

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Master of Science

Required Professional Behaviors for Interns

- As an intern in the schools or medical/private clinic settings, you represent both your University and the internship site as you interact with clients and their families and when working with professionals from other disciplines (classroom teacher, doctors, nurses, etc.). You are essentially treated as an associate while you are gaining experience in the internship setting. You are responsible for following all of the rules and obligations of the internship site. Please make sure that you know what those rules and obligations are. Please conduct yourself as a professional Speech-Language Pathologist. This includes arriving and leaving the work site on time, timeliness in other work, a professional appearance, and for adhering to professional practices/ethics including maintaining confidentiality.
- When asked about desirable behaviors for graduate student interns, most program directors/Master Clinicians/supervisors agree with the following:
 - *Creativity and Flexibility*—Both are important qualities for anyone involved in service delivery.
 - *Good Communication*—Courtesy goes hand-in-hand with professionalism, as does sharing mutual respect with clients and professionals. Relationships are based on effective communication. Be sure to be a good listener and to be clear and concise in your messages.
 - *Collaboration*—Recognize that there is more to being a professional than just offering speech/language/hearing services. The client is better served when we serve as his/her advocate, which includes interacting with physicians, classroom teachers, family members, other clinicians who have an interest in caring for the client, and any others.
 - *Positive Attitude*—Start your day being happy with yourself; then you can be happy with others. Come to the workplace ready to see/treat clients and not just to “put in your time”.
 - *Competency*—Be prepared to evaluate and treat clients. Ask your supervisor/Mentor Clinician for references and/or observe others performing tasks where you feel you need more information or skill to perform the job adequately.
 - *Responsibility*—Arrive on time and wear your ID badge (if applicable). Exercise good judgment in terms of your personal appearance. Follow health, safety and sanitation practices. Adhere to professional practices, and maintain confidentiality.