



Nicole Wertheim
College of Nursing
& Health Sciences

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

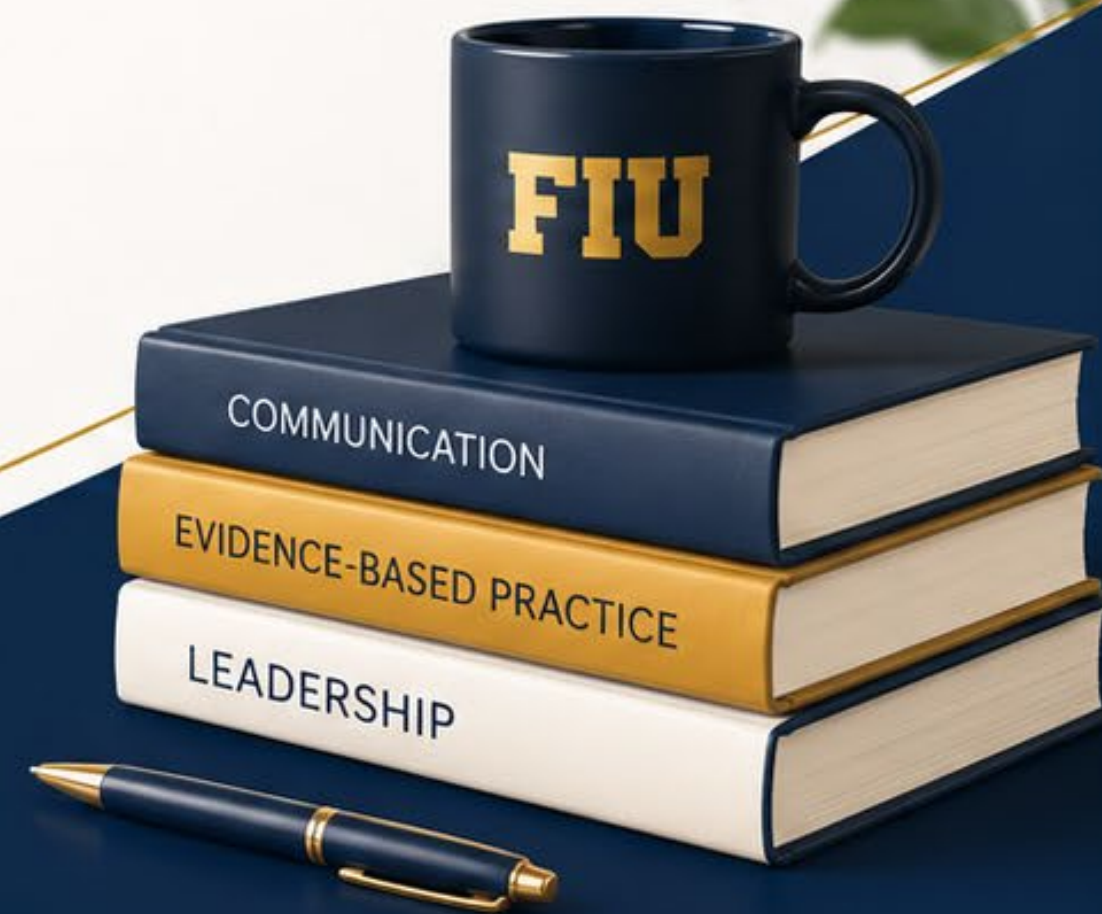


Welcome Class of 2028!



FIU MS-SLP Orientation 2026

We're excited to have you here.



FIU CSD Orientation Agenda

FALL 2026



1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
														
Welcome/ Introduction of Faculty/ Students	Classes Fall 2026	Policies and Procedures http://cnhs.fiu.edu/csd	Plan of Study	General Program Information	Masters' Projects and Theses	Approximate 20 Min Break	CAA Accreditation Status	Counseling and Psychological Services	Clinical Education	Record Keeping	Forms	Advisors	NSSHLA	Q & A/Tour

Be Worlds Ahead®



Meet Our Faculty



Dr. Alliete Alfano

Department Chair/
Associate Professor



Dr. Melissa Edrich

Clinical Associate Professor



Dr. Samantha Hernandez

Visiting Assistant Professor



Dr. Monica Hough

Full Professor



Dr. Mariateresa Muñoz

Clinical Associate Professor



Dr. Stacey Pavelko

Associate Professor



Dr. Chelsea Sommer

Assistant Professor



Dr. Joe Zelenke

Clinical Assistant Professor

ADJUNCT FACULTY & OFFICE STAFF

Committed to Excellence. Dedicated to **You.**



**Dr. Cindy
Simon**

Adjunct
Professor



**Dr. Michele
Aurignac**

Adjunct
Professor



**Ms. Brisaida
Camejo Jaen, MS, CCC-SLP**

Adjunct
Professor



**Ms. Nancy
Bradbury**

Program
Coordinator



**Ms. Nuria
Rodriguez**

Coordinator
Administrative
Services



**Ms. Dania
Garcia-Roves**

Office
Assistant



FIU

Communication
Sciences & Disorders

Student

INTRODUCTIONS!



MS-SLP STUDENT @ FIU

*Please
tell us:*



FULL NAME



WHERE YOU'RE
ORIGINALLY FROM



WHERE YOU
COMPLETED YOUR
UNDERGRADUATE
DEGREE



IF YOU COMPLETED
YOUR GRADUATE
CERTIFICATE,
WHERE?
(FIU, FSU, USF?
SOMEWHERE ELSE?)

Be Worlds Ahead™

Together, we inspire communication and change lives.

Mixer Activity

Gather in groups of 5

- ✓ Indicate your interest in adults, children, or both
- ✓ Indicate your area(s) of interest from ASHA's Big 9
- ✓ Indicate your previous experiences related to SLP



ASHA's Big 9



Speech Sound
Production



Fluency



Voice and
Resonance



Receptive and
Expressive Language



Cognitive Aspects
of Communication



Social Aspects of
Communication



Communication
Modalities



Hearing



Swallowing and
Feeding

2026 Fall Classes

Communication Sciences & Disorders



SPA 5204 | Phonological Disorders (Hernandez)



SPA 5553 | Differential Diagnosis of Communication Disorders (Alfano & Ameen)



SPA 5402 | Language Learning in Preschool Children (Pavelko)



SPA 5805 | Research Methodology in CSD (Hough)



SPA 5935L | Pre-Clinic Seminar (Edrich)



FIU

FIU

FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Be Worlds Ahead™

Departmental Policies & Procedures



Important Reminders

- You must receive a grade of B or better to pass a course
- When you receive a grade below B, you are required to retake the course the next time it is offered



DISMISSAL from the Masters Program:

- Failing a course twice OR
- GPA < 3.0 in 2 semesters OR
- Grade below B in more than 2 courses
- Lapses in enrollment of more than two semesters will require readmission into the program



Policies & Procedures



PRAXIS (Certification) Examination



Students will register to take the exam in the next-to-last or last semester in the program



GOAL: Pass the examination the first time you take it!



You must pass the PRAXIS examination to graduate



Departmental Website: <http://cnhs.fiu.edu/csd>



FIU CSD PRACTICE Prep



4 synchronous and
asynchronous sessions
DURING FALL SEMESTER



4 synchronous and
asynchronous sessions
DURING SPRING SEMESTER



Dr. Zelenke
will be the
facilitator.



MORE TO COME...



Policies & Procedures



• PRAXIS Score Reporting •

When registering to take the PRAXIS exam, you need to make sure you have your PRAXIS scores sent to three entities:

1

CSD Department at FIU

(we need a record of you taking the exam for you to graduate);

2

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

(enables you to become a certified SLP); and

3

Florida Dept. of Health

(licensed SLP in State of Florida).



WE WILL REMIND YOU ABOUT THIS AGAIN NEXT YEAR.



Departmental Website: <http://cnhs.fiu.edu/csd>



Policies & Procedures



**Apply for
graduation
during semester
before
graduation**

*(separate application for
commencement)*



You must be enrolled for at least
1 credit in the semester that you plan to graduate



All general education prerequisites
must be completed to apply for ASHA certification



Grievances:
http://gradschool.fiu.edu/policies_grievance.htm



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

1



Address Your Professor



Use the professor's professional title and last name.

Examples:

Dear Dr. Soso
or,
Hello Professor Smith,



Use "Dr." when the instructor holds a doctoral degree and uses that title.



Avoid first names unless the professor has invited you to use them.



Avoid overly casual openings such as "Hey" or no greeting at all.

2

Include the Essentials



- 1 **Specific subject line** | Course + purpose
- 2 **Your identity** | Name and course/section when needed
- 3 **Purpose** | State the question or concern directly
- 4 **Relevant details** | Module, assignment, deadline, or issue
- 5 **What you already checked** | Syllabus, Canvas, rubric, course resources
- 6 **Desired outcome** | What clarification or action are you requesting?
- 7 **Professional tone** | Complete sentences, grammar, punctuation, courtesy

3

Sign Professionally



Close with your full name and enough information to identify you.

Signature example:

Best,
Student's Last Name
CSD Graduate Student – MS-SLP
FIU Panther ID #

- ✓ Use your full name.
- ✓ Include your course when helpful.
- ✓ Avoid initials, unrecognized nicknames, or no signature.



Before sending, make sure your professor can quickly answer:



WHO is contacting me?



WHAT is this about?



WHAT does the student need?



Departmental Website: <http://cnhs.fiu.edu/csd>

FIU CSD 1st Year Courses

MS-SLP GRADUATE PROGRAM OF STUDY**DEGREE PLAN: 6 SEMESTERS – STANDARD****YEAR 1: FALL SEMESTER
(13 CREDITS)**

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 5204	Phonological Disorders	3
SPA 5553	Differential Diagnosis of Communicative Disorders	3
SPA 5402	Language Learning in Preschool Children	3
SPA 5805	Research Methodology in CSD	3
SPA 5935	Pre-Clinic Seminar	1

**YEAR 1: SPRING SEMESTER
(12 CREDITS)**

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 5107	Neurological Bases of Communication	3
SPA 5403	Language Learning in School-Aged Children	3
SPA 6406	Dual Language Acquisition and Com Disorders	3
SPA 5225	Fluency Disorders	3

**YEAR 1: SUMMER SEMESTER
(9 CREDITS)**

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 5500	Basic Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 6565	Dysphagia	3
SPA 6410	Aphasia and Related Disorders	3

**YEAR ONE TOTAL: 34 CREDITS**

FIU CSD 2nd Year Courses

MS-SLP GRADUATE PROGRAM OF STUDY

DEGREE PLAN: 6 SEMESTERS – STANDARD



YEAR 2: FALL SEMESTER (10 CREDITS)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 6232	Neuromotor Communication Disorders	3
SPA 5216	Vocal and Velopharyngeal Disorders	3
SPA 5502	Intermediate Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 6930	Masters Project	1



YEAR 2: SPRING SEMESTER (10 CREDITS)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 6505	Advanced Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 6479	Communication Disorders and Aging in a Bilingual Society	3
SPA 6005	Assessment & Treatment of Bilingual Child	3
SPA 6930	Masters Project	1



YEAR 2: SUMMER SEMESTER (7 CREDITS)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 6505	Advanced Clinical Practicum	3
ELECTIVE OPTIONS – CHOOSE ONE (3 CREDITS)		
SPA 6254	Adult Cognition and Communication*	3
OR		
SPA 6322	Aural Habilitation and Rehabilitation*	3
OR		
SPA 6559	Augmentative and Alternative Communication*	3
SPA 6930	Master's Project	1



YEAR TWO TOTAL: **27 CREDITS**



TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS: **61**



***Elective options:** Non-thesis students take one of the three starred courses. Students who completed SPA 6322 as a prior requirement may choose one of the other starred courses. Thesis option students completing a Master's Thesis do not take these elective classes. All students register for a total of 61 credits in the program.



Communication
Sciences & Disorders

FIU CSD 1st Year Courses

MS-SLP Graduate Program of Study

Degree Plan: 6 Semesters - Early Clinic



Year 1: Fall Semester (13 Credits)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 5204	Phonological Disorders	3
SPA 5553	Differential Diagnosis of Communicative Disorders	3
SPA 5402	Language Learning in Preschool Children	3
SPA 5805	Research Methodology in CSD	3
SPA 5935	Pre-Clinic Seminar	1



Year 1: Spring Semester (15 Credits)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 5107	Neurological Bases of Communication	3
SPA 5403	Language Learning in School-Aged Children	3
SPA 6406	Dual Language Acquisition and Com Disorders	3
SPA 5500	Basic Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 5225	Fluency Disorders	3



Year 1: Summer Semester (9 Credits)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 5502	Intermediate Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 6565	Dysphagia	3
SPA 6410	Aphasia and Related Disorders	3



YEAR ONE TOTAL: 37 CREDITS

FIU CSD 2nd Year Courses

MS-SLP Graduate Program of Study

Degree Plan: 6 Semesters - Early Clinic



YEAR 2: FALL SEMESTER (10 CREDITS)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 6232	Neuromotor Communication Disorders	3
SPA 5216	Vocal and Velopharyngeal Disorders	3
SPA 6505	Advanced Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 6930	Masters Project	1



YEAR 2: SPRING SEMESTER (10 CREDITS)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 6505	Advanced Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 6479	Communication Disorders and Aging in a Bilingual Society	3
SPA 6005	Assessment & Treatment of Bilingual Child	3
SPA 6930	Master's Project	1



YEAR 2: SUMMER SEMESTER (4 CREDITS)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
SPA 6930	Master's Project	1
ELECTIVE OPTIONS — CHOOSE ONE (3 CREDITS)		
SPA 6322	Aural Habilitation and Rehabilitation*	3
SPA 6254	Adults Cognition and Communication*	3
SPA 6559	Augmentative and Alternative Communication*	3



YEAR TWO TOTAL: 24 CREDITS



TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS: 61

***Elective options:** Non-thesis students must take one of the three starred courses. If the student has not taken a course in Aural Rehabilitation as an undergraduate or via the Graduate Certificate in CSD at FIU, they must take SPA 6322. **Master's Thesis Option:** Students wishing to complete a Master's thesis will not be required to take these classes. They will register for 6 credits of Masters' thesis in the second year of study. All students will register for a total of 61 credits in the program.



THE STUDY CYCLE

A Guide to Effective Studying for FIU MS-SLP Graduate Students

Adapted from Dr. Sandra Yancy Maguire



The Study Cycle is a simple, effective guide to help you build better study habits throughout the semester.



Preview

5–15 minutes

Skim new material and note big ideas.



Attend Class

Go to class, take notes, ask questions, and stay engaged.



Review

10–15 minutes

Read notes, fill gaps, summarize key points, and think about the big picture.



Study & Complete Assignments

30–50 minutes

Schedule focused study sessions each week.



Check

Ask whether your study methods are effective. Practice self-testing and review objectives.



WHY THE STUDY CYCLE WORKS



Builds on what you already learned.



Repetition improves memory and understanding.



Spaced practice beats cramming.



Focused study helps you connect, process, and retain.



CHECK YOURSELF

Use these questions to monitor and strengthen your learning.

1



Does this answer make sense given the information provided?

2



What strategy was helpful?

3



How does this information relate to what we learned last week?

4



What is confusing about this topic?

5



What are the relationships between these concepts?

6



What conclusions can I make?



DISTRIBUTED PRACTICE



Short, focused study sessions are more effective.



Studying over time leads to deeper learning.



Distributed practice helps you learn more and retain longer.



Learn more about certification and standards at:

www.asha.org/certification/2027-slp-certification-standards

7-Day Study Plan Using *The Study Cycle*

Example for a FIU MS-SLP Student in a 3-Credit Course

STUDENT SCHEDULE REALITY

- Clinic:** 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday–Friday
- Caregiving for grandmother:** Tuesday & Thursday
- Class:** Monday, 5:00–7:40 p.m.

THE STUDY CYCLE (Dr. Sandra Yancy Maguire)



Distributed practice across the week is more effective than cramming.

WEEKLY INDEPENDENT STUDY TIME

Monday:	30 min
Tuesday:	30 min
Wednesday:	75 min
Thursday:	25 min
Friday:	45 min
Saturday:	100 min
Sunday:	70 min

Total independent study:
~6 hr 15 min

Plus Monday class:
2 hr 40 min

MONDAY

- Preview** (6:45–7:00 a.m.)
Skim chapter, slides, and MLOs; write 2–3 questions.
- Attend Class** (5:00–7:40 p.m.)
Take notes, participate, and note key concepts.
- Review** (8:15–8:30 p.m.)
Quickly review notes and fill obvious gaps.

TUESDAY

- Study** (6:45–7:15 a.m.)
Recall Monday's content, make flashcards, explain one concept aloud.
- Evening reserved for caregiving.

WEDNESDAY

- Study** (6:40–7:15 a.m.)
Use active retrieval: practice questions, terminology, case examples.
- Study/Assignment** (6:00–6:40 p.m.)
Work on readings or weekly assignment; connect content to clinic.

THURSDAY

- Study** (6:45–7:10 a.m.)
Brief self-test; focus on difficult material.
- Evening reserved for caregiving.

FRIDAY

- Study** (6:45–7:15 a.m.)
Explain major concepts without notes; revisit missed items.
- Review** (5:30–5:45 p.m.)
Check what is mastered and what needs weekend attention.

SATURDAY

- Study** (9:00–9:50 a.m.)
Complete deeper work: case analysis, reading, study questions.
- Study/Assignment** (10:15–11:05 a.m.)
Finish or substantially advance major assignments.

SUNDAY

- Study** (10:00–10:40 a.m.)
Cumulative retrieval: mix this week's content with prior material.
- Check** (10:40–10:55 a.m.)
Ask: Can I explain this without notes? What is still confusing?
- Preview** (4:30–4:45 p.m.)
Preview next week's material and identify questions.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Even with full-time clinic and caregiving responsibilities, short focused sessions across the week make studying manageable and effective.





FIU EMAIL & LOGIN POLICY



- ▶ Students must use their FIU email address and FIU credentials for all course-related communication and class logins.



- ▶ Always log in using your FIU credentials so attendance reports are recorded accurately.



- ▶ Check and read your FIU email daily.



OTHER TOPICS



Working during the Masters' SLP Program



Class Attendance



CSD website



Student Handbook



Clinical Handbook



Class syllabi





FIU CSD DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Related to Advising



SLP Master's Degree Plan



Transcripts



**Knowledge and Skills
Outcome Standards**



Masters' Projects

Conducted During Second Year

**1**

Provide students with opportunity to synthesize academic and clinical experiences; participate in completion of data-based research project within group of 4-6 students with CSD faculty mentor.

2

Research project topics are based on expertise and interest of faculty mentors.

3

Student selects a group to work with based on their interest in research project topics and availability.

4

A particular group of students and their faculty mentor work on the project for 3 semesters from beginning to completion.

5

Projects culminate in a final manuscript and presentation that contribute to evidence-based practice in CSD!

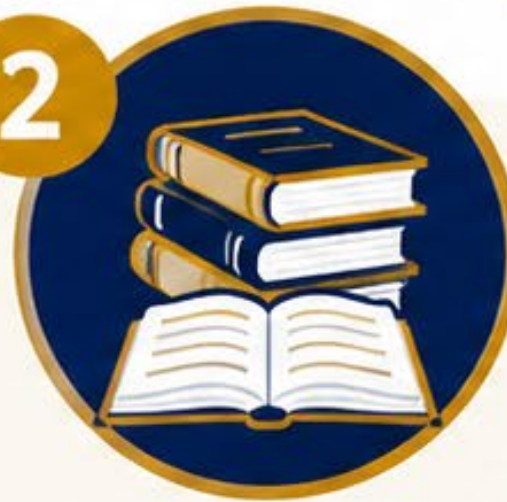


Master's Thesis

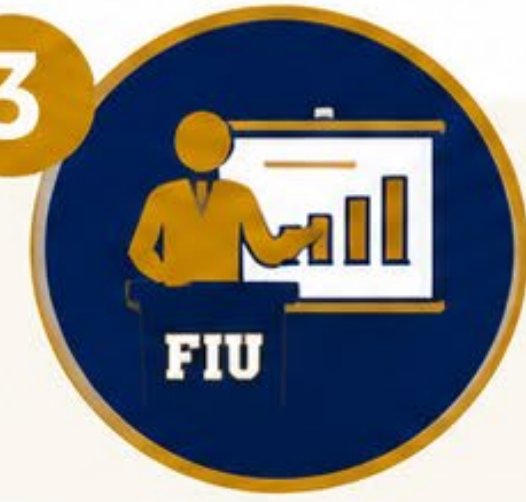
Conducted During Second Year

**1**

Extensive writing-intensive research project in which the individual student conducts a significant experiment in the CSD field. It takes a full year to complete a thesis.

2

The student reads everything available that relates directly and indirectly to their field of study.

3

Then, the student progresses to primary research, involve conducting one's own experiment(s) and defending their findings in an oral forum.





TIME FOR A



TAKE CARE OF YOU

Short breaks can improve focus, reduce stress, and boost productivity.



Stand up
and stretch



Hydrate
and refresh



Step away
and reset



Breathe, relax,
and recharge



MOVE YOUR BODY

Stretch your neck,
shoulders, and back.



REST YOUR EYES

Look away from the
screen for a moment.



HYDRATE

Drink water
and refresh.



RESET YOUR MIND

Take a few slow,
deep breaths.



REFUEL IF NEEDED

Grab a light
snack.



RETURN WITH INTENTION

Come back focused
and ready to learn.





FIU CSD CAA Accreditation Status

— Celebrating Program Excellence —

1 What is CAA?



- The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) is the accrediting body for speech-language pathology (SLP) and Doctor of Audiology (AuD) clinical graduate programs across the United States.

2 FIU MS-SLP Accreditation



FIU's Master's in Speech-Language Pathology is a CAA-accredited program.



The program was granted reaccreditation status in late 2024.



Current accreditation extends through 11/30/2032.



**ACCREDITED
THROUGH
11/30/2032**





COMMUNICATION
SCIENCES &
DISORDERS

We Care.

**We Support.
You Succeed.**



FIU is here to support your health,
well-being, and academic success
every step of the way.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Access resources and services
to thrive during your time at FIU.



COUNSELING, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND OTHER STUDENT *Services*



Student Health Center (SHC) 270



305-348-2277 (CAPS)



<http://www.caps.fiu.edu>



Disability Resource Center

Empowering access. Enabling success.



FIU Center for Excellence in Writing

Stronger writing. Greater impact.



Your well-being
matters.



Resources for
every student.



Support today.
Success tomorrow.

TOGETHER WE
ACHIEVE

FIU



Civility and Respect

Professional expectations for classroom and program interactions



A Core FIU Value

Civility is an essential component of FIU core values and includes all meetings and classroom behavior.



Why It Matters

When both faculty and students model civility, it contributes to the growth of individuals.



Respectful Engagement

Students are encouraged to comment, question, or critique ideas, but never attack a faculty member or another student; respect is pivotal to all interactions.



Avoid Distractions

Students are discouraged from checking text messages, social media, playing games on a computer or phone, or carrying on conversations while instructors are lecturing or classmates are presenting.



***Respectful learning environments
help everyone succeed.***

CLINICAL EDUCATION

Excellence in Practice. Impact for Life.



1 CLINICAL EXPECTATIONS



Demonstrate **professionalism**, **integrity**, and **ethical** behavior.



Communicate **respectfully**, listen actively, and provide constructive feedback.



Maintain patient **confidentiality** and follow all professional and program policies.



2 RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION



Arrive **on time** and plan ahead for travel to all clinical placements.



Notify your clinical educator and program **immediately** of any delays.



Consistent, **dependable** attendance shows commitment and respect.



CLINICAL EDUCATION

Building Skills. Changing Lives.



AMERICAN DATABANK

Track and manage all clinical placements, compliance documents, and requirements.



FIU SLP SCRUBS

Show your Panther pride in clinical settings with official FIU SLP scrubs and apparel.



CALIPSO/ CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION

Complete and manage clinical evaluations, treatment plans, and documentation securely and efficiently.



PREPARE.
Learn.



PRACTICE.
Compassion.



PERFORM.
Excellence.

*Together, we elevate
care and communication.*

TOGETHER WE
ACHIEVE





Attestation



Consent & Release Criminal
Background Check



Publications Model and Release



Contact Information



FORMS

These have been emailed
to you. Complete these
forms (folder) and turn in
before leaving today.



COMPLETE.
Every step matters.



PROTECT.
Your information.



PROFESSIONALISM.
Our commitment.

TOGETHER WE
ACHIEVE

FIU



COMMUNICATION
SCIENCES &
DISORDERS

Recordkeeping

*Stay Informed. Stay Connected.
Stay Successful.*



**Check and read your
FIU email regularly**
(check junk mailbox too)



ALWAYS use your FIU email
for department correspondence



**Student Mailboxes
in cabinet outside
AHC3-435**



CHECK.

CONNECT.

COMMUNICATE.

SUCCEED.



Your University.
Your Future.

TOGETHER WE
ACHIEVE

FIU



STUDENT ADVISING



FIU

COMMUNICATION
SCIENCES &
DISORDERS

NSSHLA: National Student Speech-Language- Hearing Association



★ FIU CHAPTER ★



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CSO Representative: Asia-Marie Olude



Secretary: Alys Jimenez (ajime318@fiu.edu)



Departmental Advisor: Dr. Joe Zelenke, CCC-SLP
(jzelenke@fiu.edu)



CONNECT.
Build Community.



ADVOCATE.
Make Your Voice Heard.



EMPOWER.
Lead the Future.

TOGETHER WE
ACHIEVE

FIU

THREE PATHS. ONE MISSION.



Where SLP Graduate Students Gain **Real-World Experience**

1

SCHOOL SETTING



Support students' communication growth in inclusive educational environments.

- Speech & language therapy in schools
- Collaboration with teachers & families
- IEP participation & goal support

2

MEDICAL HOSPITAL



Provide critical communication care across the lifespan in hospital settings.

- Swallowing & voice disorders
- Aphasia & cognitive-communication
- Interdisciplinary team collaboration

3

PRIVATE CLINIC



Deliver individualized, client-centered therapy in private practice settings.

- Articulation & phonology
- Language & social communication
- Family education & home programs



THANK YOU!

Have a ★

WONDERFUL YEAR!

TOGETHER WE
ACHIEVE

FIU