



Western Kentucky University

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
SLP 572- Contemporary Issues in Communication Disorders- Telepractice in SLP
Winter 2022

Course Prefix: SLP

Course Number: 572-701

Credit Hours: 3

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Winter Term Office Hours: Hours will be from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (CST) Mondays and Wednesdays. Appointment only for in-person or virtual meetings on other days of the week. Email is the preferred method of communication to contact me and/or schedule an appointment. The best way to reach me is email and students should expect a response in 24 hours or less.
**Office hours for this term are virtual. In-person meetings for students who are local or are on campus can be arranged with proper social distancing and masking guidelines when necessary.*

Class Meeting Day/Time

This course is a 5-week session, winter-term course. The university calendar mandates that 5-week winter term courses begin the week of December 14, 2020. Course content will be delivered using a hybrid approach of asynchronous and synchronous methods weekly. Synchronous class meetings will be help using Zoom, a videoconferencing program free to WKU students. Students should access the Zoom link provided through the Blackboard course site (see instructions later in the syllabus). Asynchronous learning will be delivered through Blackboard. Class times over the course of the term for synchronous (real-time, live) online class meetings will be on designated Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30pm Central Standard Time (CST) via Zoom unless otherwise noted by the instructor. These mandatory class dates are as follows: December 13, December 15, January 3, January 5, January 10 and January 12.

To fulfill course requirements as outlined by the university, asynchronous learning *must* occur outside of live class meetings. There are no exceptions. Asynchronous Learning Modules (AKA on-demand class) will be designed by the instructor and posted to Blackboard on prescheduled days; students will work through these modules at their own pace by the designated deadlines.

Modes of Instruction

Instruction will use both online, synchronous class meetings using Zoom and asynchronous class content delivered using Blackboard. Learning checks will follow to ensure assigned content was viewed and read prior to subsequent class meetings. Asynchronous course content will include, but not be limited to: pre-recorded lectures and online videos, small/cooperative learning group assignments, internet exploration, independent learning activities and assigned readings.

Required Text(s)

No required text for this class; weekly readings will be provided as PDF's on Blackboard.

Required Readings

Required Readings such as articles from professional journals or other published periodicals, will be provided by the instructor and posted on Blackboard in PDF version in the "Required Readings" folder.

Catalogue Course Description

An in-depth examination of a topic of current interest and relevance to speech-language pathologists.

- The current topic for this term is telepractice for the speech-language pathologist (SLP). This course will provide an overview of current telepractice best practices for the SLP as it pertains to assessment and treatment of various communication disorders across the life span. Current telehealth models will be discussed that are across healthcare disciplines and their relevance to the SLP. Attention will be given to the selection and use of hardware, software and internet variables. Telepractice guidelines will also be reviewed that relate to credentialing and licensure, state and federal laws and regulations, coding and reimbursement, telepractice for culturally and linguistically diverse populations and finally, advocacy and the advancement of telepractice/telehealth. Course content will be supplemented with hands-on experience using telepractice.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate a variety of skills that relate to the following knowledge and skill outcomes from the ASHA 2020 Certification Standards. Methods of instruction for all outcomes will include lectures, course projects, audio/video materials, and required readings from published reading materials provided by the instructor.

Learning Objectives	ASHA Standard	Method of Assessment
Knowledge Outcomes		
1. Demonstrate knowledge of several communication disorders and differences, including appropriate etiologies and characteristics of one or more of the following: speech sound disorders, receptive and expressive language impairment, cognitive-communication disorders, social aspects of communication and/or augmentative and alternative communication modalities.	IV-C	Case-based project, Assignments

2. Demonstrate current knowledge of the principles & methods of prevention, assessment and intervention for persons with one or more of the following: speech sound disorders, receptive and expressive language impairment, cognitive-communication disorders, social aspects of communication and/or augmentative and alternative communication modalities.	IV-D	Case-based project, assignments
3. Demonstrate knowledge of standards of ethical conduct.	IV-E	Assignments, Quizzes, Exam
4. Demonstrate knowledge of processes used in research & of the integration of research principles into evidence-based clinical practice.	IV-F	Case-based project, Assignments, Quizzes, Exam
5. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary professional issues.	IV-G	Assignments, Quizzes, Exam
6. Demonstrate knowledge of licensure and other relevant professional credentials, as well as local, state, and national regulations and policies relevant to professional practice.	IV-H	Assignments, Quizzes, Exam
Skills Outcomes		
5. Demonstrate the ability to write and comprehend technical reports, diagnostic and treatment reports, treatment plans, and professional correspondence in English.	V-A	Assignments, case-based project
6. Conduct screening and prevention procedures; collect case history information.	V-B-1	Assignments, case-based project
7. Select and administer appropriate evaluation procedures, such as behavioral observations, & non-standardized and standardized tests and instrumental procedures.	V-B-1	Assignments, case-based project
8. Adapt evaluation procedures to meet the needs of the individuals receiving services (i.e., telepractice services)	V-B-1	Assignments, case-based project
9. Interpret, integrate, and synthesize all information to develop diagnoses and make appropriate recommendations for intervention.	V-B-1	Assignments, case-based project
10. Complete administrative and reporting functions necessary to support evaluation.	V-B-1	Assignments, case-based project
11. Develop setting-appropriate intervention plans with measurable and achievable goals that meet clients' needs.	V-B-2	Case-based project

12. Select or develop and use appropriate materials and instrumentation for prevention and intervention (i.e., digital materials for telepractice)	V-B-2	Case-based project
13. Communicate effectively, recognizing the needs, values, preferred mode of communication, and cultural/linguistic background of the individual(s) receiving services, family, caregivers, and relevant others.	V-B-3	Assignments
14. Adhere to the ASHA <i>Code of Ethics</i> and behave professionally.	V-B-3	Assignments

Other Recommended Resources

- OWL – Purdue Online Writing Lab (APA formatting and style guide): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>
- ASHA – American Speech Language Hearing Association: <http://asha.org> See Practice Portal.
- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition*
<https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition>

Course Expectations

Students enrolled in this course are expected to be active learners and participants.

Evidence of active learning includes:

- Regular retrieval of course information from course Blackboard site
- Responding to instructor’s email and/or announcements when applicable.
- Engagement in and completion of all assignments as scheduled (includes exams and learning checks).
- Completing readings, activities, and watching media content that are provided on the Blackboard course site.
- For online instruction, participation includes “face-to-face” (video on), virtual communication with peers & the instructor during the designated weekly class meeting time.
- Posting comments, questions and/or engaging in discussion for Blackboard Discussions assignments regarding course content.

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation

All students are expected to attend all online scheduled class meetings as indicated. Students are responsible for learning material that is covered in class or obtaining notes/information from peers following any *excused* absence. Students are to follow rules and guidelines for excused absences set forth by the department. Students must contact the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate being absent for any reason, being late for any reason, or leaving class early for any reason. Points are awarded for attendance in synchronous and asynchronous (exit slip format) classes. For synchronous classes, students are expected to be in class on time and be present for the entire duration of class. Points are also awarded for active participation.

Communication

Your WKU email address is the ONLY one to which class correspondence will be sent. You are responsible for checking your email and the Blackboard course site regularly.

Course Modification Clause

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus, course schedule and assignments as needed. This is so that course requirements can be fulfilled, student and instructor needs can be met, and student learning potential can be enhanced. Any changes will be communicated to the students via an announcement through Blackboard or during class times as soon as possible.

Dropping the Course

Please see university guidelines.

Audio/Video Recording

Any student recording portions of online class, either audio or video, is prohibited without instructor permission prior to lecture. There should be no reason for a student to routinely record class lectures. All live class meetings may or may not be recorded by the instructor using Zoom; this will be at the instructor's discretion.

Assignment Format and Quality

Assignments submitted should be submitted using proper format and quality. All assignments must follow APA format when required.

Format. All papers must use Microsoft Word, unless indicated otherwise. Do not submit a Pages document; PDF's may be allowed when instructed. All assignments should be typed using a 12 point, Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins. All graded assignments that are uploaded as a file into Blackboard, must include your name, course number, term, and title of the assignment (all lowercase letters, no spaces, no symbols). Students must save files as indicated in each project description or points will be taken off the final grade. Example of file name: *ahatcherSLP572winter2020telepracticeessay*. Assignments must be uploaded by the due date indicated on Blackboard through the appropriate submission area. Do not email assignments if you have difficulty uploading to Blackboard. The instructor must have a permanent record of all assignments. Contact WKU IT if you have difficulty uploading a document- your contact with IT is documented. You may be asked by the instructor if you contacted WKU IT upon asking for assistance from the instructor.

APA style. Do not include title pages with written assignments/papers (although this is APA for manuscripts, it is not required for this course). The main concern for this course is using APA format for either within paragraph citations or at the end of a paper for a reference page. See the above resources and websites that provide helpful information concerning APA style and citations.

Quality. Assignments submitted should be in full and contain proper mechanics in writing (e.g., spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and punctuation). Inadequate demonstration of these mechanics will result in point deduction.

Due Dates of Assignments and Late Work

Assignments of any kind must be completed on the date listed within the syllabus and/or the due date posted on Blackboard, unless otherwise notified by the instructor (such as an unexpected extension). Students receive a course schedule well in advance of assignment due dates. Late assignments will not be accepted. There is no opportunity for make-up or missed work without

score deductions unless extenuating circumstances are discussed with the professor ahead of time. All assignments will be due by 11:59 PM Central Standard Time on the due date indicated on the “course schedule.” Again, student emergencies or extenuating circumstances will be addressed on an individual basis and must be communicated to instructor as soon as possible.

Grading Scale

Grades are based on the total percentage of points earned. This means that your grade equals earned points/total points. The grading scale is as follows:

A 93-100%

B 85-92%

C 77-84%

D 69-76%

F 68% and below

Evaluation of Student Achievement

Evaluation of student achievement is in the form of the following course requirements. Details of assignments and how students will be graded will be included in greater detail on the “course schedule.” There are 400 possible points for this course. Points for this course will be awarded for:

- Attendance and Participation (50 points total): Students are expected to attend and actively participate in each online, synchronous class meeting; includes accessing various resources posted on the Blackboard course site. *Important: Adherence to Zoom room behavior expectations will be considered when calculating these points at the end of the term; these will be reviewed at the first class meeting.*
- Pre-semester Reflection/Survey (20 points): Students will complete a reflection prior to taking the course by answering a list of open-ended questions regarding various aspects of telepractice.
- Learning Checks (50 points total): Students will complete two learning checks over the course of the term at 25 points each.
- Discussion Board Assignments (60 points total; 20 points each): Students will complete three thoughtful writing assignments on various course topics related to telepractice/telehealth over the course of the semester using the Discussion board feature on Blackboard.
- LAB Activities (100 total points; 20 points each): Students will complete 5 hands-on, practical “products” that focus on clinically-related skills and best practices in the care of individuals with communications disorders using telepractice; this includes the demonstration of technology skills using Zoom; each activity is worth 20 points. More details will be provided on the “course schedule” and on Blackboard. *Some of the LAB activities will be completed with a partner; these will need to be identified during the first week of class.*
- Post-semester Reflection/Survey (20 points): Students will complete a reflection after taking this course by answering a list of open-ended questions regarding various aspects of this telepractice course.
- Final SLP Telepractice Case Project (100 points total): Students will individually complete a final telepractice-related project that allows the instructor to assess ongoing learning, retention, and application of knowledge of telepractice over the course of the term. More details will be provided during class discussion and planning.

**COURSE SCHEDULE: ASSIGNMENT DETAILS AND A WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE
WILL BE AVAILABLE AND SHARED AT THE FIRST CLASS MEETING AS AN ADDEN-
DUM TO THE COURSE SYLLABUS.**

Technology Requirements

- Hardware: desktop or laptop computer, headset with microphone, webcam (internal or external)
 - All tutorials and assignments will be designed for use on a PC. Regardless of the type of computer, all students are responsible for completing all assignments.
- Software:
 - Latest version of Adobe Flash <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - Latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus <https://td.wku.edu/TDClient/34/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=12>
 - Zoom video conferencing software (see below under “Zoom”; upload software directly from WKU’s Student Resources)
- Internet Connection: A minimum of 5 Mbps broadband connection is required for this course.
 - Insufficient bandwidth is not an acceptable excuse for having inadequate audio and video during synchronous classes and/or for completing telepractice-related assignments or for submitting assignments on time.

Technology Management

This course will use Blackboard and Zoom software regularly. Blackboard works best with Firefox or Google Chrome.

Management of student technology. Managing student technology is the sole responsibility of the student. The student is responsible for making sure that: (a) student word processing software is compatible with that used by the University; (b) student email software is working properly and that students know how to use it (e.g., to send attachments to the professor); (c) Internet service providers’ equipment and software are installed and working properly in conjunction with student computers; (d) in the event that a student’s computer stops working properly or becomes totally inoperative, the student has another means by which he or she can successfully complete the course; and (e) any other student technology problem or issue gets successfully resolved; this in part implies that if a student cannot resolve any personal technology difficulties, his or her only workable solution may be to drop the course.

IT Help Desk. Please familiarize yourself with the business hours of WKU’s IT help desk as well as the website and alternative means of communication with the IT department. The IT Help Desk can be reached at 270-745-7000.

Zoom. Zoom is a video communications tool, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video conferencing, collaboration, chat, and webinars across mobile devices, desktops, telephones, and room systems. This course will use Zoom weekly for live videoconferencing (AKA synchronous). Students may also be asked to utilize Zoom to record videos to send to the instructor for assignments. For safety and security, the Zoom link for classes should be accessed in the Blackboard **Course Site** —> **Tools** —> **Zoom Meeting**, then click the “Join” box at the appointed day and time for class. Please visit this website to familiarize yourself with Zoom, since we will be utilizing this platform regularly: <https://www.wku.edu/its/zoom/>

ASHA and CAA Statements

CAA Accreditation Statement

The Master of Science education program in speech-language pathology at Western Kentucky University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

CAA Policy and Grievance Statement

Students should feel free to express any concerns about course content or delivery with Dr. Hatcher. If concern persists, please contact the Department Chair, then the Dean, then the Provost. If concern still persists after availing yourself through all previously listed university personnel, please contact the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, especially if the problem is related to a standard of accreditation.

The WKU Speech-Language Pathology program is accredited by the CAA in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Complaints about programs must be signed and submitted in writing to the Chair, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, American Speech Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850-3289. The complaint must clearly describe the specific nature of the complaint and the relationship of the complaint to the accreditation standards and provide supporting data for the charge. The complainant's burden of proof is a preponderance or greater weight of the evidence. Complaints will not be accepted by email or facsimile.

Western Kentucky University Policies and Statements

Academic Integrity and Student Code of Conduct

This course will adhere to the WKU Academic Integrity and Student Code of Conduct. Please visit these websites for more information about academic dishonesty and the WKU Student Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct contains new policies, requirements, and procedures that will be enforced for the 2019/2020 academic year. The links for this information is as follows:

<https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php>

<https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/student-code-of-conduct.php>

Plagiarism

From the WKU Faculty Handbook, 24th edition, p. 61-62: "To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism."

Disposition of Offenses. Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the University Disciplinary Committee through the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions. Students who believe a faculty member has dealt unfairly with them in a situation involving alleged academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure. Plagiarism in ANY portion of this course including but not limited to abstracts, projects, reports, rough drafts, and final papers will be severely penalized.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (#0.070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Deborah Wilkins, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

ADA Accommodation Statement

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu . Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

University Grievance Policy

The University's grievance (complaint) policy is specified at the following URL:
https://www.wku.edu/sarc/student_grievance.php

WKU Diversity Statement

Western Kentucky University is committed to empowering its campus community to embrace diversity by building equitable and inclusive learning, working, and living environments. At the heart of our mission, we seek to provide holistic education and employment experiences that prepare students, faculty, and staff to become effective scholars, contributors, and leaders in our diverse and evolving communities.

COVID-19 Statement

All students are strongly encouraged to [get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in [Kentucky](#), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)): [270-745-5004](#) (voice), [270-745-3030](#) (TTY), or [270-288-0597](#) (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

“Technology will never replace great teachers, but technology in the hands of great teachers is transformational.” -Anonymous