SJSU | DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS AND SCIENCES

CDS Academic Standards Policy

The CD&S Department has specified the following standards for academic and clinical performance of graduate students, and the subsequent consequences for failure to meet the standards.

A. Academic Coursework:

1. Graduate students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 during each semester in the department.
2. A student whose GPA falls below 3.0 in one semester is considered to be on administrative academic probation.
3. A student whose GPA remains below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters will be disqualified from the program.
4. If a student receives a grade below a B- (i.e., C+ or poorer) in an academic course, that course will not count towards graduation requirements and must be repeated the next time the course is offered.
5. A student on administrative academic probation will be moved to the waitlist for clinic.

B. Clinical Coursework:

The following policies apply to the clinical practicum courses offered by the CD&S department to meet ASHA, CCTC, and CA Licensing Board clinical practicum requirements. These courses are EDAU 177 and 277, and EDSP 177, 277, 269, 276, and 278.

1. Assignment to a clinical practicum course is an opportunity granted to students in good academic standing.
2. Students on administrative academic probation will be placed on a waitlist for clinic and assigned a clinical practicum course only with instructor consent.
3. While enrolled in a clinical practicum course, students who do not conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner as indicated below will receive one warning. A second warning, or one instance of an egregious violation as determined by a CD&S faculty panel consisting of the supervisor, Director of Clinical Education, Program Director, and Department Chair, will result in immediate administrative disqualification with no opportunity for reinstatement.
    a. Confidentiality/HIPPA
    b. Clinic dress code.
    c. Respect for faculty/staff.
    d. Client care.
    e. Following departmental policies and procedures (including applying for clinics).
    f. Honesty.
    g. Academic Integrity
    h. Other (See Professional Dispositions on Clinical Evaluation Rubric)

4. Students must achieve a grade of "B" or better in all clinical practicum courses (see above).
5. Students receiving a grade of "B-" or lower in any clinical practicum course are placed on administrative academic probation and must repeat the clinical practicum course the next time space permits.
6. The clinical practicum course and hours accrued will not count towards graduation requirements and must be repeated the next time the course is offered.
7. Students receiving a second grade of "B-" or lower in any clinical practicum course will be disqualified from the program with no opportunity for reinstatement.
8. If a student receives a grade of "B-" or lower in a clinical practicum course, and any score on the Professional Dispositions criteria (on Clinical Evaluation Rubric) is in the "unacceptable" range, he or she will be disqualified from the program with no opportunity for reinstatement.
9. Students cannot earn a non-clinical Master of Arts degree. Students must pass all of the academic and clinical components of the program to be awarded a Master of Arts degree.

The university has authorized the CD&S department to determine a graduate student's fitness for the profession in dimensions that extend beyond course grading. Student dispositions for the profession of speech-language pathology primarily come to light during clinical course work on site or in the field. Behavior or demeanor deemed to endanger clients/children or otherwise determined to be unprofessional or unsuitable for clinical practice is cause for immediate action of administrative-academic disqualification from the program.

Written documentation of the reasons for dismissal must accompany the action. The disqualification, which can occur without any probationary period, may be appealed to the University Academic Disqualification and Reinstatement Review Committee. The disqualification is technically from the CD&S program only, not from the university as a whole. Because there is no unclassified status for graduate students, however, the action effectively disqualifies the student from the university unless another department or school agrees to accept the student into its program via a reapplication process.

C. Comprehension Examination Policy:

1. If a student fails the comprehensive exam, he or she will be offered a second opportunity eight weeks after the first administration.
2. If a student fails the comprehensive exam a second time, he or she will be offered a third opportunity at the next regularly scheduled exam date.
3. If a student fails the comprehensive exam a third time, he or she will be disqualified from the program with no opportunity for reinstatement.

D. Appeal Process:

For any disqualification delineated above, there is a right of appeal to the Academic Disqualification and Reinstatement Review Committee at SJSU.