



Inherent Requirements

Master of Speech Pathology



Definition

Inherent requirements are the fundamental components that demonstrate the abilities, knowledge and skills required to achieve the core learning outcomes of a course. They are based on course learning outcomes, which are designed to reflect professional standards. Reasonable adjustments can be made to meet the requirements; however, any adjustment must not fundamentally change the nature of the inherent requirement.



Related webpage and policy

[Inherent requirements](#)

[Admissions Policy](#), [Course and Subject Design \(Coursework\) Procedure](#), [Disability and Work or Study Adjustment Policy](#), [Fitness for Study Procedure](#), [Workplace Learning for Students with Disability Guidelines](#).

Domain – Ethical, legal, and professional behaviour

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with relevant legislation, policies, guidelines, professional regulations and codes of conduct. Honest, ethical and professional behaviour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech pathology is a profession that is governed by professional standards and a code of ethics and a national code of conduct for allied health professionals in which speech pathologists are both accountable and responsible for ensuring safe and professional behaviour in all contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrating appropriate behaviour with confidential information in classroom and professional experience placement learning settings. Demonstrating academic integrity in assessment tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustments must ensure the codes and standards are not compromised or result in unethical behaviour. Adjustments must be consistent with legislative and regulatory requirements.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with the codes, guidelines and standards facilitates safe, competent interactions and relationships for students and/or the people with whom they engage. This supports the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrating honesty, integrity and professionalism in communication with the University and placement providers. • Demonstrating appropriate behaviour with medico legal requirements relating to informed consent, privacy and confidentiality in academic and clinical settings. • Demonstrating the ability to reflect on ethical dilemmas and issues and take responsibility for ethical behaviour in line with the Speech Pathology Australia Code of Ethics. 	
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Domain – Behavioural and emotional stability

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars	Adjustments
<p><i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i></p>	<p><i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i></p>	<p><i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i></p>	<p><i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained appropriate behaviour in academic and clinical environments. • Capacity to monitor own behaviour and emotions and adjust behaviour when required. • Capacity to respond safely and effectively to stressful situations. • Capacity to adapt to changing environments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural stability is required to work individually and in teams in changing and unpredictable environments. Speech pathology students will be exposed to health care and disability contexts in which they will encounter unexpected and potentially challenging diversity in human experiences, students will be required to have behavioural stability to manage these events objectively and professionally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being receptive and responding appropriately to constructive feedback in academic and professional settings. • Managing own emotions and behaviours and coping effectively when interacting with individuals, groups and co-workers in professional settings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments must support stable, effective and professional behaviour in academic and diverse clinical settings without impacting patient safety or the student's exposure to a range of clinical settings and scenarios that are required to meet the course learning outcomes and professional accreditation requirements and scope of practice. • Adjustments must be able to be sustainably implemented in the clinical environment without compromising safety or the efficiency of the environment.

Domain – Communication

Subdomain – Verbal communication

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect for diversity during individual, family and community interactions. • Accurate and timely comprehension and processing of conversational speech, verbal instructions and feedback. • Clear expression with intelligible and appropriate instructions and feedback required for the communication context. • Capacity to provide an accurate and timely model of speech and language skills in clinical setting. • Effective presentation of information in a group/ team setting. • Ability to use interpersonal communication skills to positively interact and build rapport with others. • Ability to respond appropriately during communication interactions with others when ‘higher level’ language skills are required including understanding abstract concepts, humour and responding appropriately to cynicism or sarcasm. • Capacity to adapt own communication to provide accessible information and facilitate others to effectively communicate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal communication is a core element of speech pathology professional practice. • Communicating in a way that displays respect and empathy with others underpins effective professional relationships. • Comprehension of conversation, instructions and feedback is integral to clinical learning and practice. • Accurate, clear and appropriate speech and language models are required to provide effective therapy. • Presenting verbal information in group situations is consistently required in speech pathology workplaces. • Timely, accurate and effective delivery of instructions and feedback is essential for speech pathology management. • Speech pathology students will need to adapt their communication in response to clients’ communication needs. • Speech pathology practice may include communication in face to face and online environments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in tutorial, simulation, clinical discussions and verbal presentations. • Demonstrating verbal communication skills to convey complex clinical speech pathology information, concepts, assessment and management with individuals, families and communities. • Communicating effectively with peers, educators, and team members to plan, implement and evaluate speech pathology services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments must address effectiveness, timeliness, clarity and accuracy of verbal communication to ensure safe, appropriate and effective practice.

Subdomain – Non-verbal communication

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity to recognise, interpret and respond appropriately to non-verbal behavioural cues by others Capacity to use non-verbal behaviours to facilitate positive interpersonal interactions with others Consistent and appropriate awareness of own behaviours during communication interactions Responsiveness to children and adults who communicate using multimodalities, augmentative communication and or Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to observe and understand non-verbal cues assists with building rapport with people and developing academic and professional relationships. Displaying consistent and appropriate facial expressions, eye contact, being mindful of space, time boundaries and body movements and gestures facilitates effective communication. The ability to observe and understand non-verbal cues is essential for safe and effective observation of client communication and mealtime management. Understanding and responding to multimodal communication, including the use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) by children and adults, is core speech pathology practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognising and responding appropriately to cues in the academic and clinical settings. Using appropriate non-verbal communication to facilitate interactions with individuals and families. Interacting appropriately with clients who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustments must enable the recognition, initiation of or appropriate response to non-verbal communication in a timely and appropriate manner.

Subdomain – Written communication

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to process and construct written communication accurately and in a timely manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate processing of client notes, reports and feedback is vital to provide consistent and safe client care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructing written works to sufficient academic standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustments must meet necessary standards of clarity, accuracy and accessibility to ensure effective recording

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to read and comprehend a range of literature and information • Capacity to construct written communication with cohesion, grammar, and spelling appropriate to the academic or clinical context • Capacity to administer and analyse client assessments that include written textual components • Capacity to adapt written communication to meet the communication needs of clients, families and the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of written text-based assessment tasks to reflect the required academic standards are necessary to convey knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter for professional practice • Accurate written communication, including record-keeping and client notes which meet legal and ethical requirements, is vital to provide consistent and safe client care • Assessment of clients' reading and writing is required during speech pathology practice • Written communication needs to be adapted so that information is accessible for clients, families and communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructing clinical reports and medical letter/reports in a timely manner that meets professional standards. • Providing written material using style and content that is accessible for individuals, families and communities. 	<p>and transmission of written and digital information in both academic and professional practice settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments must be able to be sustainably implemented in the clinical environment without compromising safety or the efficiency of the environment.
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Domain - Cognitive skills

Subdomain - Knowledge and cognitive skills

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars	Adjustments
<p><i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i></p>	<p><i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i></p>	<p><i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i></p>	<p><i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to locate appropriate and relevant information. • Ability to process information relevant to practice • Ability to integrate and implement knowledge in practice. • Ability to reflect on performance and develop action plans. • Capacity to develop clinical reasoning skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and effective delivery of speech pathology practices is based on comprehensive knowledge that must be sourced, understood and applied appropriately. • Reflection, reasoning and professional development are essential for speech pathology practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to conceptualise and use appropriate knowledge in response to academic assessment items • Appropriately applying knowledge of theory, research evidence, policies and procedures in the clinical setting • Capacity to learn or change behaviours in response to feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments must ensure that a clear demonstration of knowledge and cognitive skills is not compromised or impeded. • Adjustments must be able to be sustainably implemented in the clinical environment without compromising safety or the efficiency of the environment.

Domain – Sensory abilities

Subdomain – Visual

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient visual acuity to perform the required range of speech pathology skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and effective delivery of speech pathology practices is based on comprehensive knowledge that must be sourced, understood and applied appropriately • Reflection, reasoning and professional development are essential for speech pathology practice • The ability to acquire information and to accurately convey messages is fundamental to ensure safe and effective assessment, treatment and delivery of care. • Competent application of numeracy skills is essential in speech pathology to facilitate the safe and effective delivery of care. • Have the capability to operate various digital technologies in diverse learning and professional settings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observing and examining the functioning of oral muscles required for communication and swallowing • Observing and interacting with clients using multimodal communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments must address the need to perform the full range of tasks involved in clinical practice. • Any strategies to address the effects of the vision impairment must be effective, consistent and not compromise treatment or safety

Subdomain – Auditory

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars .	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient auditory function to undertake the required range of skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient auditory ability is necessary to monitor, assess and manage an individual's speech pathology needs consistently and accurately • Assessments and observations that rely on auditory perception and processing are fundamental to safe and effective speech pathology practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to discriminate speech sounds in a range of communication environments • Responding appropriately to a client's responses during assessment and management in a range of clinical context • Ability to accurately model speech sounds in a range of communication environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments must address the need to perform the full range of tasks involved in clinical practice. Any strategies to address the effects of the hearing loss must be effective, consistent and not compromise treatment or safety.

Subdomain – Tactile

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars .	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate tactile function sufficient to undertake the required range of skills and assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient tactile ability is necessary to monitor, assess and detect patients' physical characteristics and act on any abnormalities detected to provide appropriate speech pathology practice • Tactile assessments and observations are fundamental to safe and effective speech pathology practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing changes in oral muscular functioning • Palpating muscles required for swallowing and detecting anatomical or movement abnormalities • Demonstration of treatment techniques e.g., swallowing rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments must have the capacity to make effective assessments of physical characteristics and abnormalities within safe time frames.

Domain – Strength and mobility

Subdomain – Gross motor skills

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars.	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to perform gross motor skills to function within scope of practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient gross motor skills are necessary to perform the required level of care. Tasks that involve gross motor skills include carrying, pushing, pulling, sitting, standing, twisting and bending. Students must be able to demonstrate and perform these tasks consistently and safely to reduce the risk of harm to self and others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluating clients, in a safe and effective manner, who have varying physical capacity, who may be positioned in hospital beds, wheelchairs, on chairs of varied size and when standing, who may reside in diverse health or community settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustments should facilitate functional effectiveness, safety of self and others and a capacity to provide appropriate care. Adjustments must be able to be sustainably implemented in the clinical environment without compromising safety or the efficiency of the environment.

Subdomain – Fine motor skills

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to use fine motor skills to provide safe effective care with manual dexterity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient fine motor skills to administer speech pathology assessments and conduct therapy with children and adults Tasks that involve fine motor skills involve being able to manipulate various objects required for communication and mealtime management. Students must be able to demonstrate and perform these tasks consistently and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording data and writing client notes in a timely and legible manner Manipulating utensils and resources required to conduct communication and swallowing assessments and management. Using hand signs and other augmentative and alternative communication methods with clients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustments should facilitate functional effectiveness, safety to self and others and a capacity to provide appropriate practice. Adjustments must be able to be sustainably implemented in the clinical environment without compromising safety or the efficiency of the environment.

	safely to reduce the risk of harm to self and others		
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Domain – Sustainable performance

Inherent requirement	Justification	Exemplars	Adjustments
<i>Description of knowledge, abilities, skills and qualities students will need to be able to demonstrate</i>	<i>Explanation of why this is an inherent requirement for the course</i>	<i>Examples of tasks that require this knowledge, ability, skill or quality. This is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list.</i>	<i>The nature of any reasonable adjustments that may be made. Adjustments specific to the individual can be discussed with Support Services</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent and sustained level of physical energy to complete a specific task in a timely manner and over time. • The ability to perform repetitive activities with a level of concentration that ensures a capacity to focus on the activity until it is completed appropriately. • The capacity to maintain consistency and quality of performance throughout the designated period of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient physical and mental endurance is an essential requirement needed to perform multiple tasks in an assigned period to provide safe and effective speech pathology management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively participating in tutorials, practicals and lectures • Managing attention and fatigue to provide consistent speech pathology management over a negotiated time frame while on clinical placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustments must ensure that performance and concentration is consistent and sustained over a given period. • Adjustments must be able to be sustainably implemented in the clinical environment without compromising safety or the efficiency of the environment.

Approval details

The inherent requirements for the **Master of Speech Pathology** were approved as follows:

Approved by	Date	Resolution
University Courses Committee	18 February 2026	RESOLUTION UCC41/6