



MS-SLP PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The MS-SLP Program is committed to supporting qualified students with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students must meet the following functional capacities (technical standards), with or without reasonable accommodations, to participate safely and effectively in coursework, clinical education, and technology-enhanced learning environments. These standards reflect the essential skills required of an entry-level speech language pathologist.

Communication Skills

Students must be able to:

- Communicate effectively, professionally, and empathetically with clients, families, colleagues, and other professionals
- Produce clear spoken and written English for clinical documentation, counseling, and instruction
- Adapt communication style across diverse cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic, and educational backgrounds

Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

Students must demonstrate the ability to:

- Comprehend, integrate, and apply complex information from classroom, clinical, and research sources
- Use critical thinking and clinical reasoning during assessment and treatment
- Follow policies, procedures, and supervisory instructions accurately
- Make timely, appropriate decisions in dynamic clinical environments

Sensory Observation Skills

Students must have sufficient sensory abilities to:

- Observe and interpret client behavior and responses
- Perceive verbal and nonverbal communication cues
- Access and analyze auditory, visual, and tactile information needed for evaluation and treatment

Professional and Behavioral Skills

Students are expected to:

- Demonstrate emotional regulation, sound judgment, integrity, and ethical behavior
- Maintain professional boundaries and respectful interactions
- Respond constructively to feedback and modify behavior accordingly
- Manage time and workload demands in varied clinical sites
- Maintain appropriate personal hygiene and professional appearance

Motor Skills

Students must possess motor abilities sufficient to:

- Participate in clinical tasks such as positioning clients, accessing materials, manipulating therapy tools, and operating equipment
- Use appropriate body mechanics to ensure safety for clients and self (SLP practice does not typically require high-force physical tasks; however, students must meet basic mobility and fine motor demands.)

Technology and Digital Competency Skills

Students must demonstrate the ability to:

- Operate computers, tablets, and other electronic devices required for coursework and clinical education
- Use learning management systems, videoconferencing platforms, email, and other educational technologies to participate fully in academic and clinical activities
- Learn and effectively use discipline-specific software and electronic systems (e.g., electronic health records, clinical management systems, telepractice platforms, simulation software, data collection tools, and clinical documentation systems)
- Navigate online resources, complete electronic documentation accurately, and submit assignments and clinical records by required deadlines
- Troubleshoot basic technology issues independently and seek appropriate assistance when needed to minimize disruption to academic or clinical responsibilities
- Demonstrate sufficient keyboarding, computer navigation, and digital communication skills to complete coursework, documentation, and clinical tasks efficiently
- Protect the privacy and security of confidential information by complying with HIPAA, FERPA, institutional policies, and professional standards when using technology and electronic communications
- Adapt to new technologies and software introduced throughout the curriculum and clinical education as required for competent professional practice

Accommodation Process

Students who require accommodations to meet these technical standards should contact the South College Disability Services Coordinator prior to the start of coursework or clinicals. Accommodation requests must include required documentation and will be reviewed to

determine reasonable and appropriate support.

Accommodations cannot:

- Compromise essential Program requirements
- Fundamentally alter academic or clinical standards
- Impair student or client safety
- Interfere with professional responsibilities or essential functions

For full institutional policies and procedures regarding accommodations, please refer to the [Disability Services Policy](#) published in the South College Catalog and the Student Handbook.