In addition to Pacific University’s Student Code of Conduct, Academic Catalogue, and all University rules, policies, procedures, guidelines, and requirements, all students enrolled in a graduate program in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders are subject to the terms set forth in this handbook, as revised from time to time at the University’s sole discretion. If the handbook is revised, students are subject to the updated handbook terms. If any terms of this handbook are inconsistent with University policy, the policy of the University prevails. This handbook is provided for informational purposes only and is not a contract, express or implied. Further, this handbook is not intended to confer any rights or benefits.

Approved 03-01-2017 [rev. 10-15-2020]
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Chapter 1. Overview: M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology

The School of Communication Sciences and Disorders (hereafter the “School of CSD”) upholds the Pacific University mission: “a diverse and sustainable community dedicated to discovery and excellence in teaching, scholarship and practice, Pacific University inspires students to think, care, create, and pursue justice in our world.”

School of CSD Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision
The vision of the School of CSD is to change practice by developing exceptional critical thinkers who become leaders in their diverse communities.

Mission
The mission of the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders is to:

- develop a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce of collaborative professionals who are leaders in their communities;
- integrate science, theory, and the art of practice;
- inspire curiosity and cultivate critical thinking;
- promote the well-being of those we serve with humility and genuine care;
- curate authentic clinical experiences through reciprocal partnerships with diverse and underserved communities;
- advance scholarship to move the profession forward.

Values
As we strive to accomplish the mission of the School of CSD, five governing values drive the efforts of the director, faculty, and staff:

Community | Equity | Compassion | Critical Inquiry | Advocacy | Lived Experiences

Graduate Program Overview
The academic and clinical curriculum of the School of CSD is designed to facilitate and guide the student to achieve the knowledge and skills required for entry-level practice as a speech-language pathologist. This is accomplished through a carefully designed series of courses and clinical practica that help the student develop the knowledge and skills to analyze the best available evidence to support practice decisions, balanced with content and courses that emphasize the humanistic aspects of the lives of their future clients.
The graduate curriculum in speech-language pathology consists of academic coursework and practical clinical courses. This full-time program is designed to be completed in five consecutive semesters starting in the fall semester. Students generally must complete all academic and clinical requirements of the degree in a maximum total time of 3.5 years from the date of enrollment. English is the language of instruction throughout the curriculum. Curriculum and course descriptions can be found on the School of CSD website at: http://www.pacificu.edu/future-graduate-professional/colleges/college-education/school-communication-sciences-disorders

**Accreditation Status**
The master’s program (Master of Science, MS) in speech-language pathology at Pacific University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

**Academic Program**
The academic coursework sequence occurs over the first four semesters of the program. Academic courses are intended to provide each student with the theoretical background knowledge and essential skills necessary to engage in supervised clinical practice as a speech-language pathologist.

**Clinical Program**
The clinical coursework sequence occurs across all five semesters of the program. Clinical courses are designed to give students multiple and varied opportunities for clinical skill development in community settings. Clinical experiences begin in the first semester of the graduate program. Clinical practicum registrations and externship occur in the remaining semesters of the program. Clinical course assignments provide opportunities for students to integrate and apply learning at progressively higher levels of performance and independence.

**Academic Calendar**
The School of Communication Sciences and Disorders sets a calendar each year, which may differ from the published Pacific University academic calendar for undergraduate students on the Forest Grove Campus. The full academic calendar is provided to incoming graduate students at or before orientation. Students should be aware that clinical experiences may be extended due to the schedule maintained by the site, weather or other unexpected closures, or if a student requires more opportunities to achieve competency and/or required hours. Such extensions will be achieved through mutual agreement with the clinical site.
Advising
Graduate students will have both an academic and clinical advisor. Specific details of advising are described in Chapters 2 and 3.

Culminating Experience: Comprehensive Exam
Successful completion of the graduate program requires each student to complete a summative evaluation of their knowledge and skills in the form of a comprehensive examination. The comprehensive exam occurs in the final semester of the graduate program and is described in Chapter 3.

Culminating Experience: Elective Thesis
Students also have the option of completing a thesis in addition to the completion of the comprehensive exam. Details about the elective thesis are included in Chapter 3.

Essential Functions
Essential functions refer to the communication, motor, intellectual/cognitive, sensory/observational, and professional/behavioral/social capacities necessary for full participation in academic and clinical learning environments in order to achieve satisfactory mastery of the knowledge and skills required for entry-level practice in speech-language pathology. Prior to registration in courses admitted students are required to review and acknowledge capacity to fulfill these essential functions. Failure to meet or maintain the Essential Functions may result in a recommendation for dismissal from the program. The Essential Functions are fully described in Appendix 1A: https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/essential_functions.pdf

Certification and Licensure
The University makes no representations, warranties, guarantees, or promises regarding an individual’s ability to obtain licensure, certification, or employment.

ASHA Certification
All graduates of the master’s program will meet the academic and clinical requirements to prepare for entry-level practice. Upon successful completion of a clinical fellowship (after graduation), graduates of the program will be eligible for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The ASHA Standards for Certification can be found on the
Licensure
Students who complete the Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology in the School of CSD will also have completed academic and clinical requirements required for a Conditional License in Speech-Language Pathology from the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, which may change from time to time. Information and instructions for Oregon Licensure are available on-line: http://www.oregon.gov/bspa/Pages/index.aspx.

Students who plan to seek licensure in other states should consult the licensing authority in those states for further information. ASHA maintains links for state contacts and licensing requirements available at: http://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/.

General Program Policies

Privacy Rights of Students/Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
Students should be aware of the University’s policy on the rights to privacy related to students available at: https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/registrar/privacy-confidentiality

Educational records refer to:

a. the records and information contained in each student’s file including electronic and/or paper records, and

b. anecdotal information that a faculty or staff member may possess regarding a student’s academic standing or performance which may include, but is not limited to, a student’s knowledge, skills and attributes.

Except as otherwise permitted or required by law or policy, the School of CSD may not release any records or information regarding a student’s academic performance to an outside agency or entity without the written consent of the student. For example, unless the student provides written permission, faculty and staff members may not consult with external clinical supervisors. Therefore, it is necessary for the School to have student’s written consent to release such information. Each student is asked to sign, as appropriate, the Student Consent for Sharing Information, authorizing the School to communicate with outside entities on the student’s behalf. The student’s consent will remain in effect until written notification is received by the Director rescinding the student’s authorization.
Students may also be asked to provide permission to share information for other disclosures such as scholarship recommendations or to serve as a reference for employment.

**Notice of Nondiscrimination Policy**

It is the policy of Pacific University not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion or religious creed, disability, sex or gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, military, veteran or Vietnam Era status, or any other protected classification recognized by applicable law, in admission, access to, or treatment in employment, educational programs or activities as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, or any other applicable state or federal law, or city ordinance.

Questions or complaints regarding University policy may be directed to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, 2043 College Way, Forest Grove, OR 97116, (503) 352-2215.

**Student Conduct**

Pacific University seeks to maintain conditions favorable to learning for all students, staff, and faculty and this includes maintaining respect for self and for others, integrity in and out of the classroom, and responsible social conduct. In keeping with these goals, the School of CSD adheres to the university's Student Code of Conduct available here: [https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/student-conduct/student-handbook/student-code-conduct](https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/student-conduct/student-handbook/student-code-conduct)

**Office of Accessibility and Accommodation Services**

Services and accommodations are available to students with disabilities. The university requires appropriate documentation of a disability in order to provide accommodations related to academic or clinical standards. Students who require accommodations in any course must contact the Director of Office of Accessibility and Accommodation Services who will meet with the student, review the documentation of the disability or other need that warrants accommodation, and discuss the services Pacific University offers and provide documentation related to any accommodations recommended for specific courses. It is extremely important that students begin this process prior to arrival for the graduate program and no later than the beginning of each semester thereafter. If new situations arise during a semester, students should make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility and Accommodation Services. Students are encouraged to work with faculty proactively to communicate and implement strategies for accommodation. This policy is described in the Pacific University Academic Catalog. The School of CSD adheres to the University Policy on Service and Companion Animals. Students who
require services animal support should be aware that placement site policies take precedence for clinical practicum assignments.

For more information about Pacific University’s Office of Accessibility and Accommodation Services see: [https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/learning-support-services](https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/learning-support-services)

**Student Concerns, Complaints, or Grievances**

Students who have concerns about anything or anyone related to the School of CSD are encouraged to express those concerns and to do so through a process appropriate to address the concern. The first step is nearly always to discuss the concerns directly with the person or persons involved. If the concern involves some aspect of an individual course or practicum experience, for example, the student should first discuss concerns with the instructor or clinical supervisor.

If the specific nature of the concern makes direct discussion with the person or persons involved impractical or if the student perceives that doing so would put the student at risk, the student is encouraged to discuss the concern with their academic or clinical advisor. They may also voice their concern directly to the Director of the School of CSD.

In the case of concerns of a more general nature (e.g., not related to a particular course, impacting several courses, or involving some broader issue), students may direct their concern to either their academic or clinical advisor or to the Director of the School of CSD.

If a student is unsure of the appropriate procedure to follow, they are encouraged to discuss options with the academic advisor. Graduate students are also encouraged to contact Pacific University’s Student Support Services at: [http://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/graduate-professional-student-services](http://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/graduate-professional-student-services) for guidance and support.

If the student is not satisfied with the initial response to their concern the student should elevate the concern to the next level. For example, if the concern was brought to the course instructor, the next step would be to direct the concern to either their academic or clinical advisor or to the Director of the School of CSD. If the concern was brought to the Director, the next step would be to direct the concern to the Dean of the College of Education or to the Dean of Students [https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/dean-students-office/complaints-and-grievances](https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/dean-students-office/complaints-and-grievances). Complaints or grievances filed through the Dean of the College of Education or the Dean of Students will be handled according to those entities’ policies and procedures.

Any complaints directed to the Director of the School of CSD or through University grievance processes will be responded to within 5 university business days and will be retained in a file by the Director including any written complaints, date of receipt, any
investigation or notes from meetings with involved individuals, steps followed, and resolution.
Students with concerns related to any aspect of the program’s compliance with accreditation standards may at any time voice their concerns directly to the Council on Academic Accreditation:

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard, #310
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: (800) 498-2071
Email: accreditation@asha.org
Website: http://caa.asha.org/

Student Withdrawal from One or More Courses
Students who are considering dropping a course or otherwise reduce their course load should discuss options with their academic advisor prior to initiating any action with the Registrar’s Office or any online cancellation of enrollment. Dropping a course may introduce substantial delays in completion of the graduate program for courses offered once a year or that serve as prerequisite for courses in subsequent semesters. Dropping courses may also reduce financial aid awards and students are strongly encouraged to consult with Financial Aid prior to initiating any action with the Registrar’s Office or any online cancellation of enrollment.

International students who withdraw, take a leave of absence, or reduce their course load below full-time status must also notify the Office of International Programs.

Student Withdrawal from the Program & University
A student may voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time, for any reason, with no intention of returning to the program. A withdrawal is an official exit from the university and does not hold a place in the program for the student. A student may re-apply to the program at any time after withdrawing. A student who is withdrawing from the program is responsible for completing all the steps necessary to complete the process.

Students who are considering withdrawing from the full program should review the University Policies (https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/registrar/academic-catalog) related to withdrawal and exiting the university (https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/dean-students-office/exiting-university).

In addition, students should contact the Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Life, the Financial Aid office, and the Registrar’s Office to obtain information about dates and deadlines related to tuition refunds, impact on financial aid awards, and
grading options. International students must also notify the Office of International Programs.

The student should contact the School of CSD Student Services Manager or the Registrar’s Office with any questions about procedural steps related to withdrawal or leave of absence.

To withdraw the student must submit written notification to the Director of the School of CSD stating their intent to withdraw and their last date of attendance. The Director will notify the appropriate administrative offices in the university, all instructors, and place a paper copy of the student’s notification in the School of CSD file. The student is also responsible for notifying all relevant offices within the university such as the Registrar and the Financial Aid Office.

If a student has been accused of an actionable offense and withdraws from the program or the university before the administrative process takes place, that process shall move forward and the outcome will remain part of the student’s record.

A student who plans to return at a later date is advised to consider a Leave of Absence rather than Withdrawal.

Leave of Absence (LOA)
A student has the right to request a Leave of Absence (LOA) at any time due to medical, family, or personal reasons. After consultation with the student’s academic advisor and Student Support Services, a letter requesting a LOA should be sent to the Director of the School of CSD, with a copy to Student Support Services and the Dean of Students. International students must also notify the Office of International Programs.

When circumstances arise that result in a student requesting an LOA it will generally result in a single LOA being granted for up to one year. It is unlikely that the School would grant multiple or extended LOAs, but such leaves may be considered on an individual basis with the understanding that students generally must complete all academic and clinical requirements for the degree in a maximum total time of 3.5 years. Students who extend or delay completion of the graduate program are advised to consult with ASHA’s Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) related to applicability of changes in requirements for certification. Students are also responsible for monitoring any changes required by state licensing boards to ensure continued eligibility for certification and/or licensure.

A student requesting an LOA is required to talk with relevant University offices (Student Life, Registrar, Business Office, Financial Aid, International Programs), as appropriate, prior to requesting the LOA in order to understand the potential ramifications of taking time away from their studies. Students granted an LOA retain their admitted status; however, they are not registered and therefore do not retain the rights and privileges of registered students.
If a student requests an LOA after the university semester deadlines for course withdrawal have passed OR after the student has completed all requirements for a given course the grades for the course/s will be recorded in that semester. If the student completes the semester with academic or professional behavior concerns the student may be referred for academic or unprofessional behavior review during a LOA. The LOA is never used in lieu of suspension or dismissal to avoid academic consequences for substandard performance or inadequate progress. See also Chapters 2, 3, 4, & 6.

Once the LOA is requested, a written Action Plan will be created for the student by the Director of the School of CSD in consultation with the student and the student’s academic advisor. The Action Plan will outline the length of the LOA and the plan for return to enrollment, including any modifications that might need to be made to the student’s plan of study. A copy of the plan will be sent to the student and the plan will be retained in the student’s paper academic file. Such plans may be adjusted during the student’s absence related to scheduling of course offerings, any curricular changes, modifications to the Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CFCC) or modifications of CAA requirements for program accreditation. A student on leave is required to maintain an understanding of previous course materials and expertise. Upon return, the student may be required to demonstrate levels of proficiency to aid in the determination of placement in the curriculum. Upon return from an LOA a finalized Action Plan will be reviewed with the student and the updated plan will be retained in the student’s paper academic file. The student’s decision to re-enroll in the graduate program is an indication of agreement with the finalized Action Plan for degree completion.

A student who fails to return to their studies within 30 days after the planned end of their LOA and who does not contact the School to generate a revised Action Plan will be assumed to have withdrawn from the program.

**Deferment**

A student who is admitted to the graduate program, but who has not started attending classes, may request to defer the start of their program for a maximum of one year. A written request to be considered for deferment must be received by the Director of the School of CSD at least 30 days prior to scheduled program orientation and must be approved by the Director. In the event of an unusual event prior to Orientation, a student may request an exception to this deferral notification requirement. Approved deferral will delay enrollment by one full academic year (i.e., students may not begin the graduate program in the Spring semester). Students who wish to delay their entry for longer than one calendar year will be required to reapply for admission.
Chapter 2. Clinical Program Policies and Procedures

The clinical program is sequenced across all 5 semesters of the graduate program. The School of CSD employs a community-based model of clinical education. The overarching goal of the clinical component of the program is to give students multiple opportunities to apply their knowledge and build clinical skills in a community service delivery setting.

Notice: Participation in clinical training is a required part of the curriculum and a requirement for graduation; therefore, denial by a clinical site for the student to participate in the clinical experience at that site for any reason may result in a delay of graduation or the inability to graduate from the program. The University makes no representations or warranties regarding a student’s ability to complete the program or obtain licensure, certification, or other professional credentialing.

Knowledge and Skill Competencies

Graduate students must complete a program of study that includes supervised clinical experiences sufficient in breadth and depth to achieve knowledge and skills outcomes in preparation for entry-level practice as described in Standard 3.0B by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology available at: [http://caa.asha.org/wp-content/uploads/Accreditation-Standards-for-Graduate-Programs.pdf](http://caa.asha.org/wp-content/uploads/Accreditation-Standards-for-Graduate-Programs.pdf) toward partial completion of the pathway to certification as a speech-language pathologist ([https://www.asha.org/Certification/Speech-Language-Pathology-Pathway-To-Certification/](https://www.asha.org/Certification/Speech-Language-Pathology-Pathway-To-Certification/)).

These knowledge and skill outcomes include opportunities for students to acquire and demonstrate their learning in the nature of speech, language, hearing, swallowing, and communication disorders and differences including etiologies, characteristics, anatomic/physiologic, acoustic, psychological, developmental, linguistic, and cultural correlates across the following areas:

- Articulation
- Fluency
- Voice and resonance, including respiration and phonation
- Receptive and expressive language (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics) in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and manual modalities
- Hearing, including the impact on speech and language
- Swallowing (oral, pharyngeal, esophageal, and related functions, including oral function for feeding; orofacial myofunction)
- Cognitive aspects of communication (e.g., attention, memory, sequencing, problem-solving, executive function)
- Social aspects of communication (e.g., behavioral and social skills affecting communication)
- Communication modalities (e.g., oral, manual, augmentative and alternative communication techniques and assistive technologies)
Students must acquire and demonstrate knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for individuals with communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan,
- Standards of ethical conduct, advocacy and other professional issues including licensure, certification, and credentialing,
- The interaction and interdependence of speech, language, and hearing in individuals and for the discipline of communication sciences and disorders, and
- The processes used in research and the integration of research into evidence-based clinical practice.

Graduate students must demonstrate knowledge and skill outcomes through clinical practica, the clinical externship, academic course work, simulations, and/or laboratory activities. As students progress through the program, they will be expected to have a broader base of knowledge to apply to the clinical setting, and to implement clinical strategies more independently, efficiently and effectively.

**Admissions Enrollment Requirements**

Registration in classes is conditional on the completion of all admissions requirements and submission of the following documents by July 1. If July 1 is a weekend or holiday, then all required documentation must be submitted by the next University business day. If a student is admitted later than June 1, these requirements must be met within 30 days of deposit. Refusal or failure to complete any of these requirements may impact a student’s ability to enroll, participate in or complete the program including participating in required clinical experiences, and may result in dismissal from the program.

**Essential Functions Form**

All students are expected to read and return the Essential Functions Form (Appendix 1A: [https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/essential_functions.pdf](https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/essential_functions.pdf)) with a signature acknowledging that the student has read, understands, and affirms capacity to fulfill the essential functions as described.

**Observation Hours**

In accordance with ASHA requirements, students must submit evidence of completion of at least 25 hours of supervised clinical observation hours and these hours must be approved by a member of the faculty.

**Health Insurance**

All students are required to carry comprehensive medical insurance throughout their enrollment (described in the Pacific University Academic Catalog). The University may offer one or more insurance plan options to cover medical needs beyond the scope of services provided at the Student Health Center. If offered by the University, at the
beginning of each academic year, all students are automatically billed for the yearly premium of the Pacific University Health Plan (http://pacificu.myahpcare.com/). Students who carry a comprehensive health insurance policy through another carrier may be eligible to waive this insurance requirement and fee by providing the Business Office with evidence of other comprehensive health insurance coverage (see waiver form in link below). Insured students may access coverage for dependents by contacting the carrier.

To review the medical coverage offered through the university, visit the Student Health Center website.  https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/student-health-center/student-insurance-information

Immunizations, Screenings, & Documentation Related to Infectious Diseases

The School of CSD requires and recommends health screenings and immunizations related to protecting the health of those we serve. The School of CSD requirements align with the State of Oregon Administrative Standards for Health Profession Student Clinical Training (§409-030-0170). Some affiliation agreements with clinical sites, including public schools, require screenings, evidence of immunizations, and training related to universal health precautions and confidentiality for health professionals.

Students are responsible for timely submission of the Pacific University Health Profession Program Required Immunization Form to the Student Health Services with verification of health screening, documentation for receipt of immunizations and/or immunity via titers and/or valid history of disease. If immunizations are in-progress at the start of the graduate program, it is the student’s responsibility to complete immunization series, retain, and provide documentation to the Student Health Service and to ensure that the Student Health Service provides the final date of titer to the School of CSD Student Services Manager.

Students are required to authorize release of health screening and immunization-related information to the School of CSD. Please note, this authorization is limited to verification that health screening and immunization records are on file with the university. We do not receive medical records nor do we send medical records to placement sites. Verification of completion of immunization requirements is a requirement for the School of CSD to proceed with clinical experience placements for students in adherence with agreements with agencies and facilities under Oregon law. If students have not completed these requirements, practicum or externship placements will be delayed.

Medically documented receipt of immunization, documented immunity by blood titer or valid history of disease, or a record from the Oregon ALERT Immunization Information System for must be reported to the Pacific University Student Health Services by July 1 prior to Fall registration for the following:
1. Hepatitis B (HBV) vaccine, full series and titer. If not already completed, the series must be initiated prior to the onset of the program.
2. Current Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) vaccine
3. Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap) or Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td) in past 2 years
4. Varicella (Chickenpox)

**Infectious Disease Screening**

Tuberculosis (TB) skin test. A negative screening test for tuberculosis (TB) is required. Typically this is met by a tuberculin skin test (TST or PPD) or interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA, e.g., QuantiFERON). Note: specific sites may require evidence of negative TB screening within the previous 12 months, so this test may need to be repeated during the graduate program. Positive TB skin tests will require additional documentation from a medical professional who can verify that the student does not have active TB.

In addition, the following immunizations are recommended by the School of CSD and may be required by specific clinical sites:

1. Annual influenza (flu) vaccine
2. Polio
3. Hepatitis A (2 doses)

Students should retain a copy of their immunization records and health form. Students should also note that clinical placement sites (and future employers) may require evidence of immunization and may require other immunizations in addition to those listed above.

**Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening**

Students are required to complete a criminal background check and a drug screen meeting the requirements of the program prior to formal enrollment at their own cost. Anticipated fees associated with these requirements are updated annually and available here: https://www.pacificu.edu/future-graduate-professional/colleges/college-education/areas-study/speech-language-pathology/cost.

The requirement to complete a background check and screening for substance abuse or misuse is consistent with Administrative Standards for Health Profession Student Clinical Training (§409-030-0170). Please note that these standards are reviewed and revised by the State of Oregon annually. Findings on the criminal background check and/or drug test may prevent or limit some students’ capacity to meet the requirements of the graduate program and may restrict eligibility for licensure in Oregon or in other states.

Students will receive instructions for ordering a background check and drug screening in follow up to acceptance of an offer of admission.
Substance Abuse Drug Screening
This policy operationalizes Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) §409-030-0100 through §409-030-0250, which defines the credentials students must obtain for clinical training placements in the State of Oregon. For the purposes of this policy, a person who has been admitted to the graduate program of study in speech-language pathology is considered a student.

Graduate students in the School of CSD are required to complete drug screening a minimum of one time prior to entry into the program. In accordance with the law, drug screens must be completed no more than 3 months prior to entry. Re-screening is required at any time a student returns to enrollment after a leave of absence and may also be required by specific clinical sites.

Testing: Students are required to complete at minimum a drug screening through a vendor specified by the School of CSD, which must include the substances specified by OAR §409-030-0210. Certification of completion of the required drug testing must be submitted to the School of CSD directly by the vendor between June 1 and July 1 (or within 30 days of deposit if offer of admission occurs after June 1).

Any student with a positive test result, diluted sample, or other results that are not within normal limits (WNL) shall promptly notify the Director of the School of CSD. At their sole discretion, the Director or a clinical site may require an explanation, repeat test, or participation in a treatment program in response to a positive result, diluted sample, or other results that are not WNL. Any individual taking prescription medication(s) for a diagnosed issue or condition protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) should follow the University’s policies and procedures and provide appropriate documentation from the treating medical provider. Students should be aware that employers may hold their own standards with respect to allowable drug testing results, even when medications related to those results are prescribed by a physician. Clinical sites exempt from OAR §409-030-0100 to 409-030-0250 and sites outside of Oregon may require a student to complete other testing and may reserve the right to specify testing location and timeframe according to their own policies and procedures.

Cost: The student shall be responsible for all associated costs of drug testing. A student who has a positive drug test may be required to submit documentation of completion of chemical dependency evaluation and treatment. The student shall assume all costs associated with evaluation and/or treatment.

Documentation: OAR §409-030-0210 does not define an “acceptable” drug test result. As such, documentation to the program will reflect simply that testing was completed by an approved vendor. The student may be required to convey specific results of the completed results to clinical site(s) and will do so via the vendor. Students are encouraged to retain all documentation associated with drug testing to avoid incurring additional costs to meet site-specific reporting requirements. Specific sites may require screening within a given timeframe, thus some students may need to undergo additional drug screenings at the request of the clinical site.
Criminal Background Checks
As part of the criminal background check requirements, all graduate students are required to complete a national criminal background check through a School of CSD approved vendor. The background check (not including fingerprint report) is to be submitted by July 15 (or within 30 days of deposit if an offer of admission occurs after June 15).

If, in the sole discretion of Pacific University, the background check yields findings that could impact successful completion of the program, including access to clinical training sites, or diminish the likelihood of licensure, the Director of the School of CSD or the Director of Clinical Education may contact the student to request an explanation. Director may recommend that the student contact the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to request clarification about likelihood of licensure. Upon receipt of explanation from the prospective student, the Director of the School of CSD will convene a Background Check Committee to review the available materials. The Background Check Committee will review the findings and make a recommendation to the Director and the Admissions Committee. The Director will meet with the student to discuss the recommendations of the Background Check Committee as it relates to the student’s enrollment. Depending on the results of the background check, the University may withdraw an offer of enrollment or dismiss a student from the program.

Some placement sites may require a specific background check process and/or registration of fingerprints with an oversight agency. For example, the Oregon Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education requires students placed in a licensed childcare facility, including Head Start or other Early Learning Centers, to file an application, background check, and fingerprints with a centralized registry. Costs associated with this process are approximately $100.

If background checks, fingerprint reports, or a subsequent criminal background check yields findings during the student’s enrollment in the graduate program, the student will be referred for review by Discussion Panel and/or formal Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing as described in Chapter 6.

Background Checks for International Students
International students are required to provide evidence of background checks conducted in their home country and in the United States. Fees and timelines associated with international background check processes may exceed those published for domestic students. Processes and timelines for international student completion of background checks will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
Co-Requisites

The majority of the co-requisites are required for successful completion of the Clinical Methods course during the first semester of the graduate program. Students must complete each of these requirements to be eligible for any clinical placement.

CPR and First Aid

All students in the graduate program are required to complete CPR and First Aid (combined course) training and maintain current certification for the duration of the program. Certification is valid for two years. Students will have an opportunity to complete this training during the first semester of the program, as facilitated by the School of CSD. Students are responsible for the course and certification fee (approximately $25). A student’s CPR certificate must be valid during all clinical experiences throughout the program, and the student is responsible for maintaining record of this certification. Students must also provide a copy of their certificate to the Student Service Manager during the first semester of the graduate program.

Blood and Air-Borne Pathogens Exposure, Infection Control Training, OSHA Safety Guidelines, and Mandatory Reporter/Abuse/Neglect Training

Graduate students are required to complete Blood Borne/Airborne Pathogens Exposure, Infection Control Training, and OSHA Safety Guidelines, and Mandatory Reporter trainings as part of the requirements for clinical practica. Students may be required by a clinical site to complete additional on-site training. Instructions for completing these requirements will be given to students by the Director(s) of Clinical Education.

Confidentiality Training and Compliance

Information that identifies patients or clients is held in confidence by clinical professionals and this assurance of confidentiality is an essential aspect of building trust between clients and healthcare professionals. Identifiers include name, address, date of birth, phone number, email address, record number, photographs, videos, clinic identification number/s, diagnoses, and any other information that could allow someone to identify the client/patient.

Exceptions to confidentiality include specific written authorization from the client to release information as well as communication between students, supervisors, and other professionals managing that client in secure locations, certain communications for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations, or when a patient/client is believed to be in danger (from self or to others). Students who gain access to information about clients through indirect discussion, for example in a group supervision discussion, are required to uphold the confidentiality of that client.
The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), enforce the protection of confidential information at all stages of service delivery. Students are required to complete confidentiality and privacy training as part of the clinical orientation and then annually for the duration of their registration as a graduate student. It is each student’s responsibility to maintain documentation of compliance with training requirements. Instructions for completing the training will be given to students by the Director of Clinical Education.

Each placement site will have specific policies relating to the handling of student, client, patient or other confidential information. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and abide by the facility’s requirements for the handling of confidential information. Some facilities may require additional privacy or confidentiality training before beginning fieldwork. See also Social Media Policy.

Students should not store any identifiable client data or images on personally owned devices, including iPads. When recordings are made they should be made using facility-owned devices and should usually be held temporarily for the purpose of completing clinical diagnostics or progress reports. Such records should be maintained and/or discarded based on the site’s policy. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure compliance with the site’s policies. When recordings are authorized for deletion, students should verify that deleted files are also deleted from servers and any automatic cloud storage backups.

Research Ethics Training
All students will be required to complete an online training course in research ethics. This is required during the first semester of the Master’s degree program. Upon completion of the course, students must provide verification of completion to the School of CSD Student Services Manager. In addition, students should keep a copy of the certificate of completion for their own records.

Students typically will not need to resubmit the documentation each time a new proposal is submitted. However, proposals sent to the Institutional Review Board will not be reviewed until all investigators listed on the proposal have completed the training.

Consent to Disclose Student Information with Clinical Sites
Students will be asked to allow the School of CSD to share information with clinical sites, such as background check and drug screen results, immunization records, HIPAA training certificates, Blood Borne Pathogens certificate, CPR and First Aid certification, accommodations and/or remediation plans (where applicable), or other information. Authorizing the School of CSD to release this information is voluntary. Students may revoke this consent at any time. Lack of consent may limit or delay clinical practica and externship placements. Refusal to authorize release of information may impact a
student’s ability to participate in required clinical experiences and may limit the
student’s ability to complete the program and graduation requirements. See Appendix
2A – Consent to Disclose Student Information:
https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_information_consent
.pdf

**Liability Insurance**

Liability insurance for students may be required by clinical sites. The University
maintains professional liability insurance coverage for covered employees and students
engaged in activities within the course and scope of the University's programs. The
University maintains other insurance coverage, including general liability, auto liability,
workers compensation, and more, that may or may not apply to students. Certain
insurance coverage maintained by the University may be secondary or non-contributory
to insurance owned by the individual, and there may be variation in coverage limits
from year-to-year. Students are welcome to request current coverage details at any time.
Students may also choose to purchase additional personal liability insurance, which may
be available via a broker or a student association.

**Clinical Program Overview**

Pacific University’s clinical program is designed to give students multiple opportunities
to gain clinical exposure and experience in various clinical settings in the community.
Clinical experiences are infused throughout the program each semester and provide
opportunities for students to integrate and apply academic learning at progressive levels
of performance and independence.

To enhance the integration of academic and clinical knowledge, students are engaged in
the community throughout their graduate program. Supervision and support is
provided by ASHA certified, state licensed speech-language pathologists in the
community, by adjunct clinical supervisors, and by Pacific University faculty. Academic
courses may also have a clinical component and/or lab associated with the course to
facilitate practical application and practice of clinical skills.

The goal of the graduate program is that students will demonstrate at least entry-level
competence for clinical practice at the time of graduation. Generally, it is expected that
students will progress through the clinical program in the sequence outlined below.

**Fall I**

**CSD 521: Clinical Methods & Observation Course**
- Foundational clinical course includes successful completion of co-curricular
  requirements. Students participate in a variety of clinical experiences in the
  community outside of the regularly scheduled course times including (but not
  limited to) observations, screenings/evaluations, and labs.
### Spring I

**CSD 526: Clinical Seminar**
- This course supports the clinical practicum with a focus on skills and professional issues related to working in educational settings

**CSD 530: Clinical Practicum I**
- 2-days per week of clinical practicum (typically in an educational setting) and an additional day typically scheduled with another required clinical activity

### Summer (specific schedules vary significantly)

**CSD 527: Clinical Seminar**
- This course supports the clinical practicum with a focus on skills and professional issues related to the student’s current practicum setting

**CSD 530: Clinical Practicum II**
- Settings, populations, and schedules vary

### Fall II

**CSD 528: Clinical Seminar**
- This course supports the clinical practicum with a focus on skills and professional issues related to working in non-educational settings

**CSD 530: Clinical Practicum III**
- 2-3 days per week of clinical practicum in one of a variety of settings

### Spring II

**CSD 534: Clinical Externship**
- Students are placed full-time (4-5 days per week) in one of a variety of settings

### Clinic Populations

During their program, graduate students will have practicum experiences with client populations across the lifespan and from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, in addition to populations with various types and severities of communication and/or swallowing disorders, differences, and disabilities.

### Clinical Program Policies

#### Placement of Students in Practicum and Externship Sites

Graduate students are required to complete a variety of clinical experiences to gain experience across the lifespan and with diverse client populations. The goal of the clinical program is to learn and practice foundational clinical skills, rather than receive specialty training for later employment in a particular setting. To be eligible for certification through ASHA requires that each student has the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for entry-level practice.

Students will have opportunities to develop clinical and professional skills in multiple settings with at least 3 different settings drawn from programs with affiliation agreements with Pacific University and the School of CSD.
Students are encouraged to indicate areas of interest and to monitor the breadth and depth of their clinical experiences. While efforts are made to accommodate students’ specific interests, ultimately, the School of CSD determines sites for each student, and no student is guaranteed experience in any specific setting type.

At times, students may be assigned to and participate in more than one clinical site or more than one clinical experience as part of their clinical practicum or externship within a semester.

Assigned clinical practicum placements are final and non-negotiable.

**Local Practicum Assignments - Process**

The process of assigning students to local (Oregon and SW Washington) clinical sites is the responsibility of clinical faculty. Students are not permitted to contact potential supervisors regarding clinical experiences without the express consent of clinical faculty and any unapproved contact may result in disciplinary action. While student interests and place of residence may be taken into consideration, placements are predominantly based on achieving the breadth of experience required to meet the educational goals for each student including exposure to culturally and linguistically diverse populations.

Students receive their clinic assignment from the Director of Clinical Education prior to or at the beginning of each semester. Efforts are made to notify students of their practicum assignments in a timely fashion. Students should be prepared to begin at any time during the designated CSD semester dates. At times, there may be limited notice provided of practicum or externship start-dates.

**Out of State Externship Assignments - Process**

The process of assigning students to out-of-state externships is the responsibility of clinical faculty. Students interested in pursuing out-of-state full-time externships (CSD 534) are required to notify their clinical advisor of this interest as early as possible in the program. Students are not permitted to contact potential supervisors regarding clinical experiences without the express consent of clinical faculty and any unapproved contact may result in disciplinary action. Students may be asked to work collaboratively with members of the clinical faculty to identify names of prospective sites. Clinical faculty are responsible to contact and follow-up with potential sites to determine if there is an opportunity that includes appropriate supervision and experience for the student’s externship. If all parties are in agreement, the School of CSD clinical faculty will determine whether an affiliation agreement exists with Pacific University, and, if not, will initiate an affiliation agreement, as needed. Out of state sites should be identified well in advance, no less than 4 months prior to the potential start of the externship and failure to do so may result in delays or the inability to place the student in the desired geographic location. Confirmation of the placement is contingent on established affiliation agreements and clinical faculty approval of the experience. The university
does not make any representations or guarantees regarding the potential for an agreement with any site.

Sites That Require Application
In cases where the clinical site has its own application and interview process for students, the clinical faculty will inform students of the sites to which they may apply, application processes, and timelines. Some sites limit the number of applications from each university program. In such cases, clinical faculty will try to ensure that all students interested in that setting type will have at least one opportunity to apply for such sites. Students should be prepared to return complete applications to clinical faculty within 48 hours of notice. Because placement opportunities sometimes arise with short turn-around times for applications, it is recommended that students maintain an updated resume and letter of interest throughout the program.

If a student is offered a placement through an interview process the student is required to accept the placement.

Clock Hours
At least twenty-five hours must be spent in clinical observation, and these hours must be completed in full prior to the beginning the graduate program (see prerequisites).

Graduate students must complete a minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised clinical experience in the practice of speech-language pathology of which at least 325 hours must be completed while registered in the graduate program. At least 375 hours must be obtained through direct client/patient contact. Clock hours will only be credited when a student receives a final grade of “Pass” for the practicum or externship. Clock hours can be obtained only for the time during which the student clinician is providing direct evaluation or treatment services for clients (and/or their families). Simply being present in the room, or for example, operating recording equipment, is not considered clinical contact time.

While other clinical activities are required and contribute to student learning, such as team meetings, writing lesson plans, scoring tests, transcribing language samples, preparing treatment activities, documentation, and meetings with practicum supervisors these activities may not be counted as direct patient/client contact hours or “clock hours.” Debriefing activities are not counted toward clock hours.
Clock Hours for Alternative Clinical Education (ACE)

In accordance with certification standards, the School of CSD will accept alternative clinical education (ACE) experiences for up to 20% (75 hours) of direct client hours. Students may engage in ACE and include these experiences toward total clock hours when assigned or approved by faculty of the School of CSD. Supervision requirements remain the same for all types of clinical experiences to be included in total clock hour counts.

Examples of ACE experiences may include:
- Standardized patient experiences
- Simulation technologies (e.g., virtual patients, computerized simulations)

Supervision

Students are to be supervised by faculty, adjunct clinical supervisors, and community speech-language pathologists who hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from ASHA and are licensed by the state in which they practice. The Director(s) of Clinical Education will verify each supervisor’s current ASHA Certification. Direct supervision must occur in real time (not remotely or by video review). Per ASHA guidelines levels of supervision will be adjusted to the experience and ability of the student. In no case will it consist of less than 25% of the student’s total contact with each client and the supervisor is to be on-site at all times a student is working with a client. Supervision must occur periodically throughout the practicum. It should be noted that in some settings (e.g., hospitals) 100% supervision of all student contact with clients may be required by the facility or by insurance providers.

Clinical faculty from the university will provide support for both the student and the site supervisor. Examples of support may include: seminar discussions, providing a resource manual to the supervisor, conducting phone, email or in-person communications during the semester and visiting the student and supervisor at the clinical site. Site supervisors will be informed that the nature and amount of clinical supervision must be adjusted to the experience and ability of the student, according to ASHA guidelines.
Expectations of Students in Clinical Settings

Name Tags, Professional Attire, and Professional Behavior

Graduate student clinicians are expected to abide by the School of CSD Requirements for Graduate Students in Clinical Settings, please see Appendix 2B: https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/appearance_behavior_requirements.pdf

Clinical sites may have specific requirements and students must abide by the requirements set by each site. In general, attire should be appropriate for the setting as well as the activity in which the student is involved.

It is also important that patients, families, visitors, and colleagues are able to easily identify students. Graduate students are given a Pacific University name tag and are required to wear this name tag in an easily visible location during all pre-clinical and clinical work.

Confidentiality and Security of Records

Graduate clinicians will comply with HIPAA and FERPA regulations for clinical placements and academic instruction, as well as any site-specific requirements, maintaining client privacy and confidentiality at all times. Appropriate procedures and policies include:

- Individual client cases may be discussed in the course of academic classes or in communication with subsequent clinicians treating a particular client in appropriate, private settings. Confidentiality is maintained whether the information is obtained through direct care for the client or through discussion in class or with other clinicians. Specific client identifiers should be avoided and are not permitted in written transfer of information outside a medical or educational record.
- Individual client cases are not to be discussed in informal settings such as clinic/school hallways, on social media, or with other individuals not affiliated with the program.
- Individual client cases may not be discussed with the client’s family members/caregivers without proper authorization or a recognized exception to HIPAA (e.g., the client is a minor and/or the caregiver is the appropriate legal representative, or and adult client has given consent).
- Client information in Pacific University-supported clinical sites is stored securely in a HIPAA-compliant electronic record system in accordance with the guidelines and processes with the site or as approved by the University Health Care Operations and Compliance Committee. During short term, on-campus programs or workshops paper records or data required must be housed in individual
folders, kept in a locked cabinet in the School of CSD, and removed only for client management purposes. Any documents to be retained are scanned and added to the electronic record and all paper is shredded once electronic notes and reports are approved by the supervisor.

**Attendance Policy for Clinical Practicums and Externship**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and be present, prepared and ready to begin all clinic experiences (not just arriving) at the scheduled time on all scheduled days.

During practicum and externship experiences, students will maintain the daily schedule assigned by their supervisor and clinical faculty. Attendance requirements during clinical practicum/externship include all days of services based on the site’s calendar (not the Pacific University calendar), professional events recommended by their supervisor unless otherwise excused by clinical faculty. Examples may include evening parent-teacher conferences, IEP meetings, team conferences, and in-services.

Students are advised that daily clinic schedules may be variable and, at times, there is limited notice of clinical activities, such as meetings and schedule changes. Students are expected to exhibit professionalism and flexibility associated with all schedule changes.

The following constitute excused absences from clinic:

- Student illness - physician note may be required.
- A personal emergency in the student’s immediate family, such as death, hospitalization, or other emergency situation. In such cases, the student must contact clinical faculty and the site supervisor. Clinical faculty will consider the request and determine if excused.
- Attendance at professional meetings, provided that absence has been pre-approved by clinical faculty at least one month in advance and typically prior to the start of the semester.

If illness or an emergency necessitates tardiness, absence, or early departure the student is responsible for notifying both their supervisor and university clinical faculty promptly. The student is then responsible for promptly completing a tardiness/absence form. The form must be completed by the student in cooperation with the site supervisor and returned to clinical faculty on the next day the student is in clinic (following absence). Any discrepancy in reporting or underreporting of absences or tardiness may result in disciplinary action related to professional conduct (see Chapter 6).

Students are expected to make up all missed days. This may include extending the practicum beyond the original end date with the agreement of the host site and supervisor. The student is expected to take initiative in planning a make-up time for any and all absences. If the supervisor is not available to add make-up days, students should
work with clinical faculty to identify alternative experiences. Make-up experiences arranged with clinical faculty are subject to availability. If make-up opportunities are not available, the student remains subject to grading and review conditions described below.

A single unexcused absence or multiple excused absences may result in a substandard, work-in-progress, or incomplete grade and initiate Academic or Professional Conduct Review (see Chapter 6).

**Transportation and Housing**

It is the responsibility of all students to have reliable transportation and ensure they get to and from campus, attend off-campus clinical assignments, and participate in other school-related activities as required. Lack of transportation will not be accepted as an excused absence for non-attendance or tardiness to clinical experiences. Students may be required to travel outside the greater Portland area and must be prepared for associated commute times. Students are welcome to seek housing closer to clinical sites, but it remains their responsibility to find and pay for housing. The school does not make decisions related to housing and does not provide assistance with housing or parking associated with clinical placements.

**Evaluation of Student Performance in Clinical Practicum and Clinical Externship**

All clinical experiences including the externship are graded on a Pass/No Pass basis. During each semester a student is registered for a clinical practicum or externship, a midterm and final evaluation will be completed by their site clinical supervisor and submitted to clinical faculty for review. Upon review of the final site supervisor’s overall evaluation, a final grade is submitted by clinical faculty. In cases where there are multiple clinical experiences as part of clinical practicum or externship, evaluations submitted from each experience will be considered in determining final grade. Clinical experiences less than 1-week in duration, will include feedback to the student and to the Director/s of Clinical Education, but may not include a written “mid-term” evaluation due to the brevity of the experience.

Students are evaluated by clinical supervisors across five (5) domains: Evaluation, Intervention, Professionalism, Interaction, and Personal Qualities using a 5-point scale. Students are expected to show growth in each domain over the course of each semester. Supervisors also submit evaluations related to attendance and essential functions.

The use of regular evaluation of each student clinician’s performance provides direct benefits to the student, including:

1. Help to make the student aware of any problem areas and provide an opportunity for the student to seek assistance from the site supervisor and clinical faculty in improving these skills;
2. By reviewing evaluations completed by site supervisors at mid-term and final during each semester, clinical faculty can identify a student who may be exhibiting difficulty with clinical practice and assist them in a proactive manner.

Students are expected to seek assistance with any difficulty or potential problem area.

To achieve a grade of “Pass” all evaluation items pertaining to attendance, adherence to the ASHA Code of Ethics, the Pacific University Student Code of Conduct, and essential functions must be “Met” at midterm and final for every clinical assignment AND the student must demonstrate minimum skill competency expectations for each domain evaluated (as described above):

- 530 – Spring , Clinical Practicum I, Pass: 2.25 or higher
- 530 – Summer , Clinical Practicum II, Pass: 2.75 or higher
- 530 – Fall , Clinical Practicum III, Pass: 3.50 or higher
- 534 – Spring II, Clinical Externship, Pass: 4.0 or higher

One single competency that falls beneath these thresholds may be sufficient to issue a “No Pass” grade or may generate specific remediation goals for the student, even when a passing grade is assigned for the overall practicum assignment.

The cumulative average of final scores across all of the student’s clinical assignments and final externship must be a 3.0, or higher, for each skill and across all nine knowledge and skill areas in order to document achievement of entry-level clinical competency and graduate from the program.

**General Clinical Grading Policies**

See also CSD Grading Policy in Chapter 3.

**Incomplete or Work-in-Progress Grades**

Instructors may issue a grade of Incomplete only when the major portion of a course, practicum experience, seminar, or externship has been completed satisfactorily, but health or other emergency reasons prevent the student from finishing all requirements. In such cases the instructor and the student must discuss and complete an “incomplete contract” that includes a deadline by which all work will be completed.

A Work-in-Progress (WP) grade may be issued for practicum or externship in cases where circumstances prevent a student from completing the requirements for the practicum or externship before the regular term ends. Generally, this grade is issued when clinical hours or competencies have not been met by the end of the semester because of factors arising from the clinical site, site supervisor, or university. An example of this could be a delay in start date requested by clinical site/supervisor requiring the student to continue beyond the end of the semester to meet competencies or obtain sufficient hours. The decision to issue a WP grade is at the discretion of the instructor of record and submitted in consultation with the Director of the School of
CSD and the University Registrar. A revised end date for the practicum is set. WP will be replaced by a P or N grade once all of the practicum requirements are completed a final evaluation is submitted. Failure to complete work in progress within 30 days of the agreed upon end date, unless otherwise agreed upon with an approved extension in writing, is conveyed to the Director who may elect to assemble a Discussion Panel or referral for a formal Hearing.

Any unresolved, incomplete, or work in progress grade will typically inhibit placement in subsequent practica or externships and may result in a delay in degree completion and graduation.

Repeating a practicum or externship, if permitted, will result in a delay in completion of the degree and additional costs to the student.

**Remediation in Clinical Practicum and Externships**

The School of CSD has adopted a ‘proactive, not punitive’ approach to student assessment. For clinical experiences this is intended to ensure that students (1) master the skills or competencies at the level expected in the clinical placement, (2) fully understand what it means to behave in an ethical and professional manner, and (3) should not surprised by a substandard grade at the end of the term.

To achieve these goals: any time a clinical supervisor is concerned about a student’s performance or the student’s ability to carry out the clinical duties involved in that placement, the supervisor is expected to bring the concerns to the attention of the student and/or clinical faculty. At a minimum, students will receive formal feedback on their performance in the practicum at midterm and at the end of the term. Such formal feedback will normally be provided both in person and in writing. Students are encouraged to discuss their performance with their supervisors on an ongoing basis.

In general, any formal feedback provided to students by clinical supervisors will also be communicated to the CSD clinical faculty. Other less formal feedback that has been provided to students may also be communicated to the CSD clinical faculty at the supervisor’s discretion.

Discussions with students, generally held in person when reasonably possible, may also be initiated by the clinical supervisor for other reasons including, but not limited to, chronic tardiness, lack of preparation, frequent absences, or disruptive or other unprofessional behavior either in or out of the clinical placement. Such discussions will generally be reported to the CSD clinical faculty.

The goal of any feedback provided to students is to help the student resolve the identified concern. For example, it may allow the student to demonstrate mastery of a given clinical skill or to modify their behavior.
In cases where a clinical supervisor’s concerns are sufficient to suggest that a student may receive a grade of No-Pass (N) in the clinical placement by the end of the semester, either or both of the following may occur:

1. When time and appropriate clients permit, a skill, behavior, or practicum specific remediation plan may be initiated to help the student in achieving the necessary competencies to meet the practicum requirements; or
2. At the discretion of the supervisor, in consultation with the Director of Clinical Education or the Director of CSD, the student’s placement at the site may be terminated and a No Pass is issued; and/or
3. The student may be referred for Academic or Professional Conduct review.

Skill, behavior, and practicum-specific remediation plans will be developed by CSD clinical faculty with input from the student and off-site supervisor. Such plans will be put in writing and entered into the student’s file. The student will receive a copy of the plan and the Director of the School of CSD will be notified.

For clinical skill or competency-related issues, such remediation plans may include (but need not be limited to) undertaking activities intended to allow the student to practice and demonstrate mastery of the relevant skill or competency. Such remediation plans may extend beyond the end of one practicum placement and into a subsequent placement. A single report of issues related to clinical skill, competency, or essential functions may result in immediate referral for academic and unprofessional behavior review (see below and Chapter 6).

In cases of behavior or professional conduct issues, remediation plans may include (but need not be limited to) referral to Student Support Services or the Student Counseling Center, as appropriate. A single report of unprofessional behavior may result in immediate referral for Academic or Professional Conduct Review (see below and Chapter 6).

**Substandard Grades**

The issuance of any overall substandard final grade (i.e., N) in a practicum or externship will automatically result in the student being referred to the Director of the School of CSD for Academic or Professional Conduct Review (see also Chapter 6). A substandard evaluation in one or more domains will result a remediation plan and will be reported to the Director (see Chapter 6).

A second substandard grade in the same or any subsequent semester will automatically result in referral for Academic or Professional Conduct Review may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.
Appealing Final Grades in Clinical Practicum Registrations

If a student disagrees with their final grade in any clinical practicum or externship, students must notify their clinical advisor of their intent to contest the grade within five (5) university business days of the grading deadline for that semester. Students must then arrange a meeting with the clinical advisor to discuss the grade. The clinical advisor will consult with the practicum supervisor and will make a recommendation to the Director of Clinical Education and notify the student of this recommendation. If a student is not satisfied with the outcome of that discussion, they may appeal the grade to the Director of the School of CSD, in writing, within five (5) university business days of notification of the recommendation for the final grade. The Director of the School of CSD will meet with the student, the clinical advisor, and contact the clinical supervisor and make a final decision about the grade to be recorded on the student’s transcript. The decision of the Director is final.

Other Outcomes of No Pass Grades in Clinical Practicum Courses

If a student earns a No Pass (N) grade in a clinical practicum or externship course, any clinical contact hours accumulated during that course will not be counted toward clinical certification.

With the exception of a student who is dismissed from the program, students who receive a grade of N in any clinical practicum or externship will typically be required to complete a comparable clinical practicum or externship in the next semester with an accompanying remediation plan. A student who continues in the program must successfully complete the remediation goals and achieve a Pass in the comparable practicum the following semester. Successful completion of the remediation does not change or replace the previously earned practicum grade.

Students who do not pass a full semester clinical practicum course should expect to extend their program by an equivalent length of time and may be assessed additional tuition charges in order to retain enrollment as a full time student in good standing. Subsequent clinical assignments will be contingent on availability.

A subsequent No Pass grade or failure to meet the goals of the remediation plan will result in a recommendation for dismissal to the Director of the School of CSD.

If a student is dismissed from the program because of substandard grades in a practicum or externship, the student may apply for readmission, which, if allowed, will be contingent on the student retaking the failed practicum or externship course under an agreed upon remediation plan, completing all components of the remediation plan, and obtaining a grade of Pass. Readmission will usually be on probationary status. A student on probation who obtains a No Pass grade or fails to meet the goals of the remediation plan will result in a recommendation for dismissal to the Director of the School of CSD.
Chapter 3. Academic Program Policies and Procedures

The School of CSD graduate program prepares students for entry-level practice in speech-language pathology through coursework in speech, language, swallowing, cognition, and social-communication processes and disorders across the lifespan. All instruction is offered in English.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the program will have developed:

1. Knowledge of basic human communication and swallowing processes, and
2. Knowledge of human communication and swallowing disorders and differences including appropriate etiologies and characteristics as well as anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates, and
3. Knowledge of standards of ethical conduct and contemporary professional issues in speech-language pathology practice, and
4. Knowledge of processes used in research and of the integration of research principles into evidence-based clinical practice in speech-language pathology, and
5. Skills in oral and written or other forms of communication sufficient for entry into professional practice of speech-language pathology, and
6. Knowledge of and the ability to apply the principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for people with communication and swallowing disorders through supervised clinical practica.

Enrollment Requirements

Registration for courses in the graduate program is conditional upon completion of all published requirements for admission. Completion of degree and academic prerequisite course requirements set forth by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) for certification and the Pacific University graduate program is required prior to initiation of the graduate program. In exceptional circumstances, an admitted student may obtain approval from the Director to complete an academic prerequisite by the end of the first semester of the graduate program. Students already enrolled who fail to complete requirements given an exception are subject to academic review, probation, or dismissal as outlined in Chapter 6.
Academic Prerequisites

Background Academic Requirements

The following coursework is required by ASHA (typically completed as part of undergraduate coursework) and evidence of completion of these courses is required prior to matriculation into the graduate program.

**Biological Sciences** - a college level course that covers the study and characterization of living organisms and the investigation of the science of living things. For example, courses could include biology, genetics, life sciences, natural science, or zoology.

**Physical Sciences** - a college level course that covers the science of matter, energy, motion, and force (e.g. physics) or the study of substances (e.g. chemistry).

**Social Sciences** - a college level course that covers the study of human behavior. For example, courses could include anthropology, psychology, sociology, or public health.

**Statistics** - a college level course in statistics is required. This course could be taken in mathematics, statistics, psychology, education, or discipline other than CSD. A research methodology course may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

*Pacific University requires that these courses have been taken for a minimum of 2 semester credits (preferably 3) with an earned grade of C or better (or pass if the course is only offered on a pass/fail basis). Course audits are not accepted. Advance Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are only accepted if credit is shown on the undergraduate transcript.

**Phonetics** - a college-level course in phonetics that covers human speech sound production and speech sound systems with a major emphasis on the application into clinical settings and the process and practice of clinical transcription.

**Anatomy & Physiology of Speech and Swallowing** - a college-level course that specifically covers structures and functions important for speech production and swallowing. A general anatomy, physiology, or anatomy and physiology course will not meet this requirement.

**Normal Speech and Language Development** - a college-level course that covers the acquisition of speech and language skills in typically developing children and adolescents.

**Speech Science** - a college-level course that covers the science of speech including acoustics, speech production, and speech perception.

**Neuroanatomy / Neurophysiology** - a college-level course that covers the anatomy & physiology of the central & peripheral nervous systems, with an emphasis on development & typical functioning of structures & systems that specifically support...
communication, behavior, & swallowing. A general neurology course may or may not meet this requirement, to be determined on a case-by-case basis by faculty who teach the course at Pacific.**

**Audiology / Aural Rehabilitation - college-level coursework that covers the anatomy of the ear, normal and disordered hearing, basic principles of audiometry, and aural rehabilitation. This may be achieved through more than one course with a minimum total of 4 semester credits.**

**Pacific University requires an earned grade of C or better in each of these courses and a minimum of 3 semester credits in each of the above areas (except where otherwise specified).**

**Graduate Curriculum:**

The graduate curriculum and course descriptions can be found here: [http://pacificu.edu/future-graduate-professional/colleges/college-education/areas-study/speech-language-pathology-ms](http://pacificu.edu/future-graduate-professional/colleges/college-education/areas-study/speech-language-pathology-ms)

**Comprehensive EBP Case Application (Comps)**

Every master’s degree student in the School of CSD will take the comprehensive exam as a summative evaluation and successful completion of the comprehensive examination is a requirement for graduation.

The examination has both a written and oral component designed to evaluate students’ ability to apply knowledge and skills to develop a comprehensive assessment and treatment plan that reflects an appreciation for interdisciplinary care. The comprehensive examination uses a case-based approach to allow students to demonstrate use of the evidence-base, critical and flexible thinking, and the capacity to integrate new learning in clinical decision-making.

The exam is a full-day summative assessment with a written component (open-book) and an oral component that typically takes place in spring term of the second year of the graduate program. Students must pass both components of the exam. A full description of the CSD Comprehensive EBP Case Application can be found in Appendix 3A: [https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/comprehensive_exam.pdf](https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/comprehensive_exam.pdf)
Thesis Option

The optional master's thesis is a scholarly, well-formulated project that presents original research conducted by the graduate student. The thesis does NOT replace the EBP Case Application Comprehensive Examination. Graduate students who wish to pursue a master's thesis will work in collaboration with a faculty member in a shared area of interest and faculty expertise on an agreed-upon, feasible thesis topic that is substantial and meaningful. A full description of the CSD Culminating Experience: Thesis Option can be found in Appendix 3B: https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/thesis_option.pdf

Academic Standing

Students may be either in good academic standing, on warning, probation, or suspension for academic performance. Please refer to Chapter 6 for further details. In order to maintain good academic standing throughout their program, students must achieve satisfactory grades and demonstrate satisfactory progress toward achievement of every clinical competency specified by the program and ASHA requirements. Clinical competencies are demonstrated and evaluated continuously during clinical practica, externship placements, clinical and academic seminars, and through specific assessments associated with academic courses (see Chapter 2).

- School of Communication Sciences and Disorders: students must complete at least 67% of their attempted credits each semester. Students must achieve a 3.0 or higher GPA each semester, and maintain a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA.

CSD Grading Policies

The School of CSD uses an “A” through “F” grading scale including “+” and “-“ for academic coursework. The Clinical Methods and Observation course, Practicum Seminars, Practicum, and Externship are graded on a Pass/No Pass basis. Satisfactory grades include grades of A, A-, B+, B, B- and P.

Incomplete Grades

Instructors may issue a grade of Incomplete only when the major portion of a course, practicum experience, seminar, or externship has been completed satisfactorily, but health or other emergency reasons prevent the student from finishing all requirements. Per university policy, the instructor and the student must discuss and complete an “incomplete contract” that includes a deadline by which all work will be completed. Please refer to http://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/Registrar/forms for the specific form and completion requirements.


**Substandard Grades**

In graduate courses, all work below a “B-“ is considered substandard (i.e., not satisfactory to meet certification requirements). Grades of “N” (No Pass) in practicum, seminar, or externship courses are also considered substandard.

**Implications of a Substandard Grade**

The issuance of any substandard final course grade will automatically result in the student being referred for Academic or Professional Behavior Review (see also Chapter 6). A single substandard grade will generally result in a remediation plan to allow demonstration of relevant knowledge and skills or the recommendation after review may be to initiate a formal Academic and Professional Conduct Hearing. A grade of F in any single academic course will automatically result in a formal hearing and will generally lead to dismissal from the program. Two substandard grades in the same or any subsequent semester will automatically result in a formal hearing and will generally result in dismissal from the program.

**Appealing Final Grades in Academic Coursework**

If a student disagrees with their final grade in any academic course, students must notify the relevant faculty member of their intent to contest the grade within five (5) university business days of the grading deadline for that semester (typically the Monday after the conclusion of final examinations). Students must then arrange a meeting with the faculty member to discuss the grade. If a student is not satisfied with the outcome of that discussion, they may appeal the grade to the Director of the School of CSD, in writing, within five (5) university business days of meeting with the faculty member. The Director will meet with the student and the faculty member. The Director makes a final decision about the student’s grade as recorded on the transcript.

**Academic Advising**

Graduate students will be assigned to a faculty member for academic advising. Students will have the opportunity to meet with their academic advisor on an individual basis throughout their graduate program. In addition, group advising sessions may be scheduled to review various policies, procedures and topics that are pertinent to the graduate cohort.

**Course Instructor Responsibilities**

The School of CSD and the College of Education expect that its instructors will design and teach courses that appropriately challenge students. From the beginning of the course, instructors will clearly communicate expectations regarding standards of
performance and will explain how grades will be determined and assigned. It is expected that students will receive prompt feedback on graded work.

Assignments and tests will be designed to allow assessment of students’ conceptual understanding of course material and their ability to apply what they have learned in an authentic manner in an educational setting. Instructors are solely responsible for judging the quality and accuracy of student work and assigning grades.

Instructors in the School of CSD will model and communicate expectations for exemplary professional behavior. Instructors are expected to possess personal attributes of honesty, dedication, responsibility, and strong ethical values. They are expected to create a learning environment that is challenging, positive, and rewarding and that honors cultural differences and diversity. Instructors are expected to treat students and peers with respect and adhere to all Pacific University policies, procedures, and guidelines, including those concerning smoking, parking, and alcohol use on campus.

Course-Specific Remediation

The School of CSD uses a ‘proactive, not punitive’ approach to student assessment. For academic courses, this is intended to ensure that students (1) master the totality of course content, (2) demonstrate mastery of competencies associated with particular courses, (3) fully understand what it means to behave in an ethical and professional manner, and (4) are not surprised by a substandard grade at the end of the term.

To achieve these goals: any time a student achieves a grade of below 80% on any assignment, paper, quiz, exam, or project within a particular course or fails to demonstrate a competency required for the course, the student should expect to discuss the situation with the course instructor. Such discussions will generally be held in person. Such discussions will also generally be noted in the student’s school file.

Discussions with students (again generally to be held in person) may also be initiated by the course instructor for other reasons including, but not limited to, chronic tardiness, lack of preparation, frequent absences, or disruptive or other unprofessional behavior either in or outside of class. Such discussions will be documented in the student’s academic file.

Regardless of the reason, the goal of these discussions will generally be to help the student to resolve the situation (e.g., to allow them to demonstrate mastery of the particular course content or competency involved; to help them modify their behavior). This will often include the development of a course-specific remediation plan.

For course content or competency-related issues, course-specific remediation plans may include (but need not be limited to) retaking the course, retaking relevant portions of an exam, taking an alternative exam, redoing a project in whole or in part, or completing a competency-assessment activity. The completion of such plans will not generally change the student’s grade on the exam or project or the final grade in the course.
In cases of behavior issues, course specific remediation plans may include (but need not be limited to) set expectations for student behavior, referral to the Director of CSD, referral for Academic or Unprofessional Behavior Review, referral to Student Support Services or referral to the Student Counseling Center.

Any time such a remediation plan is initiated, it will be communicated in writing by the faculty member to the student and to the Director of CSD and will include a written statement of the concern/competency to be demonstrated, a brief description of any work, assignments or evaluations required, and deadlines for completion.

Failure to complete any course-specific remediation plan successfully or any pattern of concerns across courses may lead to the initiation of a formal Academic or Unprofessional Behavior Review process (see Chapter 6).
Chapter 4. Professional Conduct

Students represent the program at all times. It is expected that students will exhibit professionalism, ethical behavior, and will report any occurrence of unprofessional behavior. Violations of any of these policies, including failure to report violations of student conduct or professionalism, may result in the student being subject to disciplinary action (see also Chapter 6).

Expectations for Professional Conduct

Ethics and Professionalism
Students are expected to adhere to the most recent version of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Code of Ethics. Students should become well acquainted with the Code of Ethics so that the judgments and decisions made as a graduate student form a solid ethical foundation for their future clinical practice as speech-language pathologists. Questions or concerns regarding the Code of Ethics or considerations of ethical behavior, may be directed to any faculty member.

The ASHA Code of Ethics is available: http://www.asha.org/Code-of-Ethics/. The main principles are.

Principle of Ethics I
Individuals shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally or who are participants in research and scholarly activities, and they shall treat animals involved in research in a humane manner.

Principle of Ethics II
Individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence and performance.

Principle of Ethics III
Individuals shall honor their responsibility to the public when advocating for the unmet communication and swallowing needs of the public and shall provide accurate information involving any aspect of the professions.

Principle of Ethics IV
Individuals shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain collaborative and harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships, and accept the profession’s self-imposed standards.

The following actions are strictly forbidden and will result in referral for Academic or Professional Conduct Review and typically will lead to a recommendation for a Hearing and possible dismissal from the program:
Any unauthorized release of client information protected by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) including but not limited to:

- Revealing the personal health or educational information of other persons, and this includes any identifying information including name, date of birth, age, diagnosis, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, contact information or clinic identity numbers, any images of the individual, or any other means through which an individual could be identified.
- Conveying private (protected) academic information of clients seen in educational settings or those of another student in the School of CSD, including but not limited to: course, exam, or assignment grades; narrative evaluations; adverse academic actions; professional behavior checklists or contracts; or clinical performance evaluations to any party within or outside the program.

Any misrepresentation of role or credentials including but not limited to:

- When posting information on social network sites, presenting themselves as an official representative or spokesperson for Pacific University, the School of CSD, or any affiliate organization.
- Inflating or misrepresenting academic or clinical credentials in on-line or face-to-face environments.
- Representing themselves as another person, real or fictitious, or otherwise attempt to obscure their identity as a means to circumvent the prohibitions included in this handbook.

Any threat or implication of threat to others including, but not limited to:

- Threatening or presenting statements that imply threats to anyone including but not limited to fellow students, faculty, peers, staff, clients, caregivers, clinical supervisors, or groups of individuals such as linguistic or cultural groups.

**Respect**

Respect for others is essential in therapeutic and professional relationships. The School of CSD recognizes that students, staff, faculty, and clients each bring individual cultural experiences, belief systems, and biases. In all interactions, members of the School of CSD are expected to demonstrate respect for others and uphold the University policy of nondiscrimination.

**Attitude**

Students are expected to possess and demonstrate personal qualities of honesty, dedication, responsibility, flexibility, compassion, sensitivity to differences and diversity, inclusiveness, and a positive outlook. Students are expected to: treat faculty, clients, clinical supervisors, staff, and peers with respect; display a willingness to learn; be able to accept constructive criticism; be punctual; and, be respectful of others in the classroom learning environment.
**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes, labs, clinics, and mandatory program-related meetings (e.g., orientation), unless excused in advance by the instructor. Absences and tardiness may negatively impact demonstration of required competencies and professionalism, including grades assigned in academic or clinical courses.

**Academic Honesty**

Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and students will be referred for an Event-Based Student Review (see Chapter 6) should any questions related to academic integrity arise. Academic integrity and definitions of misconduct are detailed in the Pacific University Catalog.

**Ability to Work Independently & Demonstrate Learning Outcomes Individually**

Students are expected to initiate and pursue study independently and to accept responsibility for their own learning. All assessments of student knowledge and skill must be student’s own work unless group submission is specified by the instructor. Prior to submission, it is each student’s responsibility to seek clarification about whether projects or assessments are expected to be completed individually or may be completed collaboratively.

Under no circumstances may a student share their Pacific University log in credentials with another student or provide access to another student to online learning or assessment platforms (e.g., Moodle).

**Ability to Work with Others**

Students are expected to cooperate, participate, share information, and show respect for fellow students and colleagues when learning. When group projects or assessments are assigned it is expected that each member of the group will contribute as an active and respectful collaborator.

**Appearance and Dress**

Students are expected to display a confident and mature professional demeanor, and to observe professional guidelines for cleanliness and appropriate dress at all times. See also expectations for professional appearance required in all clinical settings (see Chapter 2 and Appendix 2A: [https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/appearance_behavior_requirements.pdf](https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/appearance_behavior_requirements.pdf)).
Citizenship

Students are expected to demonstrate the attributes expected of a professional in all interactions within the School of CSD and when representing the School of CSD in the community. Students are expected to uphold the university’s non-discrimination policy at all times. As future professionals it is expected that throughout their enrollment students will adhere to city, state, and federal laws and regulations. Any student convicted of a misdemeanor or felony during their enrollment will be referred for Academic or Professional Conduct Review (see Chapter 6).

Use of Social Media

The School of CSD recognizes that social networking websites and applications—including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and others—are important and frequently used means of communication, collaboration, and networking. As future professionals, students are strongly advised to consider that regardless of privacy settings all information on social networking websites may be viewed by clients, clients’ family members, colleagues, and current and prospective employers.

Students are advised against accepting social media connections with clients or members of client’s families.

Additionally, the actions listed below may be considered a violation of professional conduct and will result in referral for Academic or Professional Conduct Review (see Chapter 6):

- Posting or sharing of statements or photographs that imply disrespect for any person, group of persons, or identities as included in the University non-discrimination policy or its equivalent.
- Displays of information including personal photographs or photographs of others that may reasonably be interpreted as condoning irresponsible use of alcohol, substance abuse, or sexual promiscuity.
- Displays of personal engagement in illegal activities including use of illegal recreational drugs,
- Evidence of impairment related to use (or misuse) of legal or illegal substances while on-campus or in any clinical setting,
- Posting of potentially bullying, inflammatory, discriminatory, threatening, or unflattering material on another individual’s website (e.g., on the “wall” of that individual’s Facebook site).

Essential Functions

Failure to meet or maintain the Essential Functions may result in referral for Academic or Professional Conduct Review (see Chapter 6).
Chapter 5. Student Resources

Support Resources within the School of CSD

The goal of the School of CSD is to provide proactive support toward successful completion of the graduate program. Our capacity to support you relies on your willingness to let us know your concerns and needs. Often a brief conversation is all that is needed to address a question or put in place a plan. The earlier we can accomplish resolution the better!

Students are welcome to contact any member of the faculty or staff at any time and are also encouraged to access any of the following resources:

Academic Advisor

Every graduate student is assigned an academic advisor no later than the program orientation. Your academic advisor is an excellent starting point to guide you through program-related concerns and/or to identify resources appropriate for your needs.

Clinical Advisor

Every graduate student is assigned a clinical advisor during the first semester of the program. Your clinical advisory serves as an excellent starting point to guide you through clinical education program-related concerns and any concerns related to clinical skill development or off-site supervision.

Director of the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders

The Director of the School of CSD is available by drop in or by appointment and can guide students through appropriate steps when facing a concern as well as help identify resources appropriate for your needs.

Student Support Committee

The School of CSD Student Support Committee is comprised of three members of the faculty appointed by the Director to serve students as a resource and provide a safe place for students to discuss issues and/or circumstances that may impact their success in the program. The committee may assist the student in communicating with all faculty, staff and/or other university offices, and direct the student to resources appropriate for the needs identified. See also Chapter 6.
Support for Student Conference Attendance

Graduate students may be eligible for funding from the School of CSD (subject to availability) to support attendance at professional conferences (conventions, annual meetings) under the following circumstances:

**Category 1.** If the student is listed in the program as an author or co-author of a presentation related to the discipline of CSD at a professional conference, or

**Category 2.** A student has a strong desire to attend a professional conference related to the discipline of CSD and can demonstrate how attendance would contribute to their learning.

Priority will be given to students in Category 1. Once funds have been allocated to students in Category 1, requests from those in Category 2 will be considered. Typically, any conference that offers ASHA Continuing Education Credit would be considered “related” and decisions about whether other conferences are “related to the discipline of CSD” will be made by the Director of the School of CSD.

All Pacific University College of Education administrative policies apply to obtaining reimbursement (i.e., all applicable paperwork must be filed and all applicable deadlines met).

The deadline for all conference requests is the first Monday in October in each academic year.

The Student Conference Travel Policy and Application can be found in Appendix 5A: [https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_conference_application.pdf](https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_conference_application.pdf)

**Pacific University Student Services and Support**

Pacific University provides a variety of support services for enrolled students. Some services are also available to members of students’ families.

**Pacific University Library**

The library system of the university offers a full range of services ranging from journal access, interlibrary loans, materials checkout, and study centers. For a list and schedule of all services, please check out: [https://www.pacificu.edu/libraries](https://www.pacificu.edu/libraries)
Technology Information Center - Technology HelpDesk

The Technology Information Center, or the TIC, is your one stop for technology questions. The TIC offers face-to-face support for all computer systems (Mac or PC, desktop or laptop), such as:

- General computing questions
- Virus and malware removal
- Configuration of centralized printers
- Installation and configuration of supported Ethernet and wireless network cards
- Document and image conversion
- Limited floppy and zip disk document rescue
- Network troubleshooting
- Software and general operation troubleshooting
- RAM installation (desktop systems only)

For contact information, hours, and services check here: https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/university-information-services/technology-helpdesk

Office of Accessibility and Accommodation Services

Office of Accessibility and Accommodation Services at Pacific University documents and coordinates educational accommodations for students with disabilities. Disabilities may be physical or learning related, and may be permanent or temporary. By policy, students who require accommodations must submit documentation to this department. The Office of Accessibility and Accommodation Services will evaluate the documentation and work with students to determine appropriate accommodations for each course. These accommodations may change over time and by course. Students are responsible for furnishing this documentation to the university through the Office of Accessibility and Accommodation Services. For more information: https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/learning-support-services

Student Health Center

The Student Health Center is a professional medical clinic with services provided by licensed Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Certified Medical Assistants. For hours, services, and information: https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/student-health-center/services

Student Counseling Center

The Student Counseling Center at Pacific University provides a range of services focused on the mental health needs of Pacific students. The SCC strives to support students in reaching their academic potential by focusing on intellectual, emotional, social and
cultural development. More information available: https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/student-counseling-center

**Student Support Services**

The Office of Student Support Services provides support and resources, in partnership with all graduate and professional programs, so that graduate and professional students can think, care, create and pursue justice in our world without barriers to their academic success. The primary mission of Student Support Services is student success. The staff support skill building to improve academics (time management, study strategies, test taking, etc.), provide guidance and resources (both internal and external to the university) for students who have personal struggles that interfere with academic success, and provide information about policies and procedures in their program and at the university. They are always happy to answer general questions to ease your navigation of the university: https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/graduate-professional-student-services

**Professional Student Senate**

The Professional Student Senate (PSS) is the body within the University’s governance structure representing graduate and professional students. Senators are the voice of the students and act to express concerns and foster inter professional development between programs and the University as a whole. Each program appoints two senators to the student senate. They work to support students through the distribution of hardship, graduation, research, professional and inter professional development funds. PSS also plans social events, acts as a forum for student ideas, and provides a link between all the professional programs. Senators also are appointed to university committees giving students a voice across the institution: https://www.pacificu.edu/current-graduate-professional/activities/professional-student-senate

**Hardship Grants**

The Professional Student Senate (PSS) assists graduate and professional students who have experienced hardship and have few, if any, resources to resolve the situation.

The PSS looks at the following criteria when considering a hardship request:

- Is the hardship impacting program attendance and functionality in the program?
- Has the student exhausted all other financial resources?
- Does the student have financial dependents (this is not required to receive funding)?
- Is the hardship documented?
- Does a small amount of funding from PSS help the student overcome the hardship, or is the hardship ongoing to the point that a small amount of funding does not remove the barrier to success?
Stoller Center

Use of the University athletic center and associated facilities (Stoller Center) is free for Pacific University students, faculty and staff. University community members may be asked to show current school identification to gain access to facilities. For hours and information: http://www.goboxers.com/sports/2011/3/15/stoller-center.aspx?&tab=4

Financial Aid

The financial aid center is available to assist prospective and current students with all aspects of the financial aid process, and to help make a Pacific University education as affordable as possible by offering a variety of academic and competitive scholarships, need-based grants, employment opportunities and loans to eligible students.

More information about Financial Aid is available here: https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/financial-aid

Additional financial aid information for graduate and professional students can be found here: https://www.pacificu.edu/about-us/offices/financial-aid/graduate-professional-students/financial-aid-policies/student-rights-responsibilities

Campus Public Safety

The mission of Campus Public Safety (CPS) is to provide a safe, secure and enjoyable environment for the Pacific University Community. To help keep CPS and others keep campus safe, please have your Boxer ID card with you at all times.

CPS provides protection for the members of the Pacific University community and the property of the University. CPS officers provide a variety of services on the Forest Grove and Hillsboro campuses including:

- Escort for students, staff or faculty members on and off campus, for example, to your car after dark.
- Jump-start vehicles with dead batteries
- Inflate flat tires of vehicles
- Open locked vehicles
- Key assists into secured labs, classrooms
CPS contact information should be entered into your cell phone for easy access should you require assistance. Forest Grove CPS support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Hillsboro Health Professions Campus is staffed by CPS during building hours. If you call the Hillsboro number after hours your call will automatically forward to CPS Forest Grove.

Forest Grove Campus Public Safety
503-352-2230

Hillsboro Health Professions Campus Public Safety
503-352-7207
Email: cps@pacificu.edu

When Should I Call Campus Public Safety? If you see something happening that does not look right or someone who does not seem to belong on campus, call Campus Public Safety immediately!

- If you are the victim of a crime that takes place on campus, call immediately. Campus Public Safety Officers will write a report and contact the local police for you.
- For medical emergencies, call 911 first and have someone else call Campus Public Safety immediately. CPS Officers will coordinate with local emergency services and provide them access as necessary.

**External Resources**

**Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology**

Students with concerns related to any aspect of the program’s compliance with accreditation standards may at any time voice their concerns directly to the Council on Academic Accreditation:

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard, #310
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: (800) 498-2071
Email: accreditation@asha.org
Website: [http://caa.asha.org/](http://caa.asha.org/)
Chapter 6. Student Support, Review, and Disciplinary Process

Student Support Committee

The goal of the School of CSD is to provide proactive student support toward successful completion of the graduate program. The Student Support Committee is established to oversee a process of student support and to implement all policies and procedures related to academic review or professional conduct concerns.

The Committee will:

1. Serve as a place for students to discuss issues and/or circumstances that may impact their success in the program, assist the student in communicating with all faculty, staff and/or other university offices, and direct the student to appropriate resources;
2. Regularly review policies and procedures related to student review and update as indicated;
3. Ensure regular academic and clinical review of all students, typically at the midpoint of each semester and the end of each semester, to ensure that each student is making adequate and appropriate progress through the program and bring instances where students are not making appropriate progress in the program to the attention of the Director;
4. Provide input to Faculty Discussion Panels to assist in their deliberations when requested;
5. Provide support and information resources to student and the Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing with regard to process, policies, procedures, and timelines for hearings;
6. Ensure documentation of proceedings and outcomes, including communication with students according to designated timelines.

The Student Support Committee consists of 3 members of the CSD faculty with term, extended term, tenure track or tenured status. Members are appointed by the Director, typically for a 3 year term of service with appointments staggered when possible. The members will reach consensus on who will serve as Chair annually. A graduate student is also appointed to the committee to serve each year. Should the committee call for consensus the three faculty members serve as the “voting” members of the Committee and adhere to the College of Education guidelines for reaching consensus. If consensus cannot be reached in a timely manner, members may bring a matter to the Director for a final decision.
**Misconduct or Other Concerns about Student Performance or Behavior**

**Student Reporting Responsibilities**
All students in the program are considered stewards of the program and the profession.

**Self-Report**
Students who are struggling academically, professionally, or with issues outside the scope of the curricular aspects of the program are strongly encouraged to discuss their situation with their academic or clinical advisor, the Chair of the Student Support Committee, or any of the many campus resources available to students (see Chapter 5).

**Concerns about a Classmate**
Students may be the first to notice that a peer is withdrawn or exhibiting other noticeable changes in behavior or performance. Students are encouraged to discuss their observations directly with the classmate and are encouraged to discuss their observations with a member of the faculty or to seek guidance through any other campus support mechanism. Providing compassion, support, or reporting a concern may help to prevent or moderate a difficult situation for that student through earlier identification and action.

**Observations of Misconduct**
Students are expected to bring forward legitimate concerns (i.e., violations of the ASHA Code of Ethics, the Student Code of Conduct, violations of university policy, or any threat to student health or safety) about any fellow student at any time. Such concerns may be directed to any faculty member, any clinical supervisor, the Director of the School of CSD, or any campus support resource. If students are uncertain about reporting or wish to discuss an issue with someone outside the School of CSD, they should direct their concerns to the Office of Student Support Services. All concerns will ultimately be conveyed to the Director.

**Review of Student Academic or Professional Conduct**

**Systematic Student Review**
As part of the School of CSD’s proactive, rather than punitive, approach to student assessment, student review is an ongoing process. Each faculty member is responsible for reviewing the students in their classes and/or practica throughout the semester. In addition, the School conducts a systematic review of all graduate students at least once per semester with the purpose of identifying any overarching concerns related to academic, clinical, behavioral, professional expectations or essential functions. The purpose of systematic review is early identification of potential problems to help students to be successful in the program. This review is conducted through confidential submission of any concerns to the Director of the School of CSD. Students have the
ultimate responsibility to seek support and take the steps necessary to be successful in the program.

Event-Based Student Review
Concerns or allegations of misconduct brought by faculty or students are submitted to the Director as they arise.

Concerns may occasionally be raised by others (i.e. community members or someone outside of the program). Any student or faculty member who is made aware of such concerns will report the concern and also advise the person raising the concern to report the concern to the Director of the School of CSD.

Response to Concerns about Performance or Allegations of Misconduct
Once a concern or allegation is received from any of the above sources (faculty, staff, students, community members), it will be reviewed by the Director who will then discuss the concern with the person who raised it and the Chair of the CSD Student Support Committee to gather additional information. The Director may act on the basis of a single complaint or concern or on the basis of the accumulation of several seemingly minor concerns that form a pattern. The Director may also elect to discuss any concern with the Dean of Students or other campus resource.

The Director, in consultation with the CSD Student Support Committee, may take any of the following actions or combination of actions:
- Meet with the reporting faculty to develop a course-specific remediation plan
- Meet with the student
- Meet with the student’s academic or clinical advisor or both
- Recommend a meeting between the student, faculty member, advisor or some combination of these
- Document observations and resolution in the student’s CSD file
- Refer the student to the University Office of Student Conduct
- Consult with the Dean, University Office of Legal Affairs, Student Support Services, or other relevant University personnel
- Appoint a faculty Discussion Panel to make a determination about referral for a formal hearing
- Appoint an Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing Committee and refer the student directly for a hearing (i.e., without convening a Discussion Panel)
- Other actions with the Director’s sole discretion

The Director has the authority to refer a student directly to the Office of Student Conduct or for an Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing and may elect to convene an advisory Discussion Panel prior to making a decision about referral.
Any student receiving a substandard final grade (see Chapter 3) in any academic course, practicum, or externship will generally be referred for Academic or Professional Conduct Review. Any student receiving two substandard grades or a grade of F in any single semester will generally be referred for Hearing with a typical outcome being recommendation for dismissal.

In no case will a student be dismissed from the program without an Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing being conducted.

**Faculty Discussion Panel**

The Director will make a determination as to whether or not a concern justifies convening a Faculty Discussion Panel. Such panels may be convened to consider and develop a response to a single concern or any observed pattern of smaller concerns. A Faculty Discussion Panel serves in an advisory capacity to the Director and makes a recommendation about a course of action.

A Faculty Discussion Panel will consist of at least three CSD faculty members and will usually be comprised of one or more faculty who are responsible for assigning course grades to the student in that particular semester. Discussion Panel members may be term, extended term, tenure-track, or tenured faculty. The Director will appoint one panel member to Chair the panel and the Director will serve as a non-voting member of the Panel.

Discussion panels will meet within 10 university business days of being convened. The panel will review the information gathered by the Director of the School of CSD, any relevant School of CSD, College of Education, and Pacific University policies and procedures, and any other relevant information the Panel wishes to review or obtain, including consultation with other University personnel. The task of the Panel is to make a recommendation to the Director about whether or not the concern warrants a formal Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing (for example, the concern has the potential to warrant a change in student status, or a formal sanction) or referral for Student Conduct review. A recommendation for Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing requires the consensus of the Panel.

If neither a formal hearing nor referral to the Office of Student Conduct is indicated, the Director may choose to document the decision or meet with the student to discuss the concerns raised, initiate remediation plan and/or notify the student about any next steps including the potential for a future Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing in the event of a repeated or similar concern in the future.
Recommendation for Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing

If the Director or Discussion Panel determines that referral to the Office of Student Conduct or formal Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing is appropriate, the Director will advise the student of the initiation of these processes within 5 university business days of the recommendation, which time may be reasonably extended by the Director in extenuating circumstances.

The Director will meet with the student to discuss next steps and recommend that the student consult with the Office of Student Support Services. If the student elects not to attend the meeting, the referral process will move forward.

If the student faces academic misconduct allegations and formally withdraws from the program, a referral to the Office of Student Conduct will occur and any findings of misconduct will be documented in the student’s academic record.

If the student voluntarily withdraws from the program related to performance in academic or clinical course registrations (e.g., failing or substandard grades), the student must submit a letter of intent to withdraw from the program (See Chapter 1). In this event, the program in its sole discretion, may elect not to hold a hearing in which case all relevant material including recommendations from Discussion Panels will be placed in the student’s file.

Hearing Process

If a formal hearing is held, possible outcomes include (but are not limited to):

- finding of no violation
- warning
- probation
- sanction
- suspension
- dismissal from the program

Except in cases of dismissal a hearing will generally include the development of an Action Plan.
Hearing Committee Composition

The Director convenes an Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing Committee. Reasonable attempts will be made to minimize potential conflicts of interest (see appended glossary for definition). For example, if a concern about a student is brought forward by a faculty member, that faculty member may be asked not to serve on the Hearing Committee, but may be invited by the committee to provide background information related to the concern. Simply having taught, advised, or supervised a student is not viewed as a source of conflict of interest. At the time of invitation to serve each prospective Committee member will be asked to disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the Director.

A Hearing Committee will usually consist of an odd number of voting members (e.g., 3 or 5):

1. Members of the hearing committee will be members of the faculty of Pacific University who are full-time, tenured, tenure-track, extended term, or extended-term track with an ideal configuration as follows:
   a. One School of CSD academic faculty (tenured, preferred)
   b. One School of CSD clinical faculty (extended term status, preferred)
   c. One faculty member from the School of Learning and Teaching and/or
   d. One tenured or extended-term status faculty member from the School of CSD or any other graduate professional program of Pacific University

2. One graduate student drawn from a professional program other than CSD.

The CSD Student Services Manager, or designee, will be present to record the hearing and to take notes for the committee excluding deliberations and calls for consensus.

Once membership of the Hearing Committee has been determined the Director of the School of CSD will appoint one voting member of the committee to serve as Chair. Hearing committee decisions will be made by consensus. The standard of evidence that committee members will use to make decisions is a preponderance of the evidence (i.e., more likely than not). After a decision, the Chair will document the decisions and submit a written decision and any recommendations including proposal for an Action Plan to the Director.

Pre-Hearing Actions of the Hearing Committee

Prior to any formal hearing the Director, or designee, may speak with the student, course instructors, clinical supervisors, or any individuals who may be able to offer relevant input to the Hearing Committee. If relevant, the Chair of the Hearing Committee and one other member of the committee may also meet with those individuals before the hearing to determine whether to interview these individuals as a formal part of the hearing itself. The purpose of this initial meeting is not to gather testimony, but to determine whether or not the identified individuals have direct
knowledge that could contribute to the decision of the committee. “Character” witnesses are not a necessary or appropriate part of this process.

**Formal Hearing Procedures**

The need for an Academic or Professional Conduct Hearing is determined by the Director of the School of CSD. The Director may consult with a Faculty Discussion Panel to make this determination.

**Notification**

The student will be notified within five (5) university business days of a decision to conduct a hearing that a Formal Hearing is to be scheduled. Hearings will be scheduled to minimize conflict with the student’s class or clinic schedule and will occur at least five (5) university business days after the notification and typically within ten (10) university business days of notification. The notification will include a list of the Committee Members in attendance. The student may object to the participation of any committee member based on demonstrated potential for conflict of interest (see appended glossary for definition). The student must submit this objection no less than 72 hours prior to the scheduled hearing. The Director will ultimately decide whether a conflict exists, and if so, will appoint alternate members.

**Attendance**

The student is required to attend the hearing. The student may have the option to attend through Skype, or other remote access, when there is a demonstrable reason to support this option. If the student is absent at the time of the scheduled hearing or otherwise chooses not to participate in the process, the hearing will proceed as scheduled and the student waives the right to object to the hearing and any information presented.

**Student Support**

The student has the right to have an advisor selected from the University community with him or her during the Hearing. The advisor must be a member of the University community and may not be an attorney unless the student is concurrently or potentially facing legal action related to the actions that motivated the hearing. The student is responsible for presenting her/his own information, and therefore, advisors are not permitted to speak on behalf of the student or directly to the Committee. The student should select as an advisor a person whose schedule allows attendance at the scheduled date and time of the Hearing.
Hearing Agenda / Sequence

1. A preliminary meeting of voting and ex officio Committee members is held to review procedures. This will typically be held on the same day as the hearing.
   - All voting Committee members should be present and participating. Alternates (to be appointed by the Director) may serve on behalf of absent/excused Committee members.
   - If all voting members are not present the hearing may be rescheduled or an alternate may be appointed.
   - The School of CSD Student Services Manager, or designee, is responsible for documenting the minutes to include the nature of the concern, specific evidence related to the concern, and the decision of the Committee. The minutes do not include deliberations or specific voting records.

2. With all Committee members, the student (unless the student elects not to participate), and student’s advisor (if present) present, the Committee Chair explains that proceedings will be audio-recorded and the recording is initiated. All persons present introduce themselves for the record.

3. The Chair reviews the process including the right of the student to be present at all times when information is received by the Committee. All procedural questions are subject to final decision by the Committee Chair.

4. The Committee Chair presents the relevant academic or professional conduct information that led to the hearing and this may include, but is not limited to academic records, assessments, written statements including emails.

5. The student is invited to respond to the information and provide statements about what contributed to the events/academic difficulties/professional conduct concerns that led to the hearing. Statements may include reading a prepared text.

6. Voting and any ex officio members of the Committee may ask questions of the student.

7. Witnesses (if applicable) may then be invited into the room one at a time and may provide statements relevant to the issue or concern. The witness may then be questioned by both members of the Hearing Committee members and by the student. The Chair may require that questions be submitted to and asked by the Chair or another member of the committee. All questions must be proper and relevant to the issue at hand. Each witness is excused from the room at the completion of any questions.
   - When privacy concerns or extenuating circumstances exist that may severely compromise the ability to conduct a fair hearing, the Committee may allow testimony to be offered in a manner that protects the witness
from humiliation or other duress, but allows the Committee and the student a full hearing of the evidence presented.

8. Should the student identify that the evidence being presented yields a specific need for further investigation the student may request a reasonable delay in the proceedings. Should this occur, the student (and advisor) will be excused and the Committee will reach consensus about whether to proceed or delay the proceedings. The decision whether to proceed or delay the proceedings is within the sole discretion of the committee.

9. If at any time during the Hearing the committee determines that further investigation is needed or that there are other possible witnesses would contribute valuable information the Committee may decide to suspend the Hearing to conduct further investigation. Such a decision requires the consensus of the Committee.

10. At the completion of student and individual questions to each witness the student (and advisor, if present) is excused and the recording is discontinued.

11. The Committee deliberates in closed session. The Committee makes a determination about the matter presented, up to and including dismissal from the program. Committee deliberations remain confidential.

12. The Chair of the Committee forwards the Committee’s decision to the Director of the School of CSD for review. The Director notifies the student of the decision in writing within five (5) university business days of the Hearing. With the exception of students dismissed from the program, the Director will also meet with the student to develop an Action Plan.

13. The Director of the School of CSD will follow appropriate university protocol to notify appropriate university administrators of any change in the student’s status including dismissal.

14. If the student disagrees with the decision of the Hearing Committee they may file a written appeal to the Dean of the College of Education following College of Education procedures. The student may appeal the finding of a violation or the sanction or both. A notification of intent to appeal along with all supporting documentation must be received by the Dean within (5) five business days of the student receiving the Hearing Committee decision from the Director. A college-level appeal review process will then take place.

15. If the student disagrees with the College appeal review decision they may file an appeal in accordance with the procedures of the University Standards and Appeals Board (USAB) or other procedures as outlined in the University Faculty and Governance Handbook.
If during the above process, information is discovered which indicates possible risks or threats to personal safety of students or others, the situation should promptly be brought to the attention of the Director of the School of CSD and the Dean of the College of Education. Notice should also be provided to the Dean of Students and Campus Public Safety, any of whom may provide notice to the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Office of Student Services, or others in accordance with established procedures or practice.

**ACADEMIC OR PROFESSIONAL REVIEW: GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**ACTION PLAN** - An outline of requirements for a student’s modified plan of study with a change in status (i.e. Warning or Probation) or a student re-entering after a temporary exit whether voluntary or involuntary (i.e. Leave of Absence, Suspension).

**APPEAL** – A student’s formal written request for reconsideration of the outcome of a prior decision at any level of the student Academic or Professional Conduct review process.

**APPEAL HEARING** – A formal meeting between the student and an Appeal Committee at the level of the College of Education or the University’s Standards and Appeals Board to review the student’s written appeal and to resolve questions or issues related to the student’s appeal. Written appeals to the College of Education or the University Standards and Appeals Board must meet certain criteria and these are defined in College and University handbooks.

**BUSINESS DAYS** – Business days are those days between Mondays and Fridays during which the university is open and fully operational. University recognized/observed holidays or closures due to inclement weather are not business days.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** - Any member of a committee in possession of information that could impair their impartiality or give rise to a perceived or actual conflict of interest shall recuse him/herself from decision-making responsibility during the review or hearing process and be replaced by an alternate. Conflict of interest disclosures by a committee member or raised by the student must include sufficient detail to persuade the committee that an injustice would result from their service in a decision-making role. Disclosures based merely on casual acquaintance or classroom interactions are not recognized as potential sources of bias.

**DISMISSAL** – Status to be used when the concerns about a student are so serious, or of a chronic nature, that permanent separation from program and the University is warranted. If a student is Dismissed, they may apply for re-admission in the future.

**EXIT** – When a student leaves the University, either temporarily or permanently, prior to completing a degree. Exits can be voluntary (Withdrawal, Leave of Absence) or involuntary (Suspension, Dismissal).

**GOOD STANDING** – A status to indicate a student’s satisfactory and expected academic progress through a program. A status of Warning or Probation is not considered Good Standing.

**HEARING** – A formal meeting between the student and a neutral committee/panel; typically occurs at a program or school level. The committee/panel reviews the relevant information and
arrives at a formal decision. The outcome from a Hearing is communicated to the student in a formal document within 5 (five) University Business Days.

**INCOMPLETE (grade)** – Majority of coursework is completed satisfactorily, but health or other extenuating circumstances keep the student from completing the course. Incompletes should be used in the spirit of this definition and not as a placeholder unrelated to health or personal issues, or as a means to force remediation. Any questions about use of the grade of Incomplete should be referred to the Registrar’s Office.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA)** – When a student requests a break in their program for medical or personal reasons, and has a pre-arranged return date. A student requesting an LOA are required to talk with University offices (Business Office, Financial Aid, International Programs), as appropriate, to understand potential ramifications of taking time away from their study. Students on a processed Leave retain their admitted status; however, they are not registered and therefore do not have the rights and privileges of registered students. An Action Plan will be created for the student that outlines the plan for return, including any modifications to curriculum. LOA is never used in lieu of suspension or dismissal to avoid academic consequences for substandard performance or inadequate progress.

**PROBATION** – Status to be used when a student has area(s) of significant concern. Students on Probation need to make significant and immediate changes as outlined in their Action Plan. Students placed on Probation remain enrolled; this status does NOT signify an exit from the university.

**REMEDIATION** - a plan put in place to address substandard academic performance. Specific assignments, actions, or expected behaviors/responsibilities stipulated to a student by the Dean/Director, which are to be completed according to a detailed timeline prior to returning to “Good Standing.”

**SANCTION** - a plan put in place to address violations of professional conduct and/or substandard professional dispositions. Specific assignments, remediations, and expected behaviors/responsibilities stipulated to a student by the Dean/Director, which are to be completed according to a detailed timeline prior to returning to “Good Standing.”

Examples of Sanctions may include but are not limited to:
- Written Warning, Behavior Management, “No Contact” Orders, Community Service,
- Restitution, Other Requirements, Loss of Privileges

**SUSPENSION** – Status to be used when the concerns about a student are significant enough to warrant a temporary and defined separation from the program with the expectation that the student will return. Suspensions may include specific stipulations that must be met prior to return (Action Plan). Failure of students to complete required stipulations of Suspension will be considered Unprofessional Behavior and reviewed as such.

**WARNING** – Status to be used when a student has area/s of concern, which may be academic, professional, or clinical in nature. Students on Warning need to make measurable changes as outlined in their Action or Remediation Plan.

**WITHDRAWAL** - A student may voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time*, for any reason with no intention of returning to the program. Such withdrawals must be done in writing. A student who plans to return to the graduate program is advised to consider a Leave of
Absence rather than Withdrawal. If a student is accused of an actionable offense, and withdraws from the school or college before the administrative process takes place, that process shall move forward and the outcome will remain part of the student’s record.

*Withdrawing after the 66% point of any term (contact the Business Office for this date) will result in grades of “F” being recorded for all courses, unless overridden by the Director of the School of CSD or the Dean of Education. The student should contact the Registrar’s Office with any questions about grades.*
APPENDICES

Appendix 1A. Essential Functions

Available: 

Appendix 2A. Consent to Disclose Student Information to Clinical Sites

Available: 

Appendix 2B. Requirements for Graduate Students in Clinical Settings: Name Tags, Clinical Dress Codes, and Professional Behavior

Available: 
https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/appearance_behavior_hours.pdf

Appendix 3A. Comprehensive Exam

Available: 
https://www.pacificu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/comprehensive_exam.pdf

Appendix 3B. Thesis Option

Available: 

Appendix 5A. Graduate Student Conference Attendance Funding Policy and Application

Available: 