

Communication Sciences & Disorders Students'

Integration of Research and Practice

Communication Sciences and Disorders Multicultural Certificate – College of Communications

Step 1: Student Learning Outcome

Demonstrate knowledge of current research and research methodology involving individuals/communities/populations from diverse cultural-linguistic backgrounds

Step 2: Methods and Measures

Direct Measures:

- Independent Study Research Project (COMD 599): Project focus is on culturally-linguistically diverse populations/multicultural.
- Employer Survey: Administered to employers of all students who have graduated from the COMD master's degree program. Employers assess students' clinical skills with respect to the delivery of evidence-based clinical practice and the ability to work with clients from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds in a culturally sensitive, responsive, and appropriate manner.

Indirect Measures:

- Exit Interview: Students complete an exit interview survey with the Communication Disorders and Sciences (COMD) department chair during their last semester of graduate school. Questions relate to students' primary objectives for completing the Multicultural Certificate and the knowledge base that they have attained regarding research, evidence-based clinical practice, cultural sensitivity, awareness, diversity, equity, and inclusion as it relates to individuals from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
- Graduate Survey: Administered post-graduation to all COMD master's degree program completers. Students self-assess the knowledge and skills they have obtained implementing evidence-based clinical practice while working with clients from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds in a culturally sensitive, responsive, and appropriate manner.

Step 3: Criteria for Success

Direct Measures:

- 100% of MC Certificate applicants will successfully complete COMD 599 Multicultural Certificate Independent Study with a grade of "B" or better.
- 80% of Employer Survey respondents "agree" or "strongly" agree to all items dealing with research methodology involving individuals/communities/populations from diverse cultural-linguistic backgrounds.

Indirect Measures:

- 80% of Exit Interview respondents “agree” or “strongly” agree to all items dealing with research methodology involving individuals/communities/populations from diverse cultural-linguistic backgrounds.
- 80% of Graduate Survey respondents “agree” or “strongly” agree to all items dealing with research methodology involving individuals/communities/populations from diverse cultural-linguistic backgrounds.

Step 4: Results

Direct Measures:

- 100% of COMD MC Certificate recipients (n=2) completed the COMD 599 Multicultural Certificate Independent Study project with a grade of “B” or better.

Indirect Measures:

- COMD MC Certificate Exit Survey: Completed and returned by one of the two 2021-2022 COMD MC Certificate recipients (Recipient #1 who graduated in January 2022). Self-ratings revealed “strongly agree” for all rated survey items associated with the learning objective, e.g., “As a result of my COMD 599 Multicultural Independent Study experience, I am learning/have learned: a) A lot of new information about the multicultural research literature related to my COMD 599 independent study topic;” and b) “More about how to conduct research involving multicultural populations and/or issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders.” There is no comparison to previous assessment results or improvement actions, as this was the first year this assessment was administered.

NOTE: COMD Graduate and Employer Surveys were undergoing modification and were not administered during this reporting period. Future administration aims to obtain data that will enable the department to determine whether responses for individuals who self-identified as recipients of the COMD Multicultural Certificate differed in any way from graduates who solely took multicultural coursework in our program without the additional multicultural research and certificate.

Step 5: Improvement Actions

Develop and administer a modified MC Certificate Exit survey to substitute the former proposed employer and graduate surveys. This modified survey will be sent to all COMD master’s degree graduates within 30 days of graduation, regardless of whether they completed the COMD multicultural certificate. The revised survey assists in improving response rates that may be disaggregated to examine any differential impact of the COMD Multicultural Certificate and examine how well graduates are prepared in alignment with accreditation standards by ASHA’s Council for Academic Accreditation set to go into effect January 2023 that expand an emphasis on an infusion of issues related to diversity/equity/inclusion through academic and clinical training.