

AUDIOLOGIST

This is professional audiological work in diagnostic evaluations and therapeutic programming serving children and/or adults with hearing impairment and/or communicative disorders. Work involves audiological testing, evaluation, counseling, instruction, habilitation, or rehabilitation related to hearing impairment and/or communicative disorders for the purpose of identifying, preventing, improving, or correcting such disorders and conditions for clients served. This work has been identified in outpatient, inpatient, and clinic settings within the N. C. Department of Human Resources, University System, and UNC-Hospitals. Work may involve consultation with a variety of clients, clients' parents, families, physicians, and other professional disciplines or agencies. Work may also include supervision of therapists area technicians.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope, Intricacy - Work is performed in inpatient institutions, hospitals, agencies, and outpatient clinics. Employees conduct a variety of audiological tests based upon available equipment and/or as may be determined appropriate for the client, to evaluate or reevaluate hearing acuity, discrimination ability and cause of hearing difficulty. The variety of audiological tests may include, but are not limited to, pure tone aid and bone conduction threshold test, middle ear impedance and acoustic reflex measurement, speech threshold and discrimination test and speech-in-noise, behavioral observation, tests for functional hearing loss and sensorineural and central auditory dysfunction, tone decay. Interprets findings to physicians, peer professionals, other discipline professionals, parents and families, and may develop individualized, therapeutic plans or recommend appropriate treatment. May refer to physician or other audiologist for further evaluation and may evaluate and/or fit and' train in the use of hearing aids.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires a complete understanding of standard audiological test and evaluation methods, techniques, and practices, plus understanding of a variety of speech and hearing impairments and causes.

Guidelines - State licensure law, certificate of clinical competence, JCAH Standards, ICF Standards, agency work standards, and protocols are understood and apply, where applicable, to most work situations. Work does require more independent judgement in applying the professional standards and guidelines.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - Daily and weekly work is self-planned and coordinated with other disciplines or supervisor, department, or clinic manager. The agency and institution goals and patient treatment goals are understood, the employee can make changes in work operations on short range basis, and set work priorities to meet client and program needs. May receive some instructions in patient scheduling and administrative reporting.

Nature of Review - Minimal technical review occurs in this work and the employee refers little to the supervisor and makes more independent program and/or technical decisions.

Scope of Decisions - Employee's work and decision making have a direct effect on the patient population served.

Consequence of Decisions - Employee's work and decision making could have a substantial impact on the client population as errors or inaccurate diagnosis may result in delay or may result in misdiagnosis and severely limit clients' capability in habilitation training and integration into the community.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Employee has contact with a variety of clients, clients' families or guardians, physicians, and professionals from other disciplines. Client and client family contacts are often with persons who are unable to cooperate fully for evaluations and who have little understanding of the medical technology or terminology.

Nature and Purpose - Work includes interpretation of tests and diagnosis performed, and the treatment plan recommended. May also influence, direct, and persuade patients to cooperate in the total treatment plan. Must be able to obtain and report on information relating to the patient and treatment plan. Must be able to direct others in implementation of patient treatment plan.

IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - Generally good working conditions with only occasional disagreeable clients to work with or less than totally optional testing conditions.

Hazards - Employee will generally not have exposure to hazards that may cause injuries, except for occasional uncooperative patients.

V. JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Considerable knowledge of and skill in the application of professional audiological theory, techniques, and practices; of the work unit and the unit policies and procedures; standard audiological tests, processes and evaluations, and of the type and/or group of clients' particular speech/hearing disorders; of the agency, institution goals and treatment programs; general knowledge of available referral resources.

Ability to make audiological assessments and to develop treatment plans; to express one's self in oral and written form and to maintain client records and charts; to gain the confidence of clients and to work effectively with them to gain cooperation for optimum results; to supervise technicians and aides.

Minimum Training and Experience - Master's degree in audiology from an appropriately accredited institution and nine months of supervised experience as required by the NC Licensing Statute (G.S. 90-292), possession of a current and valid license issued by the Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Minimum Training and Experience for a Trainee Appointment and Special Qualification

Master's degree in audiology from an appropriately accredited institution as required by the N.C. Licensing Statute (G.S. 90-292) to be eligible for granting of a temporary license issued by the N.C. Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists. The temporary license must be obtained before the first day of employment. Upon receipt of the permanent license (9 to 12 months) employee may move into the full class.*

Administering the Class - Applicants must submit a copy of the approved temporary license, or the letter from the Board approving the applicant for the temporary license to the agency personnel officer before beginning work. If the applicant has completed the supervised experience, a copy of the permanent license or letter from the Board approving the applicant for licensure should be submitted with the application for employment. Applicants must follow the Board's procedure in obtaining the license within the prescribed time frames. *This licensure is not required of a person applying to work in this capacity at the North Carolina Schools for the Deaf and Blind who possesses a valid and current credential as an audiologist issued by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. (Refer to G.S. 90-294.[c] [4].)

Special Note - This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA. Examples of work are primarily essential functions of the majority of positions in this class, but may not be applicable to all positions.