

Assurance of Student Learning Report 2023-2024

College of Health and Human Services

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Speech-language pathology

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Is this an online program? ☒ Yes ☒ No

Please make sure the Program Learning Outcomes listed match those in CourseLeaf . Indicate verification here
☒ Yes, they match! (If they don't match, explain on this page under **Assessment Cycle**)

Use this page to list learning outcomes, measurements, and summarize results for your program. Detailed information must be completed in the subsequent pages. Add more Outcomes as needed.

Program Student Learning Outcome 1: Students will demonstrate knowledge of communication and swallowing disorders and differences, including the appropriate etiologies, characteristics, and anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic/cultural correlates.

Instrument 1 Comprehensive examination given in the student's final semester

Instrument 2

Instrument 3

Based on your results, check whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.

☒ Met

☐ Not Met

Program Student Learning Outcome 2: Students will demonstrate skills in assessment and treatment of communication and swallowing disorders and differences, including the appropriate etiologies, characteristics, and anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic/cultural correlates.

Instrument 1 Rating scales by faculty of students' competencies in key clinical areas

Instrument 2

Instrument 3

Based on your results, check whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.

☒ Met

☐ Not Met

Program Student Learning Outcome 3:

Students will demonstrate knowledge of entry level and advanced certifications, licensure, and other relevant professional credentials, as well as local, state and national regulations and policies relevant to professional practice.

Instrument 1 Score on Praxis exam

Instrument 2

Instrument 3

Based on your results, check whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.

Student testing still in process—results will be reported on next ASL cycle

☐ Met

☐ Not Met

Assessment Cycle Plan:

The graduate program in speech-language pathology (SLP) is **accredited** by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology

and Speech-Language Pathology with a goal of training students to become speech-language pathologists who will provide services to adults and children by assessing and treating disorders of speech, language, and swallowing. A Master's degree is the entry-level degree for the profession. Graduates are eligible for **national certification** from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and **licensure** in Kentucky (and most other states).

There are two cohorts of students: **campus/residential students** (traditional program with the classes meeting in Bowling Green) and **distance learning students** from around the country and the world who take classes using synchronous weekly lectures. All students take a total of 60 hours including core academic classes, electives, and clinical practicum. The **clinical practicum** has two components. On campus, the students complete an internship where they develop the skills needed for the second component, the externship where they work with clients in **medical and educational settings**. Prior to entering SLP 591 Externship, students have to demonstrate appropriate skills in SLP 590 (documented in a web-based tracking system called CALIPSO). Upon successful completion of SLP 590, the Externship Coordinator reviews CALIPSO (online rating tool) to see which students are ready to proceed to which types of externships in SLP 591.

The program uses several mechanisms to assess student performance on the 184 metrics or standards required by ASHA. On a formative basis, each faculty person notifies advisors at the end of each semester when knowledge competencies have been met so that information can be entered into CALIPSO. Advisors can also document information on the Advisor Student Data Inquiry section of the student's electronic file.

All program goals were mostly met in 2023-24. However, the PRAXIS scores are still not available; they will be reported in the next ASL assessment cycle. While assessment is ongoing, the Praxis pass rate will have to be a major focus during the next AY. The passage rate for students taking the Praxis exam is declining. The scores have been above the minimum needed for the CAA standards but we need to identify and try to address any reasons for the decline. In a 3-year period our department lost 4 faculty members, all who covered a portion of our profession that we call adult neurogenics. While they have been replaced, two of the courses were taught by qualified faculty with limited experience teaching the content. For the AY 2023-24, instructional changes were made that we hope improve the test scores. In addition, each month when scores arrive, we look for patterns. We noticed that, among the students in our campus cohort who failed, all struggled with the same area (planning and implementation of treatment). In August 2024, the department can examine way to focus training to try to help improve those scores. In January 2024, we hosted a presentation from a representative from ETS. He spoke to the students about what the test entailed and how they might do well. If the faculty feel that was beneficial, he can be invited to present again.

Program Student Learning Outcome 1			
Program Student Learning Outcome	Students will demonstrate knowledge of communication and swallowing disorders and differences, including the appropriate etiologies, characteristics, and anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic/cultural correlates.		
Measurement Instrument 1	Learning is measured using results of exams, projects, or presentations in the academic courses		
Criteria for Student Success	Academic progress is documented in CALIPSO, the software system used to document academic and clinical progress. In CALIPSO, a student earning a grade of B or higher is awarded a rating of 'met' to indicate success.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80% (this is the minimum required by our accrediting body)	Percent of Program Achieving Target	78.47%
Methods	Students have to achieve the competencies in order to graduate so a student earning a grade of B or higher earns a designation of 'met' in the CALIPSO system which is used to document acquisition of academic knowledge and clinical skills.		
Measurement Instrument 2			
Criteria for Student Success			
Program Success Target for this Measurement		Percent of Program Achieving Target	
Methods			
Measurement Instrument 3	Do you have other measures of assessment for SLO 1? If so, please add those here along with all the information below. If not, you may delete this section and move on to "... whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1."		
Criteria for Student Success			
Program Success Target for this Measurement		Percent of Program Achieving Target	
Methods			

Based on your results, highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Met
Results, Conclusion, and Plans for Next Assessment Cycle (Describe what worked, what didn't, and plan going forward) <u>Results:</u> The targets were met. <u>Conclusions:</u> Program faculty will continue using strategies that helped students achieve the targets. <u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u> While the students met the goals for the program, we did notice that some students earned a grade of C in some classes. While that is acceptable if the overall GPA is at least 3.0, we will monitor to ensure sustained success.		

Program Student Learning Outcome 2			
Program Student Learning Outcome	Students will successfully complete clinical experiences.		
Measurement Instrument 1	Students will earn at an average rating of 3.0 at the conclusion of clinical placements.		
Criteria for Student Success	3.0 across all 184 metrics		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	91.35 (74 of 81 students)
Methods	Supervisors and clinical educators rate students' performance on a scale of 1, 2, 3, or 4. A rating of 3 means that the student is successful.		
Measurement Instrument 2			
Criteria for Student Success			
Program Success Target for this Measurement		Percent of Program Achieving Target	
Methods			
Measurement Instrument 3			
Criteria for Student Success			
Program Success Target for this Measurement		Percent of Program Achieving Target	
Methods			
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Met
Results, Conclusion, and Plans for Next Assessment Cycle (Describe what worked, what didn't, and plan going forward)			

Results: The targets were met but two students were in an unusual situation. They earned an average of 3.0 for their external placement but for their internal, the first placement, scores were low. The scores were so low that it was mathematically impossible to get a 3.0 despite showing improvement of skills during the external placements. To address this, the externship coordinator reached out of the software maker for suggestions. Faculty discussed how to make adjustments in 2023-24 to try develop a policy or plan to help students in similar situations. The scoring was adjusted to be more consistent and ensure that students will successfully complete their placements.

Conclusions: Students are successful but some may need special attention to graduate.

****IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:** Program faculty will continue using strategies and determine ways to help students demonstrate success.

Program Student Learning Outcome 3				
Program Student Learning Outcome	Speech-language pathology students will earn a passing score on the SLP Praxis.			
Measurement Instrument 1	Students will score at least 162 on the SLP Praxis exam.			
Criteria for Student Success	Average of 80% over a 3-year period			
Program Success Target for this Measurement		80% average across 3 years	Percent of Program Achieving Target	Students still testing
Methods	Students take the exam in their last or next to last semester of enrollment.			
Measurement Instrument 2				
Criteria for Student Success				
Program Success Target for this Measurement			Percent of Program Achieving Target	
Methods				
Measurement Instrument 3				

Criteria for Student Success			
Program Success Target for this Measurement		Percent of Program Achieving Target	
Methods			
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3. Still in process.			<input type="checkbox"/> Met <input type="checkbox"/> Not Met
Results, Conclusion, and Plans for Next Assessment Cycle (Describe what worked, what didn't, and plan going forward)			
<p>Results: Students are still testing; will know results in August.</p> <p>Conclusions: If the pass rate does not reach the target of 80%, the program will need to determine why and take appropriate action.</p> <p>Plans for Next Assessment Cycle: ETS offers training so a consultant who presented to the students in January and this can continue. As described in the conclusions above, the program will continue to monitor the pass rate. In addition, the academic faculty are trying to become more involved in the internal clinic to help identify any gaps in knowledge. Specifically, the students in our campus cohort who fail seem to struggle with one component (planning and implementation of treatment). The faculty can try to address that in either clinic or classes. Testing results will be provided in the next assessment cycle.</p>			

***** Please include Curriculum Map (below/next page) as part of this document**