

ALIGNING GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS WITH THE DEMANDS OF TODAY'S WORKPLACE

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Educational reform and changes in health care have resulted in professional challenges that require speech-language pathologists and audiologists to use knowledge and skills not always included in traditional professional education programs. If our university programs are to provide graduates with the training needed to be effective clinicians in today's workplace, then faculty must review, update, and redesign their academic course work and clinical practica consistent with the expectations and demands our graduates will face. This panel presentation offers suggestions for aligning university programs with the needs of the workplace, emphasizing the knowledge and skills that graduates will need in order to be effective clinicians in various work settings. Part I discusses professional practice issues from the perspective of school-based services; Part II focuses in professional practice in the health care arena; and Part III discusses how one university clinic has brought "real world" issues into its training program. All three presenters link their discussions to ASHA's new certification standards, with an emphasis on infusing content across courses and measuring clinical skills in terms of outcomes