

Vanderbilt Department of Hearing & Speech Sciences (DHSS)

Autism Specialty Track

Interdisciplinary Personnel Preparation to Serve Infants and Young Children with Autism # H325K190064

COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

CLASS	WHEN	GRANTEE	AFFILIATE
*SLP 5323 - Autism	Fall Year 2	Required	Required
SLP 5335 - AAC	Fall Year 2	Required	Required
SPED 7400 - Intro to ABA	Fall Year 1	Required	Optional
SPED 8800 - Experimental Analysis of Behavior	Fall Year 2	Required	Optional

*Note: this course is available to all SLP students as an elective regardless of whether or not they are on the Autism Specialty Track.

CLINIC REQUIREMENTS

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE	WHEN	GRANTEE	AFFILIATE
Maymester (ASD Dx Clinic, Hanen program; individual ASD SLP, OT, feeding therapy)	May Year 1	Required	NA
PCA Café (6 meetings across 2 years)	Year 1 & 2	Required	Required
*PCA placement	--	Required (Fall Year 2)	NA
*ASD Dx Clinic placement	Summer or Fall Year 2	NA	Required
Hanen parent program	Fall Year 2	NA	Required

* Note: Placements in ASD clinic settings (e.g. individual and group SLP therapy, feeding therapy) also will be provided to SLP students who are not on the Autism Specialty Track.

CLINIC REQUIREMENTS

TRAINING	WHEN	GRANTEE	AFFILIATE
ADOS-2 Workshop	TBD	Required	Required
LEND ASD modules (completed during SLP 5323 ASD class)	Fall Year 2	Required	Required
ASD, SLP, & ABA Journal Club (80% of monthly sessions)	Year 1 & 2	Required	Required
CELA ASD case simulation experience	TBD	Required	Required
ASD Conference (1/year)	Year 1 & 2	Required	NA
Workshop on Disability Identity, Inclusion, & Justice	Year 1	Optional	Optional
TRIAD & SPED ASD ABA services case observations	Year 1 & 2	Optional	Optional
ASD Research Thesis project (DHSS or SPED research lab)	Year 2	Optional	Optional
ASD Specialty Track Cohort Meetings (1/semester)	Year 1 & 2	Required	Required



ASD Diagnostic Program at VBWC

Through collaboration between Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center (VBWC) and Vanderbilt TRIAD/Division of Developmental Medicine (DDM), VBWC currently offers comprehensive speech/language evaluations including autism-specific assessment for patients who meet criteria for participation. Our protocol includes administration of the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-Second Edition (ADOS-2) in addition to an extensive DSM V clinical interview, review of medical records, speech/language testing, adaptive testing and parent counseling/education.

Students who participate in the clinic should have formal ADOS-2 training completed. Students will have various opportunities to observe comprehensive assessments and may assist with collecting information from the DSM V Parent Interview, submit clinical observations, administer and score the ADOS-2 and other standardized language measures, score and document the ADOS-2 administration, and counsel parents regarding the diagnosis and recommendations.

Evaluations take place on Monday mornings/afternoons and Wednesday/Thursday mornings each semester. Students who are placed in the ASD Diagnostic Clinic will have additional clinic hours devoted to observing occupational therapy and feeding therapy as well as individual speech/language therapy with children who have ASD.

Preschool for Children with Autism (PCA) at VBWC

The PCA is an intensive communication program specifically designed for children with autism from 18 months-5 years of age. Classes are led by speech/language pathologists, with a focus on assisting children to develop functional communication skills that will accelerate their social, academic, and behavioral growth. A variety of evidence-based interventions along with principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) are incorporated throughout the day. Students will have the opportunity for an intensive placement (two days per week at minimum in the Fall or Summer) that develops skills in use of Augmentative/Alternative Communication (AAC), modified PECS, pivotal response training, use of visual supports, and other evidence-based practices within a classroom setting. Management of classroom space, group participation, and challenging behaviors are all emphasized in the student experience, with the student trainee assuming as much leadership of the classroom as possible by the end of the placement. Classes meet Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings 8am-noon each semester.

PCA Café

PCA Café is a component of parent education/support within the PCA program. Approximately once a month, speakers from a variety of sources (e.g., within VBWC, TRIAD, the Vanderbilt community and the community at large) gather on Tuesday or Wednesday morning in the Pediatric Speech and Language Clinic conference room to facilitate discussion around a particular topic related to parenting a child with ASD. Past topics have included feeding, ABA, managing challenging behavior, AAC, toilet training, school transitions, and grants/other sources of aid. Students will have the opportunity to observe and participate in at least 6 of these meetings across the two years of the graduate program. Students will be notified of the PCA Café schedule each semester.

Hanen More Than Words (MTW)

Hanen More Than Words is a component of parent education within the PCA and the Pediatric Speech and Language Clinic. The program is led by Hanen-certified speech/language pathologists to provide parents of young children with ASD with practical tools to help their children communicate. Videotaped sessions of parents' own interactions with their children are captured and reviewed at discrete

points in the training process to encourage self-reflection on use of strategies. The program is held weekly on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings for twelve week sessions. Students will have the opportunity to observe at least one morning each semester.

ADOS-2 Training Workshop

The ADOS-2 is the "gold standard" instrument for assessing and diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders. This training workshop is conducted by experts at Vanderbilt's TRIAD program and is designed to provide attendee's with hands-on knowledge of and experience with the administration, scoring, and interpretation of the ADOS-2 for a variety of ages. Completion of this workshop results in clinical certification for the ADOS-2. There is no cost for this ADOS-2 workshop for grantees and affiliates on the Autism Specialty Track.

Autism SLP & ABA Journal Club

This is a monthly, 1 hour discussion of journal articles that are relevant to the practice of SLP and ABA, and to issues related to multi/interdisciplinary practice in ASD. Students will be assigned an article to read and then will be expected to participate in an informal Q&A + discussion-type session focusing on the article and relating the article to their class work and their clinical training. The Monthly Journal Club is held remotely via Zoom. From time to time, this time slot will be used to host relevant speakers or other activities of interest to our Specialty Track. Date and time for this will be determined each semester based on the consensus of the group.

Maymester

Maymester is designed to provide grantees of our specialty track a unique opportunity for a 4-week immersive (full-time) practicum working with children with ASD and their families. During the usual month-long break between spring and summer semesters, our students will participate in classroom or clinical placements designed specifically to meet our student's individual interests and needs. Every effort will be made to ensure that the Maymester experiences are interdisciplinary including a mixture of students (ECSE, SLP) on site. These Maymester practicums will be used to provide opportunities for students to clock BCBA/BCaBA supervised practice hours (approximately 120 hours).

Center for Experiential Learning & Assessment (CELA)

CELA is a highly innovative instructional environment at VUMC. CELA's "patients" are trained employees (actors) who portray patients and interact in a standardized scenario with our students. For example, standardized patients might portray parents receiving the diagnosis of ASD for their child from our students. These patient scenarios are developed in a problem-based learning format that can take a variety of forms from patient testing, to family counseling, to participation in an IFSP or IEP.

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND)

As part of the SLP 5323 course in Autism, our students will work on two modules offered via the LEND program. These projects are focused on ASD and allow for working in interdisciplinary teams with feedback from the grant leaders.

ABA Clinical Activities

The ABA clinical activities involve accumulating observation and practice hours working in one of the ABA clinics offered through SPED and TRIAD, and also a monthly individual supervision meeting with a BCBA and a monthly group supervision meeting with a BCBA. These ABA clinic and BCBA supervision activities are built into the SPED BCBA curriculum for ECSE Grantees on the ASD Specialty Track.