

**COMD 7870 SYLLABUS
CLINICAL RESEARCH PROJECT**

INSTRUCTORS

Name	Phone	Office	Email
Karen Muñoz	(435) 797-3701	ECERC 158	Karen.munoz@usu.edu
Brittan Barker			
Jeffery Larsen			

Dept. Web: <http://comd.usu.edu/>

OFFICE HOURS: arranged by instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The USU Audiology Program prepares students earning the clinical doctoral degree (Au.D.) to provide best practice based on current research evidence. In order to graduate, all students must successfully complete a clinical research project. Students are assigned to a faculty mentor and a project at the beginning of their first semester in the program. The clinical research requirement is designed to provide students with an opportunity to conduct high-quality research projects with a faculty mentor to gain experience and knowledge about the process involved in contributing to the knowledge base of the profession. Specifically, the purposes of the doctoral project are to:

- Provide an opportunity for students to engage in research in an area of audiology
- Foster appreciation for evidence-based practice
- Enhance capacity to be a critical consumer of audiologic research
- Provide a forum conducive for the students to demonstrate critical thinking
- Provide new insight into the practice of audiology

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ASSESSMENT (KASA)

In this course each student will be provided with an opportunity to demonstrate required knowledge and/or skill development. These knowledge and skills will be assessed as delineated in the syllabus (by examination, paper, presentation, project, etc.). ASHA has specified that in order to be competent, you must achieve a level of 80% or better on each KASA item. These KASA competencies apply specifically to students in the doctor of audiology program. If the student does not attain this level in this course, he/she will be provided with ONE additional opportunity (in the current class) to demonstrate this knowledge or skill. If the student does not pass the competency a second time, no action will be taken if another opportunity (course or clinic) remains available in which the skill can be acquired. However, if no such opportunity is available, the student will be asked to complete an exam/demonstration of the knowledge and/or skill as defined by the department. For students failing to attain the set criteria on a required competency assessment, the department head is not able to sign the KASA form required for ASHA certification, even though the student may receive an acceptable course/clinic grade or exceed the minimum GPA.

Foundations of Practice

A18. Principles and practices of research, including experimental design, statistical methods, and application to clinical populations

EXPECTATIONS

The clinical research project is a substantive evidence-based experience that requires students to demonstrate critical thinking and synthesis of information resulting in a written research paper. Students are expected to:

1. Enroll in COMD 7870 (with your faculty mentor) as advised. Your grade will be based on your progress, quality of work, effort, and final defense.
2. Be actively engaged in your project every semester.
3. Disseminate to a broader professional audience (e.g., conference presentation, journal article).
4. Complete and defend the project by August 31st before the 3rd year in the AuD program.
 - a. Students must successfully defend their project, obtain committee signatures, and upload the defense form in Canvas Checklist BEFORE applying for a 4th year placement.
 - i. Students that do not complete the defense in this timeframe will receive an incomplete for COMD 7870, and if the defense is not successfully completed by the summer after the 3rd year in the AuD program the student will fail the project. A failing grade results in removal from the AuD program.

PROCESS MILESTONES

Timelines will vary for each project; discuss specific details about your project with your major professor.

Year 1 Fall Semester

- Research project and major professor assigned
 - Complete Clinical Research Project Planning Form with your major professor
 - Select a committee with your major professor
 - Complete and submit the supervisory committee approval form available at: http://www.usu.edu/graduateschool/degree_completion/forms.cfm

Year 1 Spring Semester

- Complete prospectus, proposal meetings, and IRB requirements

Year 1 Summer Semester through Year 2 (completion of project)

- Complete defense - when your project is completed, work with your chair to schedule a defense. At your defense the committee will determine if your project has been successfully completed.
 - All oral presentations will take place on USU's campus.
 - It is required that students will present their clinical research projects to their Supervisory Committee ***by August 31st prior to their 3rd year. The project must be successfully defended, committee signatures obtained, and the defense form uploaded in Canvas Checklist BEFORE applying for a 4th year placement.***

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Prospectus: to have an initial discussion about your project to make sure your committee understands the direction of the project, and to brainstorm issues as you work towards your Proposal.

Proposal: to present your literature review and methods. This is an opportunity to refine your methods with input from your committee, and identify areas that need to be clarified in your literature review and methods.

Defense: to present your final project and in the process demonstrate your knowledge of the topic, critical thinking, ability to synthesize information, and ability to draw relevant conclusions from your work.

Meeting Expectations:

- Schedule a one-hour meeting.
- Two-weeks prior to the meeting, email your paper, reminder of meeting date, time, and location.

- Your paper should be well developed (for the purpose of the meeting), in APA style, well proofed with no grammatical or spelling errors.
- Provide a presentation about your project. This will include and/or be followed by discussion and questions from the committee.
 - For the defense, at the conclusion of the discussion you will be asked to step out of the room and the committee will discuss your work and determine if you passed or if further work is needed.
- Meetings are formal and your presentations are expected to be professional.

Scheduling:

1. Identify Meeting Date - one month in advance

- a. Doodle Scheduler is an easy and free Internet scheduling program. Talk with your faculty mentor about the dates you should target for your meeting. Keep in mind: (1) be as flexible as you can, (2) include no more than 5 days, and (3) have a short timeline to respond – 3 days. Schedules are constantly changing, it is important to confirm the date and time as soon as possible. Expect to track down some committee members that do not respond quickly.

Sample Email: I would like to thank you for agreeing to be on the committee for my clinical research project, <insert title>. It is time to schedule a meeting for <insert meeting type>. Please go to the following Doodle link <copy and paste the link you received from Doodle and paste it in your email> and indicate your availability for a one-hour meeting. I would like to find and confirm a meeting time as soon as possible, so please respond by <date>. Thank you for your time and I will be in touch with further details about the meeting.

2. Confirm Meeting Date/Time - by email right away (same day); reserve a meeting room

Sample Email: Thank you for your help in identifying a meeting date for my clinical research project, <insert title>. The <insert meeting type> will be on <date> at <time> in <building and room>. Two weeks prior to the meeting I will send you <insert product>. Please let me know if you have any questions or unanticipated conflicts with this meeting.

3. Send Reminder - 2 weeks prior to the meeting; include date, time, and location. Attach your project information (e.g., paper) to the email.

- a. A second reminder should be sent again 2-3 days prior to the meeting.

Sample Email: This is a reminder that the committee meeting <insert type of meeting> for my clinical research project, <insert title> is scheduled for <date> at <time> in <building and room number>. Please read the attached <insert document type> prior to the meeting. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your comments and feedback.