

Professional Summit: Clarifying and Promoting the Regulation of Clearly Differentiated Provider Roles

July 22-23, 2011

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Arizona's Challenge

- **Speech Language Technicians (SLTs)**
 - Individuals with bachelor's degrees in speech & hearing science can provide SLP services in the schools
 - No restrictions on scope of practice
- Two programs developed at ASU to address the challenge:
 1. **Professional Enhancement Program (PEP)** to provide a master program in SLP for individuals practicing in the schools as SLTs
 2. **SLPA Certificate Program** to provide clinical training to undergrad students so they can practice as licensed SLPAs under the supervision of SLP

ASU's Professional Enhancement Program (PEP)

- Partnered with the AZ Dept of Education to expanded the SLP master's program at ASU
- PEP allows SLT working in school to obtain master's in SLP while they are working over 3-years
- Take the same classes as full-time master's students
- Clinical training is completed on the job
 - Applicants to the PEP must be employed directly by an Arizona public school district and there must be an ASHA certified SLP in the district that can provide supervision to the PEP student
- Clinical training with adults is provided in summers
- Critical considerations for implementation with the PEP

Consideration 1: Ensure that students admitted to PEP are comparable to students admitted to full-time program

Summary of Applicants to ASU Master's in Speech Language Pathology										
	2007 Applicants		2008 Applicants		2009 Applicants		2010 Applicants		2011 Applicants	
	PEP	Full Time	PEP	Full Time	PEP	Full Time	PEP	Full Time	PEP	Full Time
Total Number of Applicants	21	160	19	212	20	210	11	289	22	320
Average GPA	3.18	3.39	3.26	3.51	3.20	3.51	3.43	3.72	3.37	3.48
Average GRE	980	1010	992	1018	920	1020	978	1007	947	1039
Accepted Applicants	10	60	11	71	7	77	7	60	8	63
Number That Began Program	9	36	9	39	7	37	6	38	7	36
Average GPA	3.40	3.58	3.42	3.68	3.48	3.75	3.6	3.84	3.77	3.8
Average GRE	1055	1145	1047	1091	980	1150	1060	1168	982	1198

Consideration 2: Provide the same academic preparation for PEP and full-time students without adding more classes to accommodate work schedules

- ASU's master's courses met once a week from 4:30-7:15pm to accommodate PEP student schedules
- Two courses meet Friday afternoons
- Online versions of courses are being considered

Consideration 3: Provide adequate training with adult population to meet ASHA competency and Arizona license requirements

- Full-time students do at least one adult practica rotation during their first year
- This leaves summer adult clinic rotations available for PEP students
- PEP students complete adult practica over two summers
- Additional adult diagnostic training is provided during the first and second year for all students

Consideration 4: Ensure adequate clinical supervision while utilizing SLPs who have their own caseloads and little formal training in supervision

- Regular site-visits are provided by the PEP coordinator (university SLP supervisor)
- “Cadre of Supervisors” established
 - Recruited SLPs within the community interested in mentoring students
 - ASU Adjunct faculty status, library, resources
 - Continuing education seminars offered through the department once a year as a way to both assist with their ongoing training and to thank them for their generous support of time and professionalism

Evaluation of ASU's PEP

- Successful partnership between university and AZ public schools: 5th cohort of students will begin August 2011
- Allows ASU to take an additional 7-10 students into the master's program each year
- Partnered with 16 different districts in Phoenix metropolitan area
- 20 graduates to date; 18 PEP students currently enrolled
- PEP students can work as SLTs or SLPAs while completing their master's degree

ASU's SLPA Certificate Program

- Challenge: provide clinical training and prepare students to work as SLPAs with supervision from SLP, rather than SLTs
- Program designed to be completed by ASU Speech & Hearing Science Majors during their senior year
- Provides additional clinical courses and internships to prepare them to be licensed as an SLPA in Arizona

ASU's SLPA Certificate Program

- SLPA Certificate Program includes
 - Three 3-credit courses
 - Clinical Methods and Treatment of Communication Disorders (already required for majors)
 - SLPA Implementation of Treatment Plans for Individuals with Communication Disorders
 - Professional Issues and Ethical Considerations for the SLPA
 - Two 3-credit internships (to complete 100 hours of clinical interaction)
- Students apply when they have completed at least 15 credits in the major
- Critical Considerations in Implementation
 - Internship supervision
 - Adapting for students with other majors
 - Cost and benefits for students

ASU's SLPA Certificate Program

Consideration 1: Internship Supervision

- Undergraduates do not have open schedules like graduate students for internships
- Recruiting SLPs to supervise SLPA interns has not been as easy as anticipated
- SLPs need more education on how to utilize (and benefit from) SLPAs
 - Hosting workshops
 - Looking to ASHA and ArSHA to educate public

ASU's SLPA Certificate Program

Consideration 2: SLPA for Other Majors

- *ASHA's Guidelines for training, use, and supervision of speech-language pathology assistants* provided framework for Arizona SLPA licensure and ASU's SLPA's certificate
- Using those guidelines we have been able to add requirements to allow:
 - ASU SHS minors to complete SLPA certificate
 - Students with bachelor's in other areas who are completing background coursework to apply for master's in SLP, can also complete the SLPA certificate

ASU's SLPA Certificate Program

Consideration 3: Cost and Benefits

- Additional student fee for certificate program allow us to deliver SLPA courses and program
- Range of employment opportunities and pay varies for students graduating with bachelors and SLPA certificate
- Better prepared for clinic in graduate SLP programs but not necessarily more competitive applicants to graduate programs
- Beginning to explore options for student support and tuition assistance

Summary: Arizona's Challenge

- AZ Challenge: SLT (bachelor level) practice in schools without supervision or restrictions on scope of practice
 - ASU's PEP provides master's program for SLTs
 - ASU's SLPA certificate program provides clinical courses and training for bachelor level to practice as SLPAs rather than SLTs
- Solution through team work
 - Arizona Speech, Language and Hearing Association
 - Three universities: ASU, NAU and U of A
 - AZ DOE
 - AZ DHS
 - ASHA