

TECHNICAL ACCEPTANCE STANDARDS

Hearing Instrument Science students must be able to perform essential functions. Technical Acceptance Standards refer to nonacademic admissions criteria essential to participate in the Hearing Instrument Science curriculum.

If your ability to perform these essential functions depends on accommodations being provided, be advised that requests for accommodations must be presented to the Disability Support Services Department, and must be accompanied by appropriate medical, psychological, and/or psychiatric documentation to support this request. You may contact Disability Support Services at 447-8189, which is located in Information Commons, Springfield Campus.

All applicants with or without accommodations must possess the following abilities:

Physical Requirements

The student must have use of both hands and dexterity in the fingers to manipulate hearing instruments, materials, small button cell batteries, and operate diagnostic equipment including otoscopy. Body build must fit into small sound booths and equipment operator chair in order to perform audiometric procedures. The ability to stand or sit for long durations of time is also necessary.

Data Conception

The student must possess the ability to gather, classify, and interpret information about data, people, or things, and must be able to carry out appropriate actions in relation to the data received.

Color Differentiation

The student must be able to differentiate various shades of colors, and must be able to distinguish shades of grey and “cone-of-light” for tympanic inspection during otoscopy.

Manual Dexterity/Motor Coordination

The student must be able to manipulate hearing instruments without causing trauma to sensitive ear canal tissues, and to control pressure exerted with ear impression technique to prevent injury to those tissues.

Physical Communication

The student must be able to perceive sound through telephone, and discern characteristic sounds when “troubleshooting” hearing instruments through a stethoscope.

Reasoning Development

The student must be able to apply principles of logical or scientific thinking to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions.

Language Development

The student must be able to read and comprehend the English language. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend complex information from scientific and/or technical journals, papers, textbooks, etc. This requires the ability to communicate the same type of complex information through speech; and in report writing, using proper format, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and using all parts of speech. A student must be able to communicate technical information at a level appropriate for patient understanding. A student must be able to speak clearly and with the correct pronunciation of audiology and medical terms.

Visual Acuity

The student must be able to identify the working ends of various instruments and insert/connect hearing instrument programming cables into small openings.

Numerical Ability

The student must be able to determine percentages, convert fractions, ratios, and proportions, as well as basic subtraction, addition, multiplication, and division. The student must have the ability to understand and interpret the implications and meanings of the numerical values.

Form/Spatial Ability

The student must be able to conceptualize 1-dimensional renderings in a 3-dimensional form, distinguish subtle changes from one form or shape to another, and discriminate intricate measurements.

Personal Temperament

The student must be able to maintain a professional attitude and appearance. The student must be able to deal with the academic rigors of course load, clinical requirements, constructive criticism, and patient attitudes. The student must have the ability to adapt to change and be able to function and focus in an environment with multiple extraneous stimuli.