# Essential Functions Required for Au.D. Graduate Studies

Adopted from the Council on Academic Programs in Communication Disorders

The technical standards set forth by the Doctor of Audiology Program in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level audiologist, as well as meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency, the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology. The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted into the UCONN Doctor of Audiology Program. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted into the program. On occasion, reasonable accommodations may be required by otherwise qualified individual candidates to meet the technical standards specified below. Requests for accommodations will be granted if the requests are reasonable, do not cause a fundamental alteration of the Doctor of Audiology Program, do not cause an undue hardship on the University, are consistent with the standards of the Doctor of Audiology Program, as facilitated by the University of Connecticut Center for Students with Disabilities. For more information regarding the University’s policy and procedures for accommodating students with disabilities contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building, Room 204, or via phone at 860-486-2020 or email [csd@uconn.edu](mailto:csd@uconn.edu) (website: [csd.uconn.edu](https://csd.uconn.edu/)).

UConn complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Contact: Office of Institutional Equity; (860) 486-2943, [equity@uconn.edu](mailto:equity@uconn.edu) (website: [equity.uconn.edu](https://www.equity.uconn.edu/)).

## Instructions

The following statements will be presented in your CSDCAS application. You will be required to attest to the following statements within the application.

## Section 1. Communication

A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

Communicate proficiently in both written an oral English language with patients, faculty, staff, peers, and other health care professionals in accordance with expected levels defined by the program.

Possess reading and writing skills sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.

Perceive and demonstrate appropriate non-verbal communication for culture and context.

Modify communication style to meet the communication needs of clients, caregivers, and other persons served.

Communicate in a manner that is respectful, with the ability to be flexible and recognize cultural or linguistic differences.

Communicate professionally, effectively, and legibly on documentation, reports, and any other written work required as part of coursework and professional practice.

Communicate professionally and intelligibly with faculty, staff, peers and other healthcare professionals.

## Section 2. Motor

A student must possess adequate motor skills to:

Meet the physical demands of practice across clinical settings.

Sustain necessary physical activity level in required classroom and clinical activities.

Respond quickly to provide a safe environment for clients in emergency situations.

Participate in classroom and clinical activities as is required by the curriculum and clinic schedule.

Access and manipulate all technology for clinical management and services (e.g. test equipment, durable medical equipment, charting, programming, and testing software, etc.).

## Section 3. Sensory/Observational

A student must possess adequate observational and sensory skills of vision, hearing, tactile and smell to:

Visualize anatomic structures.

Discriminate text, numbers, tables, and graphs associated with diagnostic instruments, tests, and assistive technology.

Recognize when a client or client's family does or does not understand the clinician's written and/or verbal communication.

Perceive and discriminate client/patient responses.

Identify the need for alternative modalities of communication or alternative modes of patient response.

## Section 4. Intellectual/Cognitive

A student must possess adequate intellectual and cognitive skills to:

Comprehend, retain, integrate, synthesize, infer, evaluate, and apply written and verbal information sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.

Self-evaluate, identify, and communicate limits of one's own knowledge and skill to the appropriate academic level and be able to identify and utilize resources to increase knowledge and skill.

Utilize written and verbal instruction to make unique and independent decisions.

Assimilate information, including the ability to comprehend professional literature and reports.

Analyze, synthesize, and interpret ideas and concepts in academic and diagnostic/treatment settings.

## Section 5. Behavioral/Social

A student must possess adequate behavioral and social skills to:

Display professional relationships by exhibiting maturity, compassion, empathy, integrity, and concern for others.

Recognize and show respect for individuals with disabilities and for individuals of any age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, culture, and socioeconomic background.

Maintain general good physical and mental health and self-care in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and others in the academic and clinical setting.

Adapt to changing and demanding environments (which includes maintaining both professional demeanor and emotional health).

Complete professional and technical tasks within realistic time constraints.

Accept appropriate suggestions and constructive criticism and respond by modification of behaviors.

Dress appropriately and professionally.

Maintain appropriate personal hygiene appropriate to the culture of individuals served.

Comply with administrative, legal, and regulatory policies.

Demonstrate regular attendance where expected and meet responsibilities in a timely manner.

Understand and respect authority.

## Section 6. Ethical

A student must possess adequate moral and ethical attributes to:

Conduct oneself in an ethical and legal manner, upholding the ASHA Code of Ethics and university and federal ethics guidelines, academic and research integrity guidelines, and privacy policies (including HIPAA).

Develop and maintain appropriate relationships with clients/patients and colleagues.

Represent one’s qualifications, training, and abilities truthfully to clients and their families, colleagues, faculty, staff, clinical educators, preceptors, other healthcare professionals, and the public.

Utilize social media in a manner that does not breach confidentiality of clients/patients/students, avoids misrepresenting one’s knowledge and skills, and is not defamatory in content.

## Section 7. Other Requirements

I attest that I have or am eligible for a driver’s license.

I attest that I have or will have access to a car for travel.

I attest that I will arrange transportation at my own expense to and from practicum sites if I am unable to meet the above conditions.