Technical Standards for Audiology

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Abstract: Session “G”

• A primary topic of last year’s CAPCSD meeting concerned the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act and its impact on academic programs.
• Out of this general discussion of the ADA Act and accommodations, the specific recommendation was made that all health care training programs should have Technical Standards in place.
• Technical Standards address non-academic criteria essential for participation in an educational program with the goal of graduating students with a clinical degree.
• Technical Standards define the underlying physical and mental skills and abilities an individual should possess when seeking to provide services within the scope of practice of a health care professional.
• This presentation will present our review of national Technical Standards, highlight the common elements of Technical Standards, and recommend that audiology programs within CAPCSD collaborate to create a national Technical Standards document.
CAPCSD 2014

• ADA Accommodations
  – Take Home Message
  – Get Your Technical Standards in Place
Technical Standards ...

... Don’t Assume One’s

• Ability,
• Disability, or
• Student Rights
Definition

Technical Standards (Essential Functions)

• Non-academic criteria essential for participation in an educational program including, but not limited to
  – physical,
  – cognitive, and
  – attitudinal abilities.
SU OCA Technical Standards

- Develop and Implement
- Review of Literature
- Gold Standard
Skills

- Behavioral – interpersonal skills
- Communication skills
- Intellectual, cognitive, clinical reasoning
- Motor skills
- Sensory-observation
Unique Technical Standards

• Hear auscultatory sounds using a stethoscope.
• Read gauges (such as a sphygmomanometer)
• Collect specimens
• Detect ketones on a patient’s breath.
• An individual must be able to discriminate shades of black and white patterns in which the band is no more than 0.5 mm in width.
Unique Technical Standards

• An individual must be able to perceive the natural or amplified human voice without lip reading.
• An individual must be able to differentiate between four round semisolid objects having diameters of 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 cm and judge the shape and consistency of objects when the arm is extended and the eyes are closed.
Unique Technical Standards

• An individual must be able to hold, manipulate, or tie materials ranging from a cloth patch to a very fine string.

• They must have the physical ability to move sufficiently from room to room and to maneuver in small places.
Unique Technical Standards

• Adjust, move and position equipment and patients, which involves bending or stooping freely to floor level, reaching above the head, lifting, carrying, pulling, and pushing.

• Palpate a pulse and detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin temperature, body segment contour, muscle tone, and joint movement.
Goldilocks Principle
Physician Assistant: Too Hot

- ARC-PA
- Very Prescriptive
  - Programmatic issues
  - Academic issues
  - Clinical issues
Audiology: Too Cold

- Ad Hoc Approach
- Guidance Document?
- No Consensus
Optometry - Just Right

ASCO

• Suggested
• Endorsed
• Voluntary
Moving Towards the Middle ...

Let’s be just right too!!!
Who Should Lead Audiology?

• Accrediting Agency?
• The Professional Associations?
• Individual Training Programs?

• CAA or ACAE
• AAA or ASHA
• 74 Possible Solutions
Educational Association?

- We run the training programs
- We educate students
- We are familiar with ADA accommodations
- We implement ADA accommodations
- *It’s What We Do!*
• Communication Sciences & Disorders
  – One document for one discipline?
  – Two documents for two professions?
    • Audiology
    • Speech Language Pathology

"Two Professions, One Discipline;“
Kate Gottfred
2008 ASHA President
Professional Differences

Speech & Language
• Degree: MA / MS
• Certification: CCC-SLP
  – CCC: Post-graduation
  – CCC Hours: 400 + 1260
• Accreditation: CAA
• CAA Standard 3.0B
  – KASA SLP

Audiology
• Degree: AuD
• Certification: CCC-A / ABA
  – CCC: Pre-graduation
  – CCC Hours: 1820
• Accreditation: CAA / ACAE
• CAA Standard 3.0A
  – KASA AuD
Be Proactive Not Reactive

“Control Your Own Destiny or Someone Else Will”

- Jack Welch
Review of CAPCSD Actions

• 2006 Task Force

• 2007 Workshop
  – Rubric release on CAPCSD website
  – Preliminary publication

• 2009 Peer-review Publication
Don’t Reinvent

Revise & Unify
Power of Formal Acceptance

• Stands up to scrutiny by outsiders
• Not mandated on us by someone else
  – Multiple professional organizations
• Managed by professional educators
Questions For You

1. Leave the 2007 CAPCSD alone?
   - *Unofficial & voluntary status*

2. New CAPCSD Task Force?
   - *Review, revise and formally accept document*

3. Separate audiology document in CAPCSD?

4. Take the task to CAuDP at AAA?

5. Other ideas?
“Technical Standards for Audiology:

Time to Formalize and Unify”

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References
