

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Audiology
Speech-Language Pathology
Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Missouri State University

GRADUATE PROGRAM ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

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Introduction

Welcome to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Missouri State University. We are happy that you are here! By now you should know about our department and the programs we offer. The wealth of information on our website shows what makes our department special.

The purpose of this handbook is to assist you, the student, as you navigate through your professional education. Many policies, procedures, requirements, and conditions that must be met in order to satisfactorily complete the degree programs are outlined herein. Additionally, various policies and procedures of the CSD Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic are delineated.

Please become familiar with the contents of this handbook and use it as a reference while completing the graduate programs in CSD. You are expected to adhere to the contents of this handbook and seek clarification from the department head (Dr. White) or your academic advisor if any points are unclear or if any questions are unanswered.

Mission Statements

On June 15, 1995, Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan signed into law Senate Bill 340 which gave MSU a statewide mission in Public Affairs. This mission defines the way a Missouri State education is different from other universities and in the way we educate our students to imagine the future. The mission embodies the following three broad themes:

1. Ethical Leadership
Goal: Students will articulate their value systems, act ethically within the context of a democratic society, and demonstrate engaged and principled leadership.
2. Cultural Competence
Goal: Students will recognize and respect multiple perspectives and cultures.
3. Community Engagement
Goal: Students will recognize the importance of contributing their knowledge and experiences to their own community and the broader society.
Goal: Students will recognize the importance of scientific principles in the generation of sound public policy.

As you progress through your graduate degree in CSD, you will find that the public affairs mission is woven throughout the curriculum.

The College of Health and Human Services mission focuses on improving the health and well-being of people in Missouri, the nation, and the global community through education, research, and service. CHHS values multidisciplinary approaches, instills the public affairs mission, and encourages students and faculty to develop lifelong learning skills.

Communication Sciences and Disorders Department

Get Involved! You are encouraged to get involved and participate in student organizations. Here at Missouri State and in the CSD department we want you to “Follow Your Passion, and Find Your Place”. Two student organizations you should check out are the Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) and the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA).

The SAA is the national student organization of the American Academy of Audiology which serves as a collective voice for students and advances the rights, interests, and welfare of students pursuing careers in audiology. The SAA introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote and advance the profession of audiology and provides services, information, education, representation, and advocacy for the profession and the public we serve. For more information, see

http://www.audiology.org/education_research/education/students/SAA/Pages/default-1.aspx.

The NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association) is for graduate and undergraduate students interested in the study of normal and disordered human communication behavior. It is officially recognized by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The Missouri State University chapter of NSSLHA participates in a variety of community events and fundraisers throughout the year. NSSLHA membership is available to full- or part-time undergraduate and graduate students in CSD. NSSLHA members are entitled to several benefits-- NSSLHA publications, the ASHA Leader, a choice of one ASHA journal, reduced registration fees for the annual ASHA Convention, and significant savings on the first year of ASHA membership. Visit NSSLHA's website at <http://www.nsslha.org> to find out how to join.

Graduate Program Policies & Procedures

Academic Advisor: Upon admission you will be assigned an academic advisor. You will meet with your advisor a minimum of once toward the end of each semester to determine course enrollments for the following semester, in accordance with the advisor-approved program of study. If you have any academic concerns or questions, your advisor is a great resource! Your advisor can also assist you in career planning as you move through the program.

What is the Advisor Approved Program of Study: The program of study is a written plan that outlines all coursework you will complete during your graduate studies at MSU. Your advisor can tell you what courses you will need to take so that you can fill out the form, which can be found on the Graduate College's website. After you complete the form, your advisor will approve the plan and you must then submit it to the department head. After the department head approves the plan, the document is forwarded to the Graduate College. This form must be completed, approved, and filed with the Graduate College before completion of 14 credit hours, or you may not be able to register for subsequent semesters. If you add or drop any courses that were listed on your original program of study, you will need to complete a “change of program” form. If any editorial changes are requested to the aforementioned forms, it is your responsibility to ensure that the changes get made and that the form gets channeled to the department office.

Curriculum: A brief description follows, with more information available online and from your academic advisor. Links to sample curriculums for all programs are included below.

AuD Students: The AuD program prepares professionals to enter the workplace with a high

level of skills and knowledge through intensive academic and clinical experiences. Clinical experiences are obtained both on campus at the CSD Speech-Language Hearing Clinic and at off campus locations. The program can be completed in eleven semesters and, for most students, consists of between 105 and 111 hours credit hours. Occasionally, if you lack requisite knowledge, you may need to take a few additional classes. Ask your academic advisor if your undergraduate classes meet all prerequisites. The sample curriculum for the AuD program can be found at <http://www.missouristate.edu/audiology/FourYearPlan.htm>.

SLP Students: The SLP graduate program focuses on the academic, clinical, and research foundations for a career as a speech-language pathologist. The program is designed to prepare students to make intelligent decisions and take appropriate, thoughtful action. Critical thinking and problem-solving to identify and meet the communication needs of individuals and families are essential. Clinical experiences are obtained both on campus at the CSD Speech Language Hearing Clinic and at off campus locations. The sample curriculum for the SLP program can be found at <http://www.missouristate.edu/csd/speechlanguage/TwoYearPlan.htm>.

EDHH Students: The program in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing prepares students for employment as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing. The program embraces a comprehensive philosophy, preparing graduates to provide education to students with impaired hearing using an oral or manual approach. In order to earn teacher certification, graduates must also complete coursework required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the state of Missouri. Your advisor will assist you with scheduling these classes. Practicum experiences are obtained in the Preschool Program (part of the on campus CSD Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic) and at off campus locations. Completion of a research project as well as a portfolio is required. The sample curriculum for the EDHH program can be found at <http://www.missouristate.edu/csd/edhh/TwoYearPlan.htm>. There are a few options available in the EDHH program (i.e., accelerated and traditional) so be sure to talk with your advisor about the path you are following if you are not sure.

Continuous Enrollment: Students must maintain a full-time curricular load with courses taken in the prescribed sequence. The student and academic advisor will discuss circumstances that could lead a student to drop one or more classes. Following discussion, approval from program faculty and department head must be received. Because this constitutes less than successful progression through the program, a remediation plan may be developed and must be approved by all parties in order for the student to continue in the program. In certain situations it may be necessary for the student to reapply for program admission during the next application period.

Retention Requirements: You must adhere to the following guidelines.

- You are required to carry a full time course load as approved on your Program of Study (didactic, clinical, and research). Schedules for work and personal commitments should be completed after courses and clinical assignments are set. See the policy below regarding continuous enrollment for more information on this requirement.
- Any grade below a “C” in any given course, didactic or clinical, is not acceptable. Furthermore, academic courses with an earned grade below a “C” may not be applied to the graduate degree. The accumulation of more than 9 hours of “C” or below may result in dismissal from the program.
- Clinical courses (practicum, diagnostic, externship, student teaching experiences) in which a grade below a “B” is earned will not count toward the required clinical practicum/student teaching hours that must be earned prior to graduation. Students must progress

- satisfactorily through the levels of clinical practicum.
- While grades are important, your continuation in the CSD program is based on the composite picture of your ability to perform satisfactorily in the clinical phase of training as well as the academic components. This includes professionalism, both on campus in the classroom and the clinic and at offsite facilities. Mid-term meetings with program faculty oversee your progress. Lack of an earnest professional attitude--including respect and empathy towards patients and respect for professors and peers--will be subject to disciplinary action.

Student Professional Behavior Policy: The CSD department reserves the right to refuse enrollment or program continuation to any student. This will be determined by the CSD graduate faculty and CSD department head based upon the student's ability to successfully complete clinical practicum assignments or to assume patient care responsibilities and/or function as a clinician/teacher. Additionally, if a student has failed to demonstrate an attitude of professionalism as judged by the CSD graduate faculty and CSD department head, a student may be dismissed from the program.

Remediation Policy: As a student in the CSD program, you will be monitored with regard to academic, clinical, and professional growth. If you do not achieve satisfactory performance in any of the above areas, a remediation plan may be implemented. Depending upon the area of deficiency, the remediation plan will be developed by appropriate faculty and the department head. If additional input is required from other MSU personnel, those individuals will be consulted. Typical remediation plans may extend to one full academic semester or a portion of a semester. If the remediation plan is not successfully completed, program dismissal may occur.

Essential Functions: The CSD Department faculty have determined a list of requisite physical and intellectual abilities and behavioral and social attributes that graduate students in the department must meet in order to graduate. These essential functions were provided to you when you were offered admission. You were asked to affirm that you met the essential functions or to notify the CSD Department Head (Dr. White). This document, in its entirety, is available on the CSD website. The functions are as follows:

Physical Abilities:

- Participate in professional responsibilities/activities for up to eight hour blocks of time.
- Be self-sufficient when moving to, from, and within the work setting.
- Complete diagnostic or instructional evaluation/assessment.
- Effectively implement necessary treatment plan/lesson plan, including use of materials/instrumentation and data collection.
- Provide a safe environment for others in responding quickly to unpredictable situations including fire, medical and environmental (e.g., weather related) emergencies and in applying universal precautions (standardized approach to infection control).
- Provide appropriate model of language and speech according to the needs of individual clients.
- Visually and auditorally monitor patient responses and materials.
- Make accurate judgments about speech and/or acoustic signals.

Behavioral and Social Attributes:

- Maintain composure and emotional objectivity in demanding situations.

- Communicate effectively and appropriately with people in person, by phone, and in written form by considering the communication needs and cultural values of the listener.
- Understand and respect supervisory authority.
- Maintain appropriate professional behavior, including punctuality, regular attendance and prompt completion of responsibilities.
- Comply with administrative, legal, and regulatory policies in multiple clinical and educational settings.
- Demonstrate compassion, integrity and motivation in delivering professional services.
- Collaborate with peers and other professionals.

Intellectual Abilities:

- Solve clinical problems through critical analysis.
- Seek relevant case information, synthesize, and apply concepts and information from various sources and disciplines.
- Write discipline-specific papers and clinical reports in standard edited English at an appropriate level.
- Analyze, synthesize, interpret and retain ideas and concepts in academic and diagnostic/treatment/ classroom settings.
- Maintain attention and concentration for sufficient time to complete clinical activities for up to eight hour blocks of time.

Graduation Requirements

Practicum: Practicum and student teaching placements are made for you by the faculty. Some sites are located in the Springfield area. Some sites are located well outside the Springfield area and will require driving and may require an overnight stay – these are typically sites where advanced AuD students are placed. For SLP and AuD students, your practicum supervisors (sometimes referred to as preceptors) must hold CURRENT ASHA Certification (CCC-SLP or CCC-A) and current state licensure. For EDHH students, cooperating teachers must hold teacher certification. The CSD program will ensure that individuals providing you with clinical education or teacher preparation have the proper credentials; however, it is in your best interest to be sure that certification and/or licensure is in effect for the entire time you are with that preceptor. Please be aware: Clock hours associated with a practicum grade of “C” or lower will NOT be counted toward the total number of clock hours needed for certification. Liability insurance and a drug screen/background check are required before you begin practicum assignments.

Liability Insurance: MSU CSD students must hold professional liability insurance.

Drug Screening and Background Checks: Prior to beginning clinical practicum experiences, all CSD graduate students must successfully complete both a background check and drug screening. (It may also be necessary for you to undergo further background and drug screening tests as well as orientation procedures for your practicum or externship sites.) Procedures for these are shared with beginning students prior to orientation in August each year. Both have completion deadlines set prior to participation in clinical activities. Clinical sites may require additional immunizations, etc. Costs associated with requirements of clinical sites are the responsibility of the student. Each student must adhere to the standards set forth via successful completion of both screenings for the duration of their enrollment in CSD graduate programs.

What is the KASA? KASA stands for “Knowledge and Skills Acquisition.” It is a checklist used for AuD and SLP students to track acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary for clinical practice. Your advisor and clinical faculty will acquaint you with the KASA process. Recommendation for ASHA certification is dependent upon your satisfactory progression through clinical levels and competencies.

Research Requirements: All students must successfully complete a thesis (CSD 799/999) or research project (CSD 784/884). You will be given the opportunity to learn the research interests of the faculty in an effort to be paired with a research advisor with whom you share similar interests. Faculty will meet and discuss student interests and make assignments.

Many students wonder whether they should do a thesis or a project. The thesis option is a rigorous undertaking, with greater depth and breadth of content than a research project, as defined and approved by the thesis committee. Your academic and research advisors can help you determine which is the best option for you.

Thesis Requirements:

- A thesis must be in final publication form (APA format), sequenced according to the Graduate School guidelines, approved by the thesis director and thesis committee, and submitted to the department head at least two weeks before the Graduate School deadline.
- Thesis students will have a thesis committee who will assist with the research. The thesis advisor/thesis committee chair must be a member of the graduate faculty in CSD.
- The thesis must be at least 6 total credit hours (2 summer, 2 fall, 2 spring). If you do not complete your thesis in three semesters, you may be expected to enroll in additional hours until it is completed. You will be graded each semester relative to the syllabus for thesis.
- Before beginning data collection, you must prepare a thesis prospectus consisting of a fully-developed literature review, research question, and method section. The prospectus is to be presented to the thesis committee. After your data is collected and you have completed your results and discussion sections, you must formally defend your thesis before the thesis committee.
- SLP and EDHH students selecting a thesis option may use the oral defense of their thesis to satisfy the comprehensive examination requirement. Students must also present their thesis in an approved professional meeting. Publication of the thesis is encouraged. Appropriate presentation venues include, but are not limited to, the ASHA or AAA Annual Convention, Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association Meeting, CHHS Student Research Symposium and the Missouri State University Graduate Interdisciplinary Forum.

Project:

- A final copy of the project must be approved by the project director and submitted to the department head two weeks before the Graduate School deadline. The project must be in publication form (APA format) and sequenced according to examples on file in the department office.
- Project students will have a project advisor. AuD students must also have a committee comprised of at least two additional individuals. Committee members must hold a graduate degree.
- The project must be at least 3 total credit hours for SLP and EDHH students and 6 credit hours for AuD students. Enrollment spans over a summer, fall, and spring semesters. If you do not complete your project in three semesters, you may be

expected to enroll in additional hours until it is completed.

- The content of the project must be appropriate to the topic selected as defined and approved by the project advisor. Contract timelines are established by the advisor.
- Project advisors will assign a grade each semester as prescribed in the project syllabus.
- Students are required to present the results of their project at an approved professional meeting (publication of the project is encouraged). Appropriate presentation venues include, but are not limited to, the ASHA or AAA Annual Convention, Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association Meeting, CHHS Student Research Symposium and the Missouri State University Graduate Interdisciplinary Forum.
- The department requires one copy on CD of the project for filing, separate from any additional copies required by the project director.

Comprehensive Exams: Comprehensive examinations (comps) are a requirement of the graduate programs in CSD. Per the graduate college, any student failing comprehensive examinations more than three times will not be allowed to continue in the graduate program. SLP and EDHH students typically take comps in the spring semester of their second year; AuD students take their exams during the spring semester of the third year. The exam must be taken on campus at the time it is offered. All portions of the exam must be passed. Specifics for each of the disciplines are outlined below.

AuD Comprehensive Exam Policy:

Students will be given a "PASS," "LOW PASS," or "FAIL" grade. If the result of the written comprehensive examination indicates that a student needs further examination, the student will be contacted by the department and will be required to sit for an oral examination(s), which will be scheduled by the department head.

AuD students who do not pass comps (written/oral) will not be allowed to begin their fourth year externship until they have completed a remediation plan.

SLP Comprehensive Exam Policy

A score of 75% or better in each subject area is required. If that criterion is not achieved, the student will be contacted by the department and will be required to sit for an oral examination(s), which will be scheduled by the department head.

The oral component of the examination is evaluated as "successful" or "unsuccessful" by the faculty involved. If the student is unsuccessful, he/she will have to retake comprehensive examinations in the summer semester.

EDHH Comprehensive Exam Policy

An overall test score of 70% or above is required. If that criteria is not achieved, the student will be contacted by the department and will be required to sit for an oral examination(s), which will be scheduled by the department head. The oral component of the examination is evaluated as "successful" or "unsuccessful" by the faculty involved. If the student is unsuccessful, a third format will be determined at that time.

Praxis Exam: You are required to take the Praxis exam in your respective area and provide the CSD department a copy of your results no later than the April preceding graduation. Though a passing score is not required to graduate, passing is necessary for professional licensure/certification.

CHHS Conflict of Interest Policy

To guide and protect our students in some decision making processes, the College of Health and Human Services has developed a conflict of interest (COI) policy. If you have any questions about the following COI policy, please see the CSD department head.

The faculty at Missouri State University holds students to the highest level of ethical conduct. With that in mind, this conflict of interest policy serves to direct students who are confronted with funding opportunities provided by industries, especially those industries that provide health related services or those that manufacture health related products, and including those organizations representing such companies or corporations. These entities are willing to provide financial support to students in order to offset expenses associated with activities at manufacturing sites or professional conferences. The faculty at Missouri State University understands that students, in most instances, would not be able to participate in the experiences sponsored by these entities if financial assistance was not provided. Industries also offer general scholarships to students to offset the costs associated with education. Applications for scholarships from industries that provide health related products or services must be examined and agreed upon by the student's academic department head and program faculty. Concern exists that the industries provide financial assistance and gifts with the expectation that there will be a return on their investment (ROI), namely the future purchase of their products.

It should be noted that much of the information obtained from the experiences provided at meetings hosted by these entities can be obtained in classes on campus or on the internet. The faculty at Missouri State understands that there is a value to learning in other settings and interacting with other students and researchers outside of the University. There exists the possibility that industry could abuse their influence, and use their resources in ways that may be viewed as unethical.

Professional associations such as The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, The American Physical Therapy Association, The American Medical Association, The American Nurses Association, The American Academy of Audiology, The American Academy of Physician Assistants, and others have conflicts of professional interest statements in their codes of ethics. Several of these conflict of interest policies state in general that professional judgments and practices should be rendered without primary consideration for personal financial gain. They also state that professionals should not accept gifts or benefits unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such gifts or benefits

- *contribute to the welfare of persons served professionally*
- *do not reasonably appear to bias professional judgment*
- *enhance one's professional knowledge and skills*
- *do not diminish the dignity or autonomy of the professions*

Attending Industry-Supported Educational Meetings - Students may attend industry-supported educational meetings, if the department head and a majority of the program faculty agree that all of the following conditions are met:

- *The meeting is open to all universities*
- *The educational objectives are established and well publicized*
- *The presentation of content or experience is unique and will not be covered by Missouri State courses*
- *Selection of educational methods and content is beneficial to the student and can be*

- *carried over to improved patient care*
- *There is a process by which attendees can evaluate the meeting and educational content*
- *That the content has been reviewed by a professional association and content is eligible for approved continuing education credit*

Students wishing to attend an industry-supported event must submit a written request to the program prior to making travel arrangements and submitting registrations.

Industry Support of Expenses Incurred by Students Attending Industry-Sponsored Educational Meetings: *While attending approved industry-supported educational events, students should not accept support from industry over and above food served before, during, and after the event (i.e., breakfast, lunch, dinner, and food breaks). Students may accept reasonable travel and lodging provided by industry, if the event meets approval of the majority of the program faculty as outlined in section A above.*

If an event has not been approved by the faculty through submission of a request for approval, the department head reserves the right to cancel any industry-sponsored travel plans or events made with a student or student organization if the company has a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) and/or account number with Missouri State University. The reason is that students or student organizations can be considered representatives of Missouri State University.

Applying for, Obtaining, Accepting Industry-Funded Scholarships

Students who apply for approved industry-sponsored scholarships must understand that those funds, if provided, are for the purpose of paying the cost of university tuition, and the student must notify the Office of Financial Aid regarding the award. If industry-funded scholarships carry with them an expectation that the student's name, image, and possibly the name of their academic institution may be used for the purpose of marketing, this would require approval from the Missouri State University system.

Accepting gifts from Industry

Unless a department or program's policies state differently, students may accept gifts from Industry in the following circumstances:

The value of the gift should be no more than \$100. This means that the cost to the student (not Industry) of replacing the gift would be \$100 or less; and the gift should in some way benefit patients the student will assess and manage in the future. That is, the gift should represent a benefit to the student's education and training (e.g., a textbook).

Disciplinary Action:

If a student accepts inappropriate gifts, travel funding, lodging, or food/drink from Industry without following the above procedures (sections A through D), such behavior will be considered "unprofessional" and the student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the individual department's Student Professional Behavior Policy.

This conflict of interest policy is a general College of Health and Human Services policy; however, individual departments could invoke stricter limits if the faculty believes it is necessary.

If any portion of this policy differs from standards in individual professional association codes of ethics, the stricter of the two shall apply.

Last revised: 8/2014

Student Rights Policies

The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities of Missouri State University: The Office of Student Conduct serves the students of the MSU community. The office is responsible for the implementation of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, adjudicating alleged violations of the Code, safeguarding student rights, and dealing with emergency situations that involve students.

The Office of Student Conduct recognizes that every facet of student life is an opportunity for learning and inquiry. The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities should be viewed as an educational tool designed to assist students in their endeavors to educate themselves and become active, involved, and responsible citizens. For more information, see <http://www.missouristate.edu/StudentConduct/12331.htm#Article9> .

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity: Missouri State University is an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively striving to increase diversity and providing equal opportunity within its community.

What should you do if you have a concern?

Concerns about grades: If you wish to appeal a grade or have an academic grievance, you may request assistance through a procedure outlined on the Registrar's website. For more information, see <http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/graderev.html>.

Other issues, not related to grades: If you have a complaint or concern regarding the CSD program with regard to fellow students, faculty, or any other issue you believe needs attention, first try to resolve the issue with the individual(s) directly involved. If you need further assistance, you should:

- speak with the Department Head
- speak with the Dean
- speak with the Provost

Complaints may be submitted to the Council for Academic Accreditation about any accredited program or program in Candidacy status. Any student, instructional staff member, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, and/or member of the public may submit a complaint. For a complaint to be considered by the CAA, it must:

- a. be against an accredited education program or program in Candidacy status in speech-language pathology and/or audiology;
- b. relate to the Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, and, where possible, specify the relevant standards; and
- c. include verification and documentation (e.g., copies of grievance processes, communications verifying completion of processes, etc.) showing the complainant exhausted all relevant institutional grievance and review mechanisms before submitting a complaint to the CAA, if relevant to the complaint—if the complaint is from a student or faculty/instructional staff member at that institution. .

For more information about submitting complaints to the CAA, please see <http://www.asha.org/academic/accreditation/accredmanual/section8.htm>.

Certification and Licensure

- In order to be employed as an audiologist or as a speech-language pathologist, the individual must

Last revised: 8/2014

hold a state license from the professional licensing agency. In some cases, the individual may also need to hold professional certification from their respective professional association. Each state is different in their requirements so it is important that individuals investigate the rules relevant to the state in which they will be working.

- <http://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/default/>
- In order to work as a teacher of the deaf or hard of hearing, that individual must have teacher certification.

Certification FAQs

(Certification and licensure information is covered, in depth, during the graduate program. Below are answers to a few common questions.)

- **Do I have to have a license prior to beginning my first job?**
 - All AuD and SLP graduates must be licensed prior to taking their first job. They must be continuously licensed for as long as they are providing professional services. AuD graduates are eligible in most states for a full license. SLP graduates are eligible for a provisional license or a full license, depending upon the state's requirements. In most instances, it is against the law for a graduate to see patients, whether under supervision or not, unless they hold a license from the state in which they practice (some Veterans Administration Hospitals and federal employment situations may be exempt. Please see <http://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/default/> for exemptions, which vary state by state). Applicants for provisional licensure must provide proof of receipt of a master's or doctoral degree from an institution accredited by CAA.
 - SLP students must provide a plan for supervised post-graduate experience.
 - The provisional license is valid for one year and may be renewed one time with Board approval.
 - Licensing information for the state of Missouri can be found at <http://www.pr.mo.gov/healingarts.asp>.
- **Do I need ASHA Certification?**
 - Although certification from a professional association (ASHA) is evidence that the individual has met the highest standards as set by their professional association, certification is voluntary. There are many benefits in obtaining professional certification. Graduation from a CAA accredited program in SLP and/or AuD qualifies the student to apply for ASHA certification and licensure.
 - Certification requires passing the Praxis examination.
 - Continued certification requires annual dues and continuing education.
 - Certification and continued membership will allow for a simpler process in obtaining state licensure. Professional certification allows a degree of portability of licensure, although a professional must be licensed in each state they provide professional service.
 - Typically there is not licensure reciprocity from state to state.
 - To become a member of ASHA, an applicant must provide an official transcript with the posted masters/doctoral degree, a completed application signed by the University Program Director/Department Head, and a passing score on the NTE examination.
 - To become certified (CCC-SLP), a member must complete a clinical fellowship experience.
 - To become certified (CCC-A), a member must submit completion of the AuD degree. Clinical fellowship is not a requirement for the graduate of an accredited AuD program. (See

www.asha.org for more information.)

- **Do I need ABA Certification?**

- The American Academy of Audiology offers professional certification through the American Board of Audiology (ABA). This is also a voluntary certification. (See www.audiology.org for more information.)

- **Do I need DESE Certification?**

- Certification through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) from the State of Missouri is required of teachers working in Missouri schools. Graduates of the EDHH program must have certification prior to taking their first teaching position in Missouri. During spring of the second year, EDHH students complete the *Application for Teacher Certification*. This will be kept in the student's advising file, and upon completion of all requirements for certification, the department will forward the application to the College of Education and then on to DESE for approval. Only students who have successfully completed their master's degree, including all clinical practicum requirements, will be recommended for certification as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing (See DESE and ASHA for more information).
- SLP and AuD graduates are not required to have teacher certification in Missouri. If SLPs work in the schools, though, they have to apply for a Student Services Certificate. This information varies by state, so again, it is the student's responsibility to check with their individual states to determine requirements for employment. Missouri regulations are covered during the graduate program.

- **Do I need CED certification?**

- The Council on Education of the Deaf (CED) provides certification (voluntary) for teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing. The applicant is required complete a student teaching experience in the area in which certification is desired. (For more information, see <http://www.deafed.net/PageText.asp?hdnPageId=58>.)