



**Department of Communications Sciences and Disorders  
Doctor of Audiology Program**

**Audiology Student Clinic Handbook**

**(REVIEWED DURING ORIENTATION SUMMER 2024)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The audiology practicum assignments are an essential educational component of the audiology doctoral program. To ensure success of clinical experiences for the audiology doctoral student, this handbook was designed as a guide covering all four years of the program. The handbook is organized so that general information is presented first; this is information that is related to students in all four years of the program. This is followed by sections containing information as it pertains to each year of the program.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Non-Discriminatory Policy**

Individuals must not discriminate in the delivery of professional services on any basis that is unjustifiable or irrelevant to the need for and potential benefit from services such as: race, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or handicapping condition.

### **Confidentiality**

Students are required to follow departmental policies and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 policies regarding confidentiality. The requirements of HIPAA apply to the storage and/or electronic transmissions of patient related information and are intended to ensure patient confidentiality for all health care related information.

In general, the rules state that any health care provider or insurance entity that maintains or transmits individually identifiable health information, referred to as “protected information,” about a patient is deemed a “covered entity” and is subject to HIPAA. An entity that collects, stores, or transmits data electronically, orally, in writing or through any form of communication, including fax, is covered under the HIPAA privacy rule, as is the information itself.

**University of South Florida Standards of Service** - the following is derived from the University of South Florida Standards of Service Policy.

Service plays a critical role in everything we do at the University of South Florida. All who work at this university are committed to providing quality service in all we do. We commit to serve others and place the needs of others before our own personal needs. Our philosophy of service pertains to students and fellow workers alike. We hold as self-evident that a service does not exist until it is offered. We appreciate that our student body and workforce are diverse and that our diversity gives us strength and adds value to our university. We appreciate the powerful nature of written and spoken communication and understand that how we communicate with students and one

another has a direct impact on the quality of the individual experience at USF. We also realize that each of us serves as an ambassador of this institution and that our attitude and actions reflect on us as individuals, and on USF. We are committed to support the University's strategic plan by providing the best service we can.

As such, the University of South Florida is dedicated to the following goals and ideals:

- We will treat students, visitors, and fellow workers with dignity and respect and assist them in a caring and helpful manner.
- We will act in a manner that students, visitors, and fellow workers see us as a source of accurate and helpful information.
- We will continually review our policies and procedures to simplify them and improve service.
- We will continue to improve and update our knowledge, skills, and abilities to best serve our students.
- We will derive pride and satisfaction from solving problems, not passing them on, as we seek solutions not blame.

For additional information regarding the student code of conduct please refer to the student conduct and ethical development (SCED) website: <https://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct-ethical-development/>

## **Logging Clinical Experiences**

Once a student obtains their 15 hours of observation (must be completed prior to the end of the first semester in the Au.D. program), they can begin logging hours for their clinical experience. Each student clinician is responsible for recording daily the types of services and related activities completed during their assigned blocks of clinical practica. For the student clinician to receive credit for clock hours, the student clinician must log the hours in Typhon and then have the supervisor approve each clinical case entered.

If the student clinician's performance was unacceptable during a scheduled block of time, the supervisor will not sign off on those hours.

## **Typhon**

Students will be required to register for an account in Typhon the beginning of their first year. To register for Typhon, students are required to pay a one-time fee of \$90. Once registered, students will be able to log clinical experiences. This system will keep track of individual semester hours as well as total clinical hours. These hours are important for graduation requirements as well as for applying for ASHA CCC-A post-graduation. Students will be able to access their accounts up to three years past graduation.

## **Grand Rounds**

Mandatory Grand Round meetings are held for all first-, second-, and third-year students enrolled in the Au.D. Program. Students will be notified of scheduled times and locations. Typically, Grand Rounds are held in person in PCD 1147. Grand Rounds occurs monthly during each semester. If warranted, excuses may be granted by the Audiology Program Director on a case-by-case basis. Each unexcused absence will result in a letter grade reduction. Students are expected to arrive to Grand Rounds on time. However, if two tardies occur, the student's grade will be reduced by a letter grade.

Attendance at Grand Rounds is included as a component toward the student's grade for Clinic Lab I and II in the student's first year, Audiology Clinic Practica I, II, & III in the student's second year, and Audiology Clerkship Practica I, II, & III in the student's third year.

## **Special Guest Speakers**

On occasion, there will be guest speakers presenting on particular topics related to Audiology. Students are expected to attend these events as they enhance the student's educational experience at USF. Additionally, students are required to wear business casual attire to all guest speaker presentations.

## **Level 2 Background Check**

To comply with Florida State Laws, all student clinicians will be required to have a Background Screening/Fingerprint Scan completed. The instructions for beginning this process are included (USF Audiology Program-Background Check Instructions Document). The fee of \$75.25 is the responsibility of the student.

**Follow step 1 (log into [www.verifystudents.com](http://www.verifystudents.com)). Click on the student login/report retrieval blue button at the top right. Enter your email and password. Once you enter the system click on the order new report tab. The code you will use is listed in step 2: USFAPBG. After that follow the rest of the instructions attached.**

Once you have completed the Background/Fingerprinting your Typhon portfolio will automatically reflect that this requirement has been met. After the first year of the AuD program, students will be required at the beginning of entering their USF practica year, clerkship year, and externship year to sign a disclosure of conviction form. This form certifies that you disclose any information about existing criminal records.

## HIPAA Certification

A part of being a healthcare provider is knowing the rules and regulations regarding HIPAA. Because the clinic serves not just for providing audiology services to patients, but also serves as a training facility, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of HIPAA rules and regulations. USF Health requires all students enrolled in medical professions to complete their online training module. Information about how to register and complete the online module will be provided during your first semester as a first-year student and will be required to be renewed annually every fall.

## Professionalism

The USF Hearing Clinic is a recognized service provider in the Tampa Bay area. In addition, it serves as the primary facility for clinical training for graduate students enrolled in Audiology Practicum activities on campus. Students are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner reflected in demeanor, dress, verbal exchanges, and compliance with all policies and procedures associated with clinical assignments.

Audiology is a professional discipline. Professions require certain behaviors of their practitioners. Professional behaviors (which may or may not directly involve other people) have to do with professional tasks and responsibilities, with the individuals served by the profession and with relations with other professions. Included among professional tasks are education and training. The following conveys expectations about the behaviors of those who seek to join this profession.

1. You show up.
2. You show up on time.
3. You show up prepared.
4. You show up in a frame of mind appropriate to the professional task.
5. You show up properly attired.
6. You accept the idea that "on time," "prepared," "appropriate," and "properly" are defined by the situations, by the nature of the task, or by another person.
7. You accept that your first duty is to the ultimate welfare of the persons served by your profession and that "ultimate welfare" is a complex mix of desires, wants, needs, abilities, and capacities.
8. You recognize that professional duties and situations are about completing tasks and about solving problems in ways that benefit others, either immediately or in the long term. They are not about you. When you are called on to behave as a professional, you are not the patient, the customer, the star, or the victim.
9. You place the importance of professional duties, task, and problem solving above your own convenience.
10. You strive to work effectively with others for the benefit of the person served. This means you pursue professional duties, tasks, and problem

solving in ways that make it easier (not harder) for others to accomplish their work.

11. You properly credit others for their work.
12. You sign your work.
13. You take responsibility for your actions, your reactions, and your inaction. This means you do not avoid responsibility by offering excuses, by blaming others, by emotional displays, or by helplessness.
14. You do not accept professional duties or tasks for which you are personally or professionally unprepared.
15. You do what you say you will do, by the time you said you would do it, and to the degree of quality you said you would do it.
16. You take active responsibility for expanding the limits of your own knowledge, understanding, and skill.
17. You vigorously seek and tell the truth, including those truths that may be less flattering to you.
18. You accept direction (including correction) from those who are more knowledgeable or more experienced. You provide direction (including correction) to those who are less knowledgeable or less experienced.
19. You value the resources required to perform duties, tasks, and problem solving, including your time and that of others.
20. You accord respect to the values, interests, and opinions of others that may differ from your own, as long as they are not objectively harmful to the persons served.
21. You accept the fact that others may establish objectives for you. Although you may not always agree with those goals or may not fully understand them, you will pursue them as long as they are not objectively harmful to the persons served.
22. When you attempt a task for the second time, you seek to do it better than you did the first time. You revise the ways you approach professional duties, tasks, and problem solving in consideration of peer judgements of best practices.
23. You accept the imperfections of the world in ways that do not compromise the interests of those you serve.
24. You base your opinions, actions, and relations with others on sound empirical evidence and on examined personal values consistent with the above.
25. You expect all the above from other professions.

**Adapted from Chial, Michael. (1998). *Audiology Today*, 10, pg. 25.**

## Cell Phones

Cell phones must be turned off when students are in clinic. Under no circumstances should a student's cell phone ring when attending to a patient. If the student has special circumstances regarding receipt of a phone call, the supervisor must be made aware of this.

## KASA Competencies

### Student Learning

#### Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will achieve growth in clinical competencies that will allow them to become audiologists who are able to apply knowledge and demonstrate skills in the following KASA competencies listed below:

#### **KASA Standards:**

KASA Standard	How achieved?	How assessed?
3.1.1A Professional Practice Competencies  Refer to the 2023 Audiology Standards on the ASHA website for specific details.	Direct clinical experience via assigned clinical time	Formative Assessment: Daily verbal & written feedback Midterm evaluation  Summative Assessment: Clinical Practical-Year 2 Case Presentation-Year 3 & 4 End of Semester Evaluation-All
3.1.2A Foundations of Audiology Practice  Refer to the 2023 Audiology Standards on the ASHA website for specific details.	Direct clinical experience via assigned clinical time	Formative Assessment: Daily verbal & written feedback Midterm evaluation  Summative Assessment: Clinical Practical-Year 2 Case Presentation-Year 3 & 4 End of Semester Evaluation-All
3.1.3A Identification and Prevention of Hearing Loss, Tinnitus, and Vestibular Disorders  Refer to the 2023 Audiology Standards on the ASHA website for specific details.	Direct clinical experience via assigned clinical time	Formative Assessment: Daily verbal & written feedback Midterm evaluation  Summative Assessment: Clinical Practical-Year 2 Case Presentation-Year 3 & 4 End of Semester Evaluation-All

<p>3.1.4A Assessment of the structure and function of the auditory and vestibular systems as well as the impact of any changes to such systems</p> <p>Refer to the 2023 Audiology Standards on the ASHA website for specific details.</p>	<p>Direct clinical experience via assigned clinical time</p>	<p>Formative Assessment: Daily verbal &amp; written feedback Midterm evaluation</p> <p>Summative Assessment: Clinical Practical-Year 2 Case Presentation-Year 3 &amp; 4 End of Semester Evaluation-All</p>
<p>3.1.5A Intervention to minimize the effects of changes in the auditory and vestibular systems on an individual's ability to participate in his or her environment</p> <p>Refer to the 2023 Audiology Standards on the ASHA website for specific details.</p>	<p>Direct clinical experience via assigned clinical time</p>	<p>Formative Assessment: Daily verbal &amp; written feedback Midterm evaluation</p> <p>Summative Assessment: Clinical Practical-Year 2 Case Presentation-Year 3 &amp; 4 End of Semester Evaluation-All</p>
<p>3.1.6A General Knowledge and Skills Applicable to Professional Practice</p> <p>Refer to the 2023 Audiology Standards on the ASHA website for specific details.</p>	<p>Direct clinical experience via assigned clinical time</p>	<p>Formative Assessment: Daily verbal &amp; written feedback Midterm evaluation</p> <p>Summative Assessment: Clinical Practical-Year 2 Case Presentation-Year 3 &amp; 4 End of Semester Evaluation-All</p>

### Minimum Grade Policy

All students are required to earn a B- or better grade in all clinical practica. Grades less than a B- are considered as unsuccessful completion of the practicum. In addition, if a grade of B- or better is not earned, clock hours earned during the semester will not be awarded and the student must repeat the practica.



The professionalism component of the evaluation form is graded based on exceptional, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory performance. Should any student earn an unsatisfactory ('U') in any of the professionalism responsibilities, their clinic practica grade will automatically drop by one letter grade. If more than one 'U' is earned throughout the second year, a student will not be permitted to register for Clerkship I and will be placed on a Clinical Assistance Program (CAP) focusing on professionalism.

### **Clinical Assistance Program (CAP)**

The CAP program is designed to provide clinical supervisory support and remediation to those students identified by their supervisor(s) as demonstrating difficulties/weaknesses/inconsistencies in clinical performance and/or professionalism at any time during the student's practica. The following procedures will be implemented:

1. Initial identification of an at-risk student will be officially documented during the designated semester. Depending on when the official documentation is received, a CAP will be established.
2. Criteria for initiating a CAP include the following, but may not be limited to:
  - a. A grade equaling a 'C+' or less in any of the skill areas assessed utilizing the relevant clinic/clerkship/externship student evaluation forms.
  - b. Any 'U' in the Professionalism section of the grading form.
  - c. Other documentation of a concern that a student will not be successful in the clinical practica.
3. The student is notified in writing, via the Clinical Assistance Form (CAF) by the Supervisor of Record for the clinical course of the recommendation/requirement for completion of a CAP.
  - a. The student and supervisor(s) are required to sign and date the CAF.
  - b. The date indicated on the CAF becomes the official start date for any CAP. Be aware, the CAP may begin at the start of the following semester.
  - c. A copy of the CAF will be forwarded to the Audiology Clinic Director or Clerkship/Externship Coordinator and the Audiology Program Director. A copy will be placed in the student's academic program file.
4. An individualized Clinical Intervention Plan (CIP) conference is scheduled to establish the CAP criteria. The criteria for a CAP must include the following, but may not be limited to:
  - a. Specific skill areas targeted for intervention.
  - b. Documented specific competencies to be developed within each skill area.
  - c. Cooperative development of specifically targeted competencies.
  - d. Documentation of whether the criteria for each competency was met, utilizing the CAP coding system (see CAP legend) by CAP supervisor.
5. The following are criteria for Completion of a CAP:
  - a. Completed criteria must reflect a + (met criterion) for each competency goal identified in the CIP.
  - b. A final rating of greater than or equal to 80 ('B-') in each of the applicable areas on the relevant grading form.
6. If these criteria are not met and the student receives a grade of 'C+' or lower

in the designated practica the student will be required:

- a. For Second Year Students - To repeat the designated practica. Remember that clinical practica are only offered once a year.
- b. For the Third- and Fourth-Year Students – To successfully repeat the designated practica before proceeding to the next practica.
- c. To receive counseling by the CAP supervisor, Audiology Clinic Director/Clerkship or Externship Coordinator and the Audiology Program Director.

## **Cerumen Management**

In addition to the assigned clinical rotations and expected competencies, students will also be required to complete a cerumen management practicum. This practicum involves attending a required lecture and completing assigned readings along with a quiz. Cerumen management labs will occur during student clinic meetings, and observation hours and hands-on experiences will be obtained during the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> year clinic practica experiences.

## **FIRST YEAR STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **Prerequisites for clinic enrollment**

#### ***Speech-Hearing Screening***

Each student in the Department must have a speech and hearing proficiency check prior to beginning Clinic Lab I. Typically, this screening is completed during new student orientation held in August of each year.

#### ***Observation Hours and CPR Certification***

All students should have documentation of 15 hours of observation experience before being enrolled in clinic practicum. Documentation of the completion of these hours must be submitted to the student's portfolio on Typhon by the end of the first semester of the first year of the audiology doctoral program. Documentation must be in the form of an observation log or letter, on letterhead, from the program confirming the observation hours. It must contain the signature of the person who certified the hours as well as his/her ASHA number.

All students must have documentation of training in community CPR (infant, child, and adult) and HIV or must complete training prior to initiation of practicum. Documentation must be submitted to the student's portfolio on Typhon by the end of the first semester of the first year of the audiology doctoral program.

#### **Clinic Attire**

Students must select from the following options for clinic attire for all clinic assignments on and off the USF campus:

Affordable scrubs to be purchased by the student from *Discount Uniform Store* located at *13578 University Plaza St, Tampa, FL 33613, Phone #: 813-631-7722*

Scrubs can be Cherokee, Gray's Anatomy, Landau, Zavate-Studio Line, and Roth Insight brand and can be black or green. They need to be embroidered with the USF Audiology logo. The store knows the approved styles from which you can choose.

If a student is not wearing appropriate attire, he/she will be asked to leave the clinic and will not receive clinical hours.

## **SECOND YEAR STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory at each clinical assignment for which the student is scheduled. The student is assigned to these time slots for the entire semester. On occasion, the student clinician may be asked to perform clinical activities during an unassigned time slot (which would not interfere with other assigned duties the student may already have); this would occur in cases in which the student needed further experiences or to facilitate patient continuity.

If for any reason the student cannot attend a session(s) due to illness, emergency, or other extenuating circumstances, notify your supervisor(s) directly ASAP via cell phone. Written verification may be requested. Absences are not excused unless specifically acknowledged by the respective supervisor on a case-by-case basis. In the case of an illness of greater than two days, a note from your physician will need to be submitted to your supervisor(s). Discuss missed assigned clinic sessions with respective supervisor(s); missed sessions will need to be made up.

If a patient(s) is not scheduled in your assigned time slot(s), the student clinician is still required to attend clinic. The time will be spent performing clinic-related duties. See your supervisor for suggestions.

Student clinicians **must arrive 30 minutes** prior to their assigned clinic block to accomplish all pre-patient responsibilities, to include calibration, preparation of all materials and supplies, and any other duties required preparing for patients.

## End of the Semester Practical Exams

Each student will be given a practical exam to assess application of knowledge gathered from both classroom and clinical coursework to case management and case interpretation. The exam consists of six stations in which written and oral portions are presented by the audiology clinic supervisors. The level of each case is in accordance with that of the clinic completed. The student is notified of the exam date at the beginning of the semester. Feedback of exam performance will be provided to the students within one week of the exam date.

## Clinical Component of Second Year Competency Exam

This section of the competency exam will include students working through 3 clinical cases with a panel of academic and clinical faculty. The oral cases would only focus on knowledge pertaining to courses and clinic experiences students had during their second year.

Grading rubric for the cases:

- High Pass (able to answer most to all questions with adequate detail) \*Graded as a 97%
- Pass (at least half the questions were not answered with adequate detail) \*Graded as a 92%
- Low Pass (many of the questions were not answered with adequate detail) \*Graded as an 82\*
- Fail to pass (unable to answer any of the questions with adequate detail) \*Anything below an 80%

## Clinic Hours – Year 2 on-campus (Clinic I, II, III)

Students will be assigned to clinic slots in the Hearing Clinic of the USF Speech Language and Hearing Center. Prior to this assignment, students MUST successfully complete Clinic Lab I, Clinic Lab II, AND the end of the first-year examination. Failure to successfully complete all three of these pre-requisite requirements will delay on-campus clinic assignment by one year.

Summer Semester	8 weeks at 6 hours/week	48 hours on site
Fall Semester	12 weeks at 6 hours/week	72 hours on site
Spring Semester	<u>12 weeks at 6 hours/week</u>	<u>72 hours on site</u>
	Total minimum hours on site	192 hours on site

## Voluntary Clinic during Semester Breaks

During the breaks between semesters, supervisors continue to see patients. Students are strongly encouraged to participate. This participation is voluntary, but it is seen as part of the professional responsibility of “doctors of audiology.”

Efforts will be made to accommodate student needs, and no student should have to volunteer more the two to three times at most, even during the longest break between summer and fall semesters.

## **THIRD YEAR STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **Clinic Hours – Year 3 off-campus (Clerkship I, II, III)**

Students will rotate through a specific sequence of clinical settings designed to provide a variety of clinical experiences (e.g., adult diagnostics, pediatric diagnostics, adult hearing aids, pediatric hearing aids, vestibular evaluation/treatment).

Each of the three clerkship experiences will take place in different settings. VA traineeships or other paid clerkships may only be counted as one of the three clerkship experiences. Only one clerkship assignment will be approved per semester.

The minimum number of clerkship hours is listed below for each semester as well as for the entire year. Please be aware that an individual site may expect more hours than are listed.

Summer Semester	10 weeks at 10 hours/week	100 hours on site
Fall Semester	14 weeks at 10 hours/week	140 hours on site
Spring Semester	<u>14 weeks at 10 hours/week</u>	<u>140 hours on site</u>
	Total minimum hours on site	380 hours on site

## **FOURTH YEAR STUDENT**

### **Clinic Hours – Year 4 off-campus (Externship I, II, III)**

Students are responsible for identifying potential fourth year externship sites. Each student will provide a list of possible externship placements to the Audiology Externship Coordinator during the summer semester of the student's 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The Audiology Externship Coordinator will make the initial contact with the site prior to the student application. Paperwork for finalized placements must be submitted by the student to the Audiology Externship Coordinator by the end of the spring semester of the student's 3<sup>rd</sup> year prior to the summer placement.

All other program requirements (excluding the ADP) must be completed, and externship site paperwork must be processed before the Audiology Externship Coordinator approves registration for Externship I.

The three-semester externship sequence is typically completed during the summer, fall and spring of the 4th year of the Au.D. program. This sequence must consist of 30-40 hours/week. The entire clinical practical component of the Au.D. program (including Clinics, Clerkships, and Externships) must comprise a minimum of 1820 hours. This hour requirement must be reflected in Typhon by the beginning of April of the last semester to be eligible for graduation.