



Improving the Effectiveness of Clinical Audiology Education: Ensuring **Consistent, Complete** Clinical Experiences for **All** Students

Jennifer Simpson, AuD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Purdue University

The Challenge....



- To ensure **CONSISTENCY** in the education of audiology students
- To ensure **COMPLETE** clinical experiences that cover the breadth and depth of clinical audiology
- To ensure that **ALL** students meet the required competencies to earn the designation of Doctor of Audiology

Meeting the Challenges



- Provide as many diverse clinical opportunities as possible during the first 3 years
- Devise and use consistent evaluation tools that span the 4 year program
- Most importantly:
 - Create a Joint Program with the Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery

Clinical Experience Years I and II



Purdue University Audiology Clinic

Pediatric Population

- Hearing, speech and language screenings
- UNHS diagnostic follow-up
- Toddler assessments
- School Aged Children
- Aural (re)habilitation
- APD evaluations
- Amplification

Adult and Geriatric Population

- Hearing, speech and language screenings
- Diagnostic Assessments
- Amplification
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Aural (re)habilitation
- APD evaluations
- Industrial Hearing Evaluations

Off Campus Contracts: (win-win relationships)

- Otolaryngology Facilities
- Preschool speech, language and hearing screenings
- Local School District

Clinical Experience Year III



- Purdue University Clinic
- Off Campus sites: Students request specific sites depending on their individual interests
 - Indianapolis Public Schools
 - Hospitals
 - Indiana School for the Deaf
 - Private practices
 - Otolaryngology practices
 - Vestibular specialization

Clinical Evaluation Measures



- Purdue and Indiana University School of Medicine jointly involved in:
 - Determining minimum expected competency levels for each clinical skill
 - By year in the program on a continuum
 - Evaluation forms:
 - Clinical Skills Competency Form (CSCF)
 - Used at mid-term and end of the semester each semester
 - Daily Grade Sheet
 - Used after each clinical session
 - Remediation Plans:
 - Individualized for each student

Clinical Evaluation Measures



- Feedback to students:
 - After each clinical session
 - Verbal and written
 - Same forms and procedures used throughout the 4 program

- Goals achieved:
 - All supervisors are consistent
 - One seamless team from Year I – Year IV



Clinical Evaluation Measures

- To continue in good standing in the program:
 - 3 clinical gateway exams:
 - Year I: Adult assessment
 - Year II: Pediatric Assessment
 - Year III: Hearing Aid Assessment
 - 2 written comprehensive exams
 - Year I: Fundamental concepts
 - Year III: Integration of knowledge across courses and clinical experiences
 - Remediation as needed:
 - Individualized written remediation plan
 - One semester to complete remediation

Purdue Clinical Experience



- ALL students?
 - Yes
- Consistent?
 - Yes
- Complete?
 - No

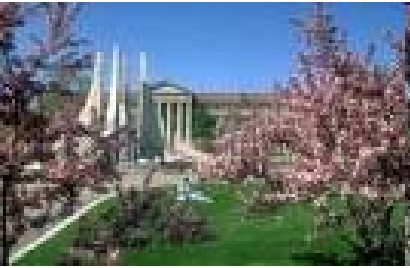
The Answer



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- A Joint AuD program based on a partnership between
 - Purdue University Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences and
 - Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
- Approved in 2002
 - One year in development
 - First cohort of students admitted fall 2003
 - 10 students have graduated

Interview at Medical Center



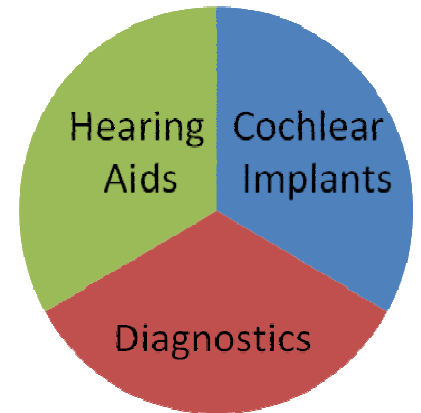
- Spring of third year
- Goals:
 - Individually discuss clinical strengths and areas needing attention
 - Meet with the IU Medical Center audiologists
 - Tour facilities
 - Place student in rotation sequence

The 4th Year Externship



- Three distinct, intensive rotations
 - Diagnostics, Hearing Aids, and Cochlear Implants

- 13 – 14 weeks each
- 4 – 5 days per week
- Offers the breadth and depth of audiology
- Patient complexity



Facilities

- University Hospital
- Riley Hospital for Children
- Wishard Health Services

Joint Program Development



- Three years of clinical experiences prepare students for the more challenging 4th year externship at the IU Medical Center
 - Guarantees students graduate with opportunities to experience the full scope of practice in audiology
 - Avoids gaps in clinical experience
 - ex. balance, pediatric hearing aids, cochlear implants
 - Produces audiologists with all the skills necessary to work in today's healthcare environment
 - Attracts the best potential AuD candidates

Overall Clinical Experiences



- ALL students?
 - YES
- Consistent?
 - YES
- Complete?
 - Definitely

Unique Features



- Medical Liaison position (Purdue University)
- Coordinator of Medical Center Audiology Clinical Education position (IU Medical Center)
- Continuum of supervision/mentoring throughout the 4 years
 - Increased independence
 - Each student receives feedback daily
- Consistent evaluations
 - Students
 - Supervisors/Mentors
- Contracts with Medical Center audiologists

Medical Center Liaison



- Position at Purdue
- Goal: Communication between facilities
 - Meet with audiologists at the IU Medical Center on a weekly basis
 - Available via email or phone all other times
 - Meet with students rotating through the IU Medical Center on a monthly basis
 - Participate in student evaluation conferences
 - Facilitate conversations between the Purdue and IU Medical Center
 - Mediate problems/concerns

Coordinator of Medical Center Audiology Clinical Education



- Position at IU Medical Center
- Create and implement weekly schedules for the students
- Contact person for the IU Medical Center staff audiologists
- “Go to” person at the IU Medical Center for any educational questions/concerns
- Continue to enhance the educational opportunities for our AuD students

Continuum of Supervision



- Student works with specific audiologist for a specific time period
- Supervision/mentoring is always available
- Consistent evaluation tools are used throughout the 4 years
- Last opportunity for the student to receive valuable direct mentoring

Medical Center Audiologists



- 15 audiologists
 - Individual contracts with Purdue University
 - Compensated for their time and expertise
 - Paid a stipend at the end of each semester
- Continual communication regarding supervision and evaluations of students

Maintaining the Partnership



- Commitment
 - Purdue faculty
 - IU Medical Center audiologists
 - Top down support
- Communication between partners
- Active participation of audiologists at the IU Medical Center
 - Input to Purdue regarding preparation and evaluation of students

Doctor of Audiology Joint Program



- **All** students receive a **consistent and equivalent** clinical experience
- **All** students receive a **complete** clinical experience
- **All** students receive supervision/mentoring appropriate for their level **throughout** the 4 year program