

Classification and Qualification STANDARDS

Speech Pathologist

Class Code: 7976

Date Established: 06-30-1978

Date Revised: 02-01-2010

OVERVIEW:

Under general direction, the Speech Pathologist serves as the chief clinician providing the full range of speech pathology clinical services including diagnostic evaluations and therapeutic intervention for patients with speech and language disorders. Incumbents also coordinate clinic schedules, materials, and practices with the curricular content of the training program, as well as demonstrate the delivery of professional clinical services for the benefit of students. Also may supervise students.

TYPICAL ACTIVITIES:

The following examples of typical work activities are meant to illustrate the general range of work functions performed by a Speech Pathologist; they are not meant to be all-inclusive or restrictive. Work assignments may involve related activities.

- ◆ Make a clinical diagnosis of speech, language and hearing status based on the administration of formal and informal tests, the evaluation and interpretation of test results, parent interviews, and case histories.
- ◆ Develop a therapeutic intervention which involves the planning, implementation, and evaluation of remediation procedures with communication impairments such as articulatory disorders, delayed and/or deviant language development, stuttering, voice, aphasia, cerebral palsy, disorders of cleft palate, and disorders of speech and language resulting from a hearing impairment.
- ◆ Prepare professional reports and records of evaluations, planned therapeutic procedures, and results.
- ◆ Coordinate the clinic schedule and oversee clinic operations including evaluating, procuring, and maintaining inventories of clinic equipment and materials.
- ◆ Provide the clinical interface with the curriculum of the program through a continual liaison with teaching faculty. May demonstrate clinical services to students, parents, medical groups, and related professionals by live and/or videotape presentations and interface demonstrations. Assist in the recruitment of clients to ensure a variety of individuals exhibiting various language, speech, and hearing problems.
- ◆ May serve as a Speech and Language Clinical Consultant for educational, medical, other professional groups and parents. Keep current with developments in the field of speech and language pathology.

TYPICAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge:

Comprehensive knowledge of the theories, principles, and practices of clinical speech pathology work; speech anatomy and the basic pathologies involved in diseases or injuries resulting in physical and language disorders; current literature in the speech pathology field; and applicable state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of speech pathology and patient confidentiality.

Abilities:

Ability to effectively perform patient speech pathology evaluations and therapeutic interventions and to demonstrate techniques to students; initiate and develop quality standards and protocols to ensure accuracy in tests; effectively use equipment for evaluations and therapeutic interventions including, but not limited to, audiometers, sonographs, language masters, delayed auditory feedback, and biofeedback equipment; communicate effectively with patients, parent, faculty, and staff and write professional-level reports and correspondence; plan, organize, and coordinate clinical operational activities; supervise students; maintain patient confidentiality as required by applicable state and federal laws and regulations; maintain effective working relationships with faculty, staff, and parents; and be sensitive to and communicate effectively with diverse patients, parents, and students.

Education and Experience:

Incumbents must meet the educational requirements to become a licensed speech pathologist, which is a master's degree or equivalent in speech-language pathology or audiology from an educational institution approved by the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board. Sufficient experience to perform the assigned duties, which typically require two years of clinical speech pathology work.

Licensing/Certification Requirements:

Incumbents must possess and maintain a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Pathology awarded by the American Speech and Hearing Association and a valid license from the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.