

SLHS Comprehensive Examination – Case Studies MA-SLP Revision 1

Comprehensive Examination Process & Format (2/26/14)

The comprehensive examination in the MA-SLP Program consists of Part I and Part II. Part I consists of the Praxis Exam (see below) and Part II consists of either a comprehensive examination paper or a MA thesis.

Students in the MA-SLP Program may choose to complete a Master's Thesis. If a student chooses to do a thesis, s/he is not required to complete Part II of the MA-SLP Comprehensive Examination. See the Article III, Section 7.2 for information regarding the thesis examination.

Completion of Part I and Part II must be done following the timetable specified and announced each year.

Part I: ASHA CCC Exam Content: All students are expected to successfully complete and pass the PRAXIS Exam (ETS) in SLP by early in the last semester of their program. It should be completed before graduation. Scores must be sent directly to SLHS department, using the (note code upon registration).

OVERVIEW:

Part II – For students beginning the MA-SLP program in Fall, 2012 and beyond, the Comprehensive Examination will be a Case Study Comprehensive, described here.

Non-thesis Case Studies Comprehensive Examination will consist of a combined written examination plus an oral examination.

Written and oral examinations based on case studies

1) Format

- a) Students will be given four (4) case studies that have elements of any aspect of speech-language pathology included in the KASA: articulation; fluency; voice and resonance; receptive and expressive language; hearing including the impact on speech & language; swallowing; cognitive aspects of communication; social aspects of communication; and communication modalities.
- b) The MA-SLP committee will assign each student a panel of three (3) academic and/or clinical faculty members.

2) Written component

- a) Students will select one of the case studies and will write a case study report, similar to a combined diagnostic report and treatment plan. The case study will reflect courses the student has completed. Scientific evidence is required to support clinical decisions.
- b) Students will write the combination diagnostic report/treatment report as a take home examination. Students will be expected to interpret the findings in the case study, write a diagnostic report explaining those findings. The report will include a specific treatment plan specifying evidence based practice and thorough rationale for all findings and recommendations. Students will attach a list of references.

- c) The exam will be due last day of summer semester Term C or as specified by the MA-SLP Committee (August 1, 2014).
- d) Each written case study report will be evaluated based on a rubric provided by the MA-SLP committee.
- e) Two members of each student's panel will read the examination.

3) Oral component

- a) The panel members assigned to a student will be free to ask any questions related to any of the case studies including but not limited to: diagnostic interpretation; additional diagnostic information needed; intervention(s) and scientific rationale; educational information to be shared with client, spouse, parent(s) or other family members; educational information to be shared with medical professionals, school or education professionals or allied professionals. Students may be asked to present a case briefly as they would in Rounds or at an IEP or IFSP meeting. Rationale for any answer is expected.
- b) The panel will take into consideration coursework that the student has taken and those courses not yet completed in fashioning their questions.
- c) The panel will combine their evaluations of the written examination and the oral examination. A consensus of the panel will result in a Pass, High Pass, or Incomplete.
- d) If a student receives an incomplete on the combined examination, the panel will determine corrective measures and a reasonable timeline in order to complete the Comprehensive Examination prior to internship placement. If corrective measures are completed to the satisfaction of the student's committee within the allotted timeframe, the incomplete changes to a PASS. If corrective measures are not completed to the satisfaction of the student's committee or are not within the allotted timeframe, the incomplete changes to a FAIL.
- e) Students are allowed to bring two pages of notes, front and back, related to any of the case studies.

Timeline

- 1) The students will receive four (4) case studies at the start of the summer semester (approximately June 1st).
- 2) The written portion is due the last day of summer semester Term C or as specified by the MA-SLP Committee (August 1, 2014)
- 3) Oral examinations will be scheduled for 45 minutes per student during the second week of classes each fall.

All work on the comprehensive examination will be independent. Students may request access to textbooks or articles that have been required in courses they have not yet taken and may consult with faculty or outside experts related to the case studies provided the consultant is clearly informed that this is part of a comprehensive examination process. Students may not consult with each other. Students will sign an honor code stating their compliance to this policy and turn it in with their written comprehensive examination.

Copies of the case studies will be provided at the time of the oral examination. Students may bring two pages of notes, front and back, related to any of the case studies.
