A. A thesis committee is comprised of at least three members.
 - The faculty chair who is **within** the Speech-Language Pathology Program and mentors and directs the thesis
 - A faculty committee member who is **within** the Speech-Language Pathology Program and provides guidance
 - A faculty committee member who is from **outside** the Speech-Language Pathology Program and provides guidance

Thesis Timelines

The following are suggested timelines; however, the student and the thesis advisor will discuss timelines based on the specifics of the study conducted.

- **1st semester**- Create research questions and methodology for the study. Submit draft of literature review and methods to your professor.
- **2nd semester**- Conduct proposal defense with thesis committee. Begin collecting data. Continue to revise thesis draft.
- **3rd semester** - Conclude data collection and begin analysis. Continue to revise thesis draft including results.
- **4th semester**- Conclude data analysis. Continue to revise thesis including discussion.
- **5th or 6th semester***- Discuss deadlines with your advisor
 - Thesis defense will be scheduled when your paper is of publishable quality to be determined by your advisor.
 - Thesis must be sent to committee at least 2 weeks prior to your defense meeting.
- Under the following conditions, the thesis defense will be scheduled for the following semester. You will be required to register for another thesis course with your advisor during that semester.*
 - Your thesis is not of publishable quality, so a defense meeting cannot be scheduled.
 - You fail the thesis defense.

Section 3 – Student

Student Expectations

Professional and Ethical Conduct

Students should adhere to the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct by demonstrating accountability, trustworthiness, and responsibility in the execution of their graduate student roles. These skills impact the student's growth and demeanor as s/he transitions from a graduate student to a Speech-Language Pathologist. These areas are also addressed in the assigned practicum experiences and thus will impact student grade outcomes.

An attitude of professionalism must be maintained during all aspects of the graduate program. Each student is reminded to treat his/her peers and faculty and staff with consideration and respect during all interactions. Direct and indirect contact with clients, faculty, and staff should reflect attitudes consistent with the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association's Code of Ethics <https://www.asha.org/Code-of-Ethics/>.

The following professional expectations should be noted:

- A. All documentation and paperwork is to be submitted in an orderly and timely manner.
- B. Full adherence to privacy and confidentiality of the clients served is required.
- C. Participation in discussions regarding evidence-based practice, treatment methods, problem solving, etc., is a requirement. Evidence-based practice information regarding clients is to be included in all clinical documentation.
- D. Faculty and supervisor feedback, critique, and/or suggestions should be interpreted by the student as building knowledge and skills for their chosen profession.

HB 1508F – Notice of Potential Ineligibility of License

Texas law:

- restricts the issuance of occupational licenses based on a license applicant's criminal history; and
- authorizes the **Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)** in some cases, to consider a person convicted, even though the person was only on probation or community supervision without a conviction.

As an applicant/enrollee in an educational or training program that prepares individuals for issuance of an occupational license, you are being provided with notice by **The University of Texas at El Paso Speech-Language Pathology Program** of the following:

- If you have been convicted of an offense or placed on probation, you might not be eligible for an occupational license issued by TDLR after you complete this educational or training program;

TDLR's criminal history guidelines are available at www.tdlr.texas.gov/crimconvict.htm and include restrictions or guidelines TDLR uses to determine eligibility for an occupational license; and

- you have the right to request a criminal history evaluation letter from TDLR, which is explained in more detail at www.tdlr.texas.gov/crimhistoryeval.htm.

Section 53.152, Occupations Code, requires that notice be provided to each applicant and enrollee regardless of whether the applicant or enrollee has been convicted of an offense.

REFUND AND ORDERED PAYMENTS. State law requires TDLR to order an educational program provider to refund tuition, license application fees, and examination fees if:

- TDLR determines the provider failed to provide notice to the student; and
- the license application was denied because of my criminal history.

Attendance

Regular and prompt attendance at all classes, practicum sessions (on- or off-campus), and clinical staffings is expected. Personal time off to include but not limited to doctor's appointments, travel, work schedules, and family commitments must be approved by your clinical supervisor or faculty and/or staff no later than 30 days into the semester. In case of an emergency, due consideration will be provided.

The graduate student may not be absent more than three times during any one of the practicum experiences. When the student is absent more than three times for any reason not approved by university faculty and staff and site supervisor, the experience may be terminated. If the experience is not terminated, the student may be required to extend his/her practicum for the days missed.

The student graduate student must notify his/her Clinical Supervisor whenever he/she will be tardy, on the day it occurs as soon as is possible. After two instances of tardiness, the student may be expected to extend practicum by one day for each additional tardy arrival. **Please refer to the Graduate Catalog for additional information on UTEP's attendance policy regarding absence for religious holy days, military leave, dead day and final examinations,** at <http://catalog.utep.edu/policies-regulations/>.

Time Commitment

Graduate students must maintain and adhere to the academic and practicum schedules. These roles and responsibilities require a considerable amount of time commitment from the student. Severe and inflexible restrictions in time commitment will be interpreted as a lack of

commitment to the program. The program requirements are equivalent to at least fulltime employment of 40 hours per week. For a 3-credit-hour academic course, you can expect to spend 3 to 4 hours outside of class, reading and studying. Off-campus practicum is a full-time practicum experience. Students will follow university holiday/vacation schedule, not the site clinical supervisor/agency assigned.

Each student graduate student is expected to meet and maintain professional responsibilities even during periods of additional academic pressure or heightened personal problems. Because of the demands of the program, students are not encouraged to seek part and/or fulltime employment outside the program. Work schedules cannot interfere with class, clinical practicum, or service learning opportunities. If any student, for any reason experiences difficulty meeting the expectations of the program, please communicate with any faculty member to discuss your options.

Email Communication

All students are required to maintain a current UTEP email address. Personal emails will not be allowed for the exchange of academic or clinic information. Students are required to check their UTEP email for program communications. It is expected that students respond to any inquiry within 24 hours of receipt of email. For problems with email contact the UTEP helpdesk at helpdesk@utep.edu.

Standard Precautions

Students are expected to abide by Standard Precautions as defined by the Center for Disease Control and following ASHA guidelines. <https://www.asha.org/practice/infection-control/>

Dress Code

Maintaining an air of professionalism is a key element of the program. Students must wear the following options to all clinical practicum experiences:

- Navy blue scrubs with closed toe shoes for clinic practicum.
- Students will abide by the dress code at their respective sites.
- Fridays is considered UTEP school spirit day and University t-shirts and/or University colored polo shirts are encouraged.

The “4 B Rule” applies: The breasts, buttocks, belly, and back should be covered during class, practicum, CAGE time. Students who do not adhere to the dress code will be sent home to change and may not be able to participate in the class or clinical practicum.

Students represent the program and the University. Please do not wear your scrubs or University attire outside of the academic setting and program related activities.

Name Badge. Student name badges should be visible to the public and worn at all times during practicum.

Accessories and Jewelry. Accessories and jewelry (i.e. piercings, tattoos, etc.) should be reasonable and appropriate for a health care setting, and should not interfere with patient care or detract from clinical performance.

Personal Hygiene and Grooming. Personal hygiene and grooming should be maintained at all times. Students should refrain from use of perfumes and/or colognes. Students should be clean and free of offensive body odors.

Hair and Nails. Beards and mustaches should be worn short and neatly trimmed. Hair should be clean, styled neatly, of neutral color, and may not obstruct vision nor interfere in any way with the student's clinical performance. Nails and artificial nails should be short with neutral colors.

Advising

The program's graduate advisor will conduct a thorough review of the transcripts of incoming graduate students to ensure each student has met all the academic, clinical, and other requirements for the degree and the credential.

For students who have matriculated into the program, the graduate advisor will meet with each cohort each semester to conduct curriculum/academic advisement. This is to ensure each student is registered for the appropriate classes and is on track to graduate within the published timeframes for the program. Students may also request meetings with the graduate advisor at any time to ask questions, or to seek clarification or guidance. Additionally, the graduate advisor will schedule individual meetings with students if there is a concern regarding their performance in the program.

Action Plan

The purpose of an Action Plan is to provide structured and individualized support for any student who experiences difficulty meeting course requirements. Each course syllabus contains an Action Plan Initiation statement. This information provides the minimum requirements a student must meet. If the minimum requirements are not met, an Action Plan will be implemented and managed by the instructor for the course, whether academic or clinical. The Action Plan will be documented within the EXXAT system.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students are expected to maintain a high standard of honor in their scholastic work. Scholastic dishonesty (which includes, but is not limited to, the attempt of any student to present as his/her own the work of another, or any work which he/she has not honestly performed; or the attempt to pass any examination by improper means) is a serious offense and will subject the student to disciplinary action. The aiding and abetting of a student in any dishonesty is held to be an equally serious offense. See the UTEP Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for procedures <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/>.

Student Grievance

Equal Educational Opportunity Complaints

To the extent provided by applicable law, no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by The University of Texas at El Paso on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, genetic information, veteran status, disability, or sexual orientation.

Complaints regarding discrimination should be reported to the University's Equal Opportunity Office. The University's full policies, including complaint resolution procedures for equal opportunity issues, for sexual harassment and misconduct concerns, and for issues involving accommodations for individuals with disabilities; are available in the *Handbook of Operating Procedures* and on the website of UTEP's Equal Opportunity Office. Inquiries regarding applicable procedures should be addressed to the University's Equal Opportunity Office, Kelly Hall, 3rd Floor, at (915) 747-5662 or eoaa@utep.edu.

Grade Grievance

Any student may request a faculty member review and re-evaluate a grade previously given to the student by that faculty member. Students may also seek assistance or intervention from the Program Director. The formal grade appeal process is to be available in cases where a student wishes to appeal the final grade assigned by a faculty member when the student contends that the final grade was the product of malicious, biased, arbitrary, or negligent determination or impermissible discrimination. No challenge to grading standards shall be pursued on any grounds other than these. This process may not be used to adjudicate cases of suspected student misconduct, plagiarism, or collusion. Formal grade appeals must be officially filed with the Student Grievance Committee of the Faculty Senate no later than one (1) year after the official grade has been released to the student, or in the case of a student who has graduated, no later than three (3) months after the degree has been conferred. The decision of the Student Grievance Committee is final.

Any student who wishes to appeal a grade should talk (1) first with the faculty member who assigned the grade. If agreement cannot be reached, the student may consult with and/or file a grievance with (2) the Graduate Advisor, if agreement cannot be reached the student will (3) speak with the program Director. If a resolution is not reached at the program level, the student should speak with the Chair of the Student Grievance Committee of the Faculty Senate. Students should contact the Dean of Student's office for specific information, or download a copy of the grievance form and instructions <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students-office/resources/grade-grievance.html> .

Other Academic Complaints

Other academic student concerns that do not involve discrimination, including problems with instructor behavior or student dismissal from a program, should first be addressed with the faculty or staff member with whom they arise. If no satisfactory resolution can be achieved at that level, a written complaint should be submitted to that individual's supervisor, usually the Program Director. If successful resolution is not achieved, the complaint may be appealed in writing to the Academic Dean. If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved at the level of the Dean, a written appeal may be submitted to the Office of the Provost. The decision of the Provost is final. Each appeal should be submitted no later than ten (10) working days after the last questioned decision or interpretation.

Non-Academic Complaints

Non-academic student complaints related to matters other than discrimination, such as the application or interpretation of student policies, should first be addressed by the student with the individual involved in the interpretation or decision. If the matter is not resolved, a written complaint should be submitted to that individual's immediate supervisor. The resolution of the complaint may be appealed through the normal lines of authority and communication up to the Vice President who oversees the department in which the complaint originated. The decision of the Vice President is final. Each appeal should be submitted no later than ten (10) working days after the last questioned decision or interpretation.

In addition to UTEP's policy, you are also protected by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. Sexual harassment, which includes acts of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. Details are available in the University of Texas Graduate Catalog which is available at www.catalog.utep.edu/grad/ .

Resources

Center for Accommodations and Support Services

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services offers a variety of services for student's ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships. Students are expected

to meet with faculty and staff and discuss any accommodations within the first week of the current semester. For additional information on services, please refer to:

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/students-parent-faculty/services.html> .

Counseling

UTEP Counseling and Psychological Services provides counseling services to students. CAPS delivers all services through video or over the phone. If you would like to speak with a counselor, rather than coming to our main office, please call us at 915-747-5302 from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday-Friday. If you have questions about services during this time, feel free to give us a call.

On Call Crisis services: CAPS On-Call are available in person and over video or phone for same day appointments. Please refer to the [Crisis & Emergency page](#) to learn what is considered a mental health crisis.

Miners Talk: Crisis Line is in operation for after-hours services. After hours, please call 915-747-5302.

Financial Aid

Office of Student Financial Aid

The University of Texas at El Paso

Mike Loya Academic Services Bldg., Room 204

El Paso, TX 79968-0566

(915) 747-5204

financial@utep.edu

Tutoring

The UTEP Tutoring Center (<https://www.utep.edu/tutoring/index.html>) offers the following resources for students.

- Miner Learning Center (MLC) - MLC offers professor, section based supplemental instruction and tutoring. The professors handpick the students working for MLC, so visiting students are sure to have accurate, professor based assistance.
- University Writing Center (UWC) - The University Writing Center's motto: "Any writing, anywhere, any time" which accurately describes what they do to ensure student success. They are knowledgeable in all areas of writing, which allows the UWC to assist freshmen through Ph.D. students from all disciplines.
- Counseling and Psychological Services (Seminars & Workshops) - Not only does the Counseling Center offer counseling services, but they also conduct free academic workshops to help students succeed at the university level.

UTEP Technology Support (<https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>) is housed in the UTEP Library Room 300 and offers help for all technology needs.

Registered Student Organizations (<https://rsohub.utep.edu/>)

There are over 200 Registered Student Organizations at UTEP of which, the UTEP Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is one. Browse through the list of student organizations, get involved, and get together.

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation - <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/slpa/slpa.htm>

El Paso Speech-Language Hearing Association - <https://www.epshatx.org/>

Texas Speech-Language Hearing Association - <https://www.txsha.org/>

American Speech-Language Hearing Association - <https://www.asha.org/>

Section 4 – Clinical Practicum

Policy and Procedures

During semesters 1-3 (Fall, Spring, and Summer of the first year), students will be assigned 1-2 therapy clients in the on-campus UTEP Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic. In the Fall and Spring semesters during the 2nd year, students will be placed in off-campus practicum sites in either a school or medical site in the first semester, and then the other type of site in the second semester. This progression from first year to second year allows the student to gain knowledge, skill, and independence throughout the program.

The EXXAT system is used to track clinical hours and experiences. Students are required to purchase a subscription to the EXXAT system. All student hours, competency ratings, and required forms will be housed and submitted through EXXAT.

See the course syllabi for SPLP 5369, 5379, 5389 for specific details on student expectations.

Confidentially and Privacy of Clients

All personal and clinical information pertaining to the client and/or his/her family is to be guarded for legal and ethical purposes. From the first contact, the clients are informed that, because this is a training institution, students will have access to their records. However, every effort is made to protect the client's right to privacy and to implement the strictest standards of confidentiality at all times. Information may be released only to the client and/or client's legal guardian by the supervisor AFTER a Release of Information form has been signed by the adult client, or by the legal guardian if the client is under the age of majority. Under no circumstances may client information be shared publicly outside of the University clinic via electronic means to include but not limited to social media, text, email, letters/notes, etc. For additional information on confidentiality, please refer to the ASHA website: <https://www.asha.org/practice/ethics/confidentiality/>. For Off-Campus practicum sites, please adhere to the site-specific HIPPA policy and procedures.

Clinical Hours

Per Standard V-C, the applicant for certification in Speech-Language Pathology must complete a minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised clinical experience in the practice of Speech-Language Pathology. 25 hours must be spent in clinical observation, and 375 hours must be spent in direct client/client contact. <http://www.asha.org/certification/2014-speech-language-pathology-certification-standards/>.

PRACTICUM HOURS		
Direct Contact 375 HOURS MINIMUM	Transfer Hours 50 HOURS MAXIMUM	Observation Hours 25 HOURS
Only direct contact with the client or the client's family in assessment, management, and/or counseling can be counted toward practicum.	At the discretion of the graduate program, hours obtained at the undergraduate level may be used to satisfy the remainder of the requirement.	Best practice encourages students to observe client prior to direct contact with the client.
At least 325 of the 400 clock hours must be completed while the applicant is engaged in graduate study in an accredited program.	Hours obtained at the undergraduate level (direct contact - 50 hours or observation – 25 hours) must be accompanied by a detailed session log containing supervisor signature and credentials.	Students may use video recordings of client services for observation purposes.
Up to 20% of direct contact hours may be obtained through clinical simulation methods (75 hours).		

It is important to note that the goal of the practicum experience is not to obtain the minimal number of hours required but rather to obtain quality and training and educational experiences to maximize clinical knowledge and skills. Students should also make note of the hours required to obtain state licensing. Every state requirement differs; and some states have specific hour requirements based on parameters, e.g., North Carolina.

Compliance Requirements

Clinical Compliance Requirements Checklist

Upon acceptance, students initially submit to the background check and drug screen test and must have a Two Step TB skin test.

The rest of the requirements must be completed at least 2 months prior to start of their off-campus.

- Criminal Background Check
 - Drug Screen
- Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen must be done through this link, <https://scholar.verifiedcredentials.com/utep>.
- CPR Card (Basic Life Support-Healthcare Provider by the American Heart Association)
 - Community Wide Orientation
 - Health/Medical Insurance – insurance verification letter/insurance card must be provided/uploaded into the portal at least 2 months prior to start of internship

Medical Requirements

- Two Step TB Skin Test – 2 TB skin tests 7-21 days apart (no earlier than 7 days, and no later than 21 days, or will repeat the process)
 - * If you have had a positive TB test in the past, you will need to submit documentation of the positive test results and chest x-ray results, and must complete the TB Assessment yearly.
- Tdap (Required every 10 years)
- Varicella **TITER ONLY** (bloodwork and not immunization) (Chickenpox, Immunity IgG)
 - * If Varicella titer is not positive, will require 2 doses of Booster a month apart.
- MMR (Measles(Rubeola), Mumps, and Rubella) **TITERS ONLY** (bloodwork) (Immunity IgG)
 - * If one of the MMR titers is not positive, will require 2 doses of Booster a month apart.
- Hepatitis B - Documentation of 3 doses and a **HBsAb (Hepatitis B Surface Antibody) TITER** (bloodwork)
 - * If Hepatitis B titer is not positive, will require a 2nd series of 3 vaccines followed by a 2nd HBsAb TITER.
- Influenza Vaccine (Required every Fall semester until March 31st of the following year)
 - * Date when it was received, Manufacturer, Trade Name, Lot #, Expiration Date, and Injection site must be included in the documentation

NOTE: Additional requirements may be required depending on specific circumstances or at the request of the clinical agencies.

PROCESSING THESE REQUIREMENTS CAN TAKE PLACE IN A FEW DAYS OR MONTHS DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF DOCUMENT AND INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

ALL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENTATION MUST BE UPLOADED THROUGH THE MEDICAT PATIENTS' PORTAL USING YOUR MINER UTEP ACCOUNT AND PASSWORD. THE LINK TO THE PORTAL IS <https://utep.medicatconnect.com>

For additional questions, contact

Riz Lantican

UTEP-CHS Clinical Compliance Coordinator

Phone: 915-747-7225 / frlantican@utep.edu

UTEP Student Health & Wellness Center

Phone: (915)747-5624

On-Campus Clinic

Students are assigned one-two clients per semester. It is the goal of the program to provide each student with a wide variety of clinical experiences. At the very least, a student should expect one adult and one pediatric client. Additional diagnostic clients may come up depending on community need. Students are advised to take on an attitude of flexibility

Parking

If students have a UTEP parking tag, they may park in the fenced-in student parking lot located on Campbell Street. Otherwise, students will be required to park on the street at their own risk.

Client Selection

The clinic maintains a Client Waitlist from which the clinic coordinator selects clients. The selection of clients is based on the needs of the clinic to ensure a diverse clientele across communication disorders, age, gender, cultural/linguistic diversity, etc. Because this is a teaching clinic, potential clients are notified upfront that regardless of where they fall on the waitlist, any client presenting a unique case will be given priority regardless of when they were put on the waitlist. Accent modification therapy is limited to university students, faculty and staff. Inevitably, when a space becomes available and there are no unique cases from which to select a new client, clients are selected from similar cases but not to exceed more than 5 similar cases at any one time.

Clinical Supervisor Assignments

Your assigned supervisor is based on the needs of the clinic. Please note that the instructor of record may not be the same as your Clinical Supervisor. Your final grade will be determined by your Clinic Supervisor based on your performance in your clinical competencies. Your Clinical Supervisor will provide your grade, to be entered by the instructor of record. Any issues that may arise with regards to your grades need to be addressed with your Clinical Supervisor. Students who have multiple supervisors will be given one grade after the supervisors have met to discuss student performance.

Supervision Requirements

Direct supervision must be provided by the clinical supervisor in real time and in accordance with Standard V-E for certification. A Clinical Supervisor must be available to consult with a student providing clinical services to the client. Supervision of clinical practicum is intended to provide guidance and feedback and to facilitate the student's acquisition of essential clinical

skills. The 25% supervision standard is a minimum requirement and should be adjusted upward whenever the student's level of knowledge, skills, and experience warrants.

Standard V-E: Supervision must be provided by individuals who hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence in the appropriate profession. The amount of direct supervision must be commensurate with the student's knowledge, skills, and experience; must not be less than 25% of the student's total contact with each client/client; and must take place periodically throughout the practicum. Supervision must be sufficient to ensure the welfare of the client/clinician.

Client Assignment to Student

Students are assigned to clients based on a number of factors. Students seeking the bilingual certification are assigned to bilingual or monolingual Spanish-speaking clients. Students who possess a skill set such as sign language, ABA training, etc. are assigned to clients who could benefit from their respective skills. Students who are assigned an adult client in their first semester are assigned a child client on the second semester to expose students to communication disorders across the lifespan as much as possible.

Clinical Academic Graduate Education (CAGE) Lab and University Clinic Treatment Rooms

The CAGE is located in the basement, Room B-09 and houses a resource library and a variety of therapy materials. Books, therapy materials, workbooks, and toys must remain in the clinic or in the CAGE. Diagnostic materials, manuals, and protocols are housed and must remain in the clinic. Students may check out tests with faculty approval, yet these materials must remain in the building. Tests returned with missing items (not including protocols) will not be accepted until the student replaces the missing items. Students must keep all treatment and working areas tidy, organized, and disinfected. Please disinfect all materials prior to returning them to the CAGE after use. Ensure that treatment rooms are free and clear of materials for the following session. Students need to regularly clean the refrigerator and microwave after each use. Students are encouraged to eat in the common eating area located at the entrance of the building.

Video recording

The VALT system is used to record client sessions. Sessions are recorded for student self-evaluation and for education purposes. A minimum of three hours of recording are required for each client throughout the semester.

Off-Campus Practicum

The off-campus practicum experience comprises the graduate student's second year. Off-campus practicum is typically a full-time experience. Graduate students are expected to provide the full scope of Speech and Language Pathology services, ranging from evaluation,

intervention planning, provision of services, and interdisciplinary team participation, to discharge planning, and documentation. All duties are performed under the supervision of a licensed and CCC-SLP.

Site Preference

On the EXXAT system, students are permitted to request certain sites. Site preferences are not a guarantee of placement. Placements are based on many factors, but the program will accommodate if possible. If a preferred site is not currently affiliated with UTEP, the student should make this known to faculty as soon as is possible. An affiliation may be possible.

**The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Health Sciences**

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

When the alarm sounds:

Proceed immediately to evacuate the floor through the stairs. There are two emergency exits on each floor at both ends of the hallway. Elevators do not work when the alarm sounds.

Do not lose time turning off your computer, getting your coat, etc.

Exit the building and walk across the street. Do not remain on the sidewalk or indoors by the building.

Remain across the street until the UTEP Police or the El Paso Fire Department clears the building. You will be advised when it is safe to return to the building.

There are at least two coordinators per floor, who will help you exit the building if you need assistance.

There are two Emergency Evacuation Chairs for persons with disabilities in the building, located on the south emergency exit of the 5th floor and the loft on the second floor by the Sim Lab office. Floor coordinators and staff in the College are trained to operate these chairs.

For questions or assistance, please contact:

UTEP Police Ext. 915.747.5611

Environmental Health & Safety Department Ext. 915.747.7124

Terry Weber Ext 915.747.8181

Appendix. Sample Degree Plan



GRADUATE SCHOOL

Mike Loya Academic Services Building, Room 223
The University of Texas at El Paso
500 W. University Avenue El Paso, Texas 79968
(915) 747-5491 Fax (915) 747-5788
utep.edu/graduate

DEGREE PLAN

You are strongly encouraged to run an online degree evaluation to view the official degree plan and to track in-process courses, transfer credit and all courses taken at UTEP to fulfill graduate degree requirements. Log into your UTEP Goldmine account and select Degree Evaluation

Name: _____ UTEP Student ID: _____ Current Date: _____

Email: _____ Major and Degree: M.S. Speech-Language Pathology

Only include courses that Apply toward degree requirements Transfer credit must be approved by the Graduate School before including it in this form.

Subject	Course	Grade	Credit Hours	Term
Research Design in Comm. Disorders	SPLP 5320		3	Fall 1
Differential Diagnosis in CD	SPLP 5330		3	Fall 1
Language Disorders in School-Age Children	SPLP 5362		3	Fall 1
On-campus Practicum	SPLP 5369		3	Fall 1
Aphasia and Related Disorders	SPLP 5360		3	Spring 1
Comm. Disorders and Literacy	SPLP 5366		3	Spring 1
On-campus Practicum	SPLP 5369		3	Spring 1
On-campus Practicum	SPLP 5369		3	Summer
Fluency Disorders	SPLP 5359		3	Fall 2
Motor Speech Disorders	SPLP 5364		3	Fall 2
Dysphagia	SPLP 5370		3	Fall 2
Graduate Practicum in SPLP School Settings/Medical Settings*	SPLP 5379/5389		3	Fall 2
Phonatory Disorders of Voice	SPLP 5362		3	Spring 2
Treatment Efficacy in Communication Disorders	SPLP 5377		3	Spring 2
Augmentative/Alternative Comm.	SPLP 5380		3	Spring 2
Graduate Practicum in SPLP School Settings/Medical Settings*	SPLP 5379/5389		3	Spring 2
Electives – Choose 1 of the following			3	Any
Autism	SPLP 5372			
Manual Communication	SPLP 5372			
Structures of Spanish	SPLP 5372			
Issues in Transgender Persons' Quality of Life	SPLP 5372			
Process in Aging	SPLP 5372			
Multicultural/Multilingual Issues in Comm. Disorders	SPLP 5376			
Thesis *If needed for thesis option	SPLP 5389/5399			
TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED OF THE DEGREE			51	

*Practicum in the 2nd year consists of a school placement in one semester and a medical placement in the other. The order is randomly assigned.

Student Signature: _____ Graduate Advisor Signature: _____

Document Last Revised: 06/2021