

January 26, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: M.A. SLP Students

FROM: Sarah Buckingham, Ph.D.
Professor and Vice Chair
Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

RE: Comprehensive Exam

The Comprehensive Examination for the M.A. degree will be held on **Friday, April 7, 2017 in Room 2049** of the Allied Health Building (AHB) (Refreshments in Rm. 2050).

The examination will be comprised of 200 multiple-choice questions (1 pt. each, total 200 pts.) with answers to be recorded on ScanTron forms. Four hours will be allotted for completing the examination, with two hours provided for each of two parts and a fifteen minute break scheduled between parts. Students should be present in the examination room by 8:45 a.m. on exam day at which time the instructions for the examination will be provided. The first half of the examination (“Part I”) will be administered from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and the second half (“Part II”) from 11:15 to 1:15 p.m. Students who complete either part of the examination in less than two hours and who then wish to leave the room may do so after turning in their examination papers to the faculty proctor. Students will not be allowed to leave the room and return while either portion of the examination is still in process. Books, notes, cell phones, calculators, scratch papers, etc., are not permitted in the examination room. A #2 pencil will be required. Scantron forms and exam hard copies will be provided to you. You will be able to make notations on exam hard copies but Scantron answers are the *only* answers that will be scored for the test. When the exam is completed, all exam hard copies and Scantron forms must be turned in to the faculty proctor before the exam can be processed.

The examination will assess knowledge of speech-language pathology and audiology gained in undergraduate and graduate courses and clinics. Examinations in speech-language pathology and in audiology will contain some items from the complementary discipline. The speech-language pathology examination, for example, will contain a majority of questions submitted by the speech-language faculty but will also contain some questions submitted by the audiology faculty pertaining to undergraduate audiology and aural rehabilitation content. Students should attempt to answer all questions; there is no penalty for guessing. Questions will require students to demonstrate knowledge of facts, to analyze/interpret data, to solve clinical problems, and to apply ethical decision-making and judgment to professional issues. The examination is not intentionally weighted to favor some course/clinic content and not others; all content areas are important. As with the national PRAXIS exam, 1) questions from different content areas will be

intermixed as you move through the test, and 2) the exam will end at *precisely* 1:15 pm. No additional examination time will be available.

Examinations are scored by a faculty committee who will sum total correct answers across Parts I and II of the exam and who will then perform a number of item analyses. A passing score on the exam is 140/200 or greater. Results will be reported to students (via email and letter) as “Pass” or “Fail” by Monday, April 10. Students who receive a score of “Pass” will have completed the examination. Students who receive a score of “Fail” may have an opportunity to take a follow-up multiple choice or essay examination in weak content areas (described below). Whether Pass or Fail, students will not be informed of specific scores and will not be able to review their examinations. In the case of a failed examination, a faculty advisor will provide a student with information about content areas most frequently in error on the exam.

Any student who earns a score of less than 140/200 correct on the written portion of the comprehensive examination will be notified that he/she has not passed the original exam and, at the discretion of the examination committee, will be asked to complete a follow-up written, oral, or written and oral examination with the examination committee. The follow-up examination will be scheduled by the examination committee *no sooner than three weeks and no later than three months* following the original portion and will primarily cover the content most extensively in error on the original test. The examination is by nature a subjective assessment of knowledge but it is expected that a unanimous pass/fail decision will be rendered by the examination committee. If a unanimous decision is not reached, or if the second attempt is failed, the student will have a third and final oral examination covering the material *no sooner than three weeks and no later than three months* following the second attempt.

If the additional examination(s) is/are successfully completed, the student (within 24 hrs.) and the College of Allied Health (within 72 hrs.) will be notified by the committee chairman that the comprehensive examination for the Masters degree has been passed. If the examination is failed, the student will no longer be eligible for the degree that he/she is seeking*.

If you should have any questions about the examination, please feel free to contact me via email at sarah-buckingham@ouhsc.edu or via voicemail at (405) 271-4214 ext. 46060.

*Successful completion of curriculum courses and clinics shows ongoing *formative* performance; successful completion of the integrated comprehensive examination for the degree shows *summative* performance. Students must successfully complete both formative and summative assessments in order to earn the M.A. degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the OUHSC.