



**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA**

**COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN  
COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION  
NOVEMBER 2007**

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Revised November, 2007

## **PH.D. PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders offers students specialization in speech-language pathology, audiology, or communication sciences and disorders. The program is designed to provide a formal course of academic instruction and advanced research training in communication sciences and disorders that produces significant, original contributions to the professional discipline. Coursework in experimental research design, statistics, and various out-of-department opportunities maximizes the student's ability to engage in original research and scholarship.

There are two tracks that students can choose in pursuit of the Ph.D. degree. Track One is for applicants who have completed both undergraduate and graduate level training in the profession or a related field. For these students, it is assumed that they have either already met course work requirements toward certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), or they are not pursuing certification. Students with bachelor's degrees within the discipline may enter this program but do not complete the clinical requirements for certification through ASHA (i.e., CCC-A or CCC-SLP).

Track Two is designed for students who wish to obtain clinical certification in either discipline as part of their training. This track is available as a fast-track option to the Ph.D. program and is available to the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) and Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MSSLP) degree students after they have completed one half of their degree programs. That is, Au.D. students can apply to the Ph.D. program after the first two years of their Au.D. training. If accepted, they proceed to complete the requirements for the Au.D. and the Ph.D. programs simultaneously. They are awarded both degrees at the completion of all program requirements, and they are eligible for ASHA CCC-A. Students in the MSSLP program can convert to the Ph.D. program after one year of the master's degree and complete the Ph.D. in three years. They are awarded the Ph.D. only. They will have, however, demonstrated the core knowledge and skills necessary to be eligible for the ASHA CCC-SLP. They will still need to complete the Clinical Fellowship (CF).

### **A. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the general admission requirements of the University's Graduate School, minimum requirements for admission to the Ph.D. program by the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology are:

Track One:

1. Bachelor's or graduate degree. If the applicant wants to earn ASHA certification then a graduate degree in speech-language pathology or audiology is needed.
2. For bachelor's applicants, minimum overall undergraduate GPA of 3.2 (based on 4.0) and minimum undergraduate GPA in the professional area of 3.5. For those holding a graduate degree, a minimum overall graduate GPA of 3.5.
3. Combined score of at least 1000 on the Verbal and Quantitative portions of

the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

4. Three letters of reference from faculty at the undergraduate or graduate institution, as appropriate, are required. Two of these references must be provided by the Ph.D. faculty.
5. A Letter of Intent stating the applicant's reasons for pursuing the degree.

#### Track Two:

1. Bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology, audiology or successful completion of the prerequisite year of undergraduate equivalency course work in the area of Speech and Hearing Sciences or equivalent (See Prerequisite program above).
2. Current status within the Au.D. or M.S. SLP program at USA with a minimum graduate GPA of 3.5 (based on 4.0).
3. Combined score of at least 1000 on the Verbal and Quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
4. Three letters of reference from current faculty, two of these references being provided by the Ph.D. faculty.
5. A Letter of Intent stating the applicant's reasons for pursuing the degree.

Applications for Track One of the Ph.D. program are accepted at any time and enrollment can begin any semester. Applications for the Track Two program are accepted after November 1 during the student's first year of the M.S. SLP program or second year of the Au.D. program. The deadline for receipt of all application materials is February 15.

## **B. ADVISING**

### Major Advisor

The Major Advisor is responsible for monitoring the student's academic and research progress. Upon entering the program the student selects a Major Advisor. This selection will be based on the student's area of interest, as well as the particular faculty member's area of interest and availability. If the student has not identified a specific faculty member, the Department Chair will assign a Major Advisor based upon availability of faculty and tentative areas of interest to the student. As the student progresses through the program, s/he may request reassignment to a different Major Advisor depending upon changes in academic and research interests.

### Plan of Study

The student prepares a Plan of Study (POS) under the direction of his/her Major Advisor. The student is strongly encouraged to seek guidance from other faculty in the development of this plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide structure to the student's academic experiences. The POS is composed of a letter and course outline that should cover the following four topics:

1. A breakdown of coursework to indicate major and minor areas of interest.

2. A description of the student's goals with respect to career and research interests, and a rationale of how the plan meets these goals.
3. Suggestions for the members to make up the student's Comprehensive Examination Committee and the proposed semester when comprehensive examinations will be attempted.
4. A chronological listing of all graduate courses to be completed by the student.

The student and Major Advisor present the plan to the POS Committee for review and approval. The committee must contain at least three members of the University's Graduate Faculty from the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. If a student has completed a graduate thesis, the committee determines the quality of the previous project. If the committee decides it is of sufficient merit, the predissertation research project requirement can be waived. The POS must be reviewed and approved by the end of the second semester. When the committee accepts the student's POS, a copy is placed into the student's file. Any future amendments should also be documented and placed in the student's file. Appendix A provides a sample POS Letter. Appendix B provides a sample POS Course Outline.

#### Student Responsibility

While the University of South Alabama, the Major Advisor, and the faculty of the Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology will endeavor to provide timely and accurate advisement, it is the responsibility of the student to know and satisfy the degree requirements of the academic program, to be aware of the University calendar and to understand and comply with University academic policies and procedures.

### **C. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The program has three general requirements that must be satisfied for confirmation of the Ph.D. degree: curriculum, candidacy, and dissertation. The curriculum requirement involves formal study in traditional coursework, as well as courses of independent study and directed research. The candidacy requirement is met by the student's successful completion of the predissertation research project and the comprehensive examination. The dissertation requirement involves the development, production, and presentation of an original scholarly research project. These general requirements are discussed in detail in subsequent sections.

### **D. CURRICULUM REQUIREMENT**

The curriculum requirement is the completion of a minimum of 66 semester hours of approved graduate coursework. Fast-track students may also be required to complete prerequisite graduate coursework and may have additional curriculum requirements to meet the standards for certification. Appendix C contains a list of the academic courses offered as part of the Ph.D. curriculum. The 66 hours are broken down as follows:

Core Courses

12 hours

Pre-dissertation course work in experimental design, statistical procedures, and research instrumentation. Includes doctoral colloquia.

- CSD 650 Research Methods (3 cr)
- CSD 651 Speech and Hearing Science and Instrumentation (3 cr)
- IDE 620 Quantitative Methods I (3 cr) or equivalent
- IDE 621 Quantitative Methods II (3 cr) or equivalent

Electives 29 hours

Electives include directed studies and directed research. Research projects are designed to give the student direct experience in the design, analysis and interpretation of experimental questions. This directed research is intended, in part, to provide the student with a project for their predissertation research manuscript and oral presentation. These experiences are also designed as prerequisites to the preparation of the prospectus of the doctoral dissertation. Additionally, students may take course work within and outside of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Professional Practicum 4 hours

Professional practicum experiences are designed to give direct experience with at least two of the following professional areas: teaching, clinical supervision, and administration. These may be repeated but only 4 hours count toward degree requirements.

Dissertation 21 hours

TOTAL 66 hours

*Note.* The above represent *minimum* requirements. With departmental approval, the student may take additional coursework in a specific area if it is needed to support the student's specialization area or to obtain knowledge in an ancillary area. Also, the student must be continuously enrolled until the dissertation is completed and accepted.

**E. CANDIDACY REQUIREMENT**

The student's admission to doctoral degree candidacy is based upon successful completion of the predissertation research project and the comprehensive examination.

Predissertation Research Project

Through a series of directed study and research electives, the student is expected to complete an original research project. The project results in the production of a professional-level, data-based manuscript. Based upon the findings of this study, the student delivers a scholarly presentation. The intent of this candidacy requirement is to assess the student's ability to succinctly convey information orally and to allow the faculty to assess the quality of the student's research. The project will also allow the student to gain familiarity with much of the process necessary for successful completion of the doctoral dissertation.

The student and Major Advisor determine the preliminary topic for the research project and develop the Predissertation Committee. The committee must contain at least three members of the University's Graduate Faculty and may include one member from outside the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. The committee is charged with specifying the format of the document to be prepared. The role of the committee is to guide and advise the student in the development of the project, review and approve the prospectus, and serve as the examining committee for the final defense of the project. Next, the student prepares a prospectus consisting of a literature review, purpose, and method. The prospectus is presented orally in a public forum. The student must submit the written document to the committee a minimum of two weeks prior to the oral presentation. Following the oral presentation, the committee meets with the student for review and approval of the project. The committee may require changes before the project is approved. The results of the prospectus meeting are recorded on a Proposal Approval Form (see Appendix D) and placed in the student's file.

In addition to the departmental requirements, students must also meet specific requirements set forth by the University for conducting research. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the University of South Alabama is responsible for the review of all research projects involving human subjects which are carried out on the campuses of the University. Students must complete the Human Participant Protections Education program before they are eligible to submit an IRB Application for the project. All information pertaining to IRB policies, forms, guidelines, and regulatory requirements, including those specific to student researchers are available online through the University of South Alabama's College of Medicine website (<http://www.southalabama.edu/com/research/humansubjects/irb.shtml>).

Subsequent to committee approval and IRB approval, the student may begin data collection. At the completion of the data collection, the student prepares a written document in journal article format with help from his/her Major Advisor and committee. The completed study is presented orally in a public forum. The student must submit the written document to the committee a minimum of two weeks prior to the oral presentation. Following the oral presentation, the committee meets with the student for review and approval/rejection of the project. The project is graded as Pass or Fail. The committee may require changes before the project is accepted. Appendix E provides a model of the general steps discussed previously that are necessary for completing the predissertation requirement.

Once the project is completed, the committee makes a recommendation to the Comprehensive Examination Committee to accept the project as partial completion of the doctoral degree candidacy requirements. The predissertation research project must be successfully completed prior to attempting the comprehensive examination.

### Comprehensive Examination

The comprehensive examination is guided by the student's POS. The student attempts the comprehensive examination after all academic work listed in the student's plan has been completed or during the last semester that necessary courses are being taken. The student may enroll in the Externship course (AUD 676), Professional Practicum courses (CSD 696, 697, 698), and/or additional coursework in ancillary areas

(e.g., psychology, early childhood education, geriatrics) after taking the comprehensive examination. The student and Major Advisor develop the Comprehensive Examination Committee. The committee is comprised of at least three members of the University's Graduate Faculty and may include one graduate faculty member from outside the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. The Major Advisor is responsible for submitting the list of committee members to the Graduate School for approval. The committee should be formed as far in advance of the written component as possible. It should also be noted that the Comprehensive Examination Committee and Predissertation Committee can be comprised of the same members.

The comprehensive examination is comprised of two portions: a written component and an oral component. The student and committee determine the topics and time distribution for the written component. Examination questions are designed to assess overall knowledge, integration, and understanding. Questions may or may not be course-specific. The Major Advisor is responsible for compiling the questions from the committee members and administering the written examination. **The student must write for a total of 18 hours within one workweek (Monday through Friday). The oral component must be attempted within 10 business days of the completion of the written component.** Generally, the purpose of the oral examination is to allow the student to provide additional information on questions presented in the written component and allow the committee members to pursue areas they feel further information is needed. At the completion of the oral component, the student is removed while the committee convenes to discuss the student's performance. The student is then brought back and informed of the committee's decision.

The comprehensive examination is graded as Pass, Pass with Conditions, or Fail. If the student receives a Pass with Conditions or a Fail on one or more sections of the written or oral examination components, s/he meets with the appropriate faculty to determine the course of action to address the deficiencies (e.g., rewrite questions, answer related questions orally or in written form, take additional coursework). Upon successful completion of the predissertation research project (if required) and the comprehensive examination, the student is admitted to doctoral degree candidacy.

## **F. DISSERTATION REQUIREMENT**

The doctoral dissertation is a scholarly record of the student's research, the results of which are an original contribution to the discipline. The student will find many similarities in the preparation and execution of the dissertation that were also a part of the predissertation research project. After admission to candidacy, the student and Major Advisor determine the dissertation topic and develop the Dissertation Committee. The role of the committee is to guide and advise the student in the development of the project, review and approve the prospectus, and serve as the examining committee for the final dissertation defense. The committee is comprised of at least four members of the University's Graduate Faculty. There must be a minimum of two members from within the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology and a minimum of one member from outside the department. The Dissertation Committee Chair must be a Full Member of the Graduate Faculty. The student and Major Advisor are responsible for submitting the list of committee members to the Graduate School for approval (Graduate School Form #4).

It should also be noted that the Dissertation Committee can be comprised of the same members as the Predissertation and/or Comprehensive Examination Committees.

After determining the topic and committee, the student prepares a prospectus consisting of a literature review, purpose, and method. The prospectus is presented orally in a public forum. The student is required to post signs in the department to notify individuals of the upcoming presentation, as well as forward a notice to the Dean of the College. The student must submit the written document to the committee a minimum of two weeks prior to the oral presentation. Following the oral presentation, the committee meets with the student for review and approval of the project. The committee may require changes before the project is approved. The results of the prospectus meeting are recorded on a Proposal Approval Form (see Appendix D) and placed in the student's file.

As with the predissertation research project, the student must meet specific requirements set forth by the University for conducting research (See E. CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS, Predissertation Research Project). It is possible that some of these requirements were completed by the student previously. Subsequent to project committee approval and IRB approval, the student may begin data collection. At the completion of the data collection, the student prepares a written document conforming to the University's manual entitled "A Guide for Preparing Theses and Dissertations" (<http://www.southalabama.edu/graduateprograms/ThesisDissertationGuide.pdf>). The completed study is presented orally in a public forum. The student is required to post signs in the department to notify individuals of the upcoming presentation, as well as forward a notice to the Dean of the College. It is the Major Advisor's responsibility to contact the Graduate School to have the notification posted to the entire university. The student must submit the written document to the committee a minimum of two weeks prior to the oral presentation. Following the oral presentation, the committee meets with the student for review and approval/rejection of the project. The project is graded as Pass or Fail, and the committee may require changes before the project is accepted. Appendix E provides a model of the general steps discussed previously that are necessary for completing the dissertation requirement.

The committee's acceptance of the document is the final component needed at the departmental level before granting the Ph.D. degree. After making any final changes requested by the committee, the student should submit the document for an originality review through [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) or a similar service. The originality review will ensure that the document is free of plagiarism and that sources are properly cited and referenced. After successful completion of the originality review, the student must submit the final document to the Dean of the Graduate School in accordance with the University's preparation manual. The deadlines for submission to the Dean of the Graduate School are provided in the latest edition of the Graduate School Bulletin. While only 21 credit hours of dissertation research count towards the degree, a student must continually enroll in CSD 799 (Dissertation Research) until the final document has been approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

## **G. CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP YEAR / EXTERNSHIP**

Currently, the Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Sciences and Disorders does not make provision for students undertaking and completing a CFY (or Externship

as required for the Au.D. degree). It is recommended that students do not attempt to complete a CFY or Externship until they have passed their comprehensive examinations.

#### **H. TIME LIMIT**

Students must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within seven calendar years from admission to the Ph.D. program. After reaching candidacy, students have a maximum of two years to complete the dissertation. Extensions may be granted under appropriate circumstances.

#### **I. TRANSFER CREDIT**

Normally, students are not permitted to transfer doctoral level credits. Exceptions to this policy require the approval of the graduate faculty.

#### **J. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POLICY**

The University's Office of International Services determines a foreign applicant's eligibility for admission to the University. If an applicant has taken classes in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology in English, the applicant must provide the Department with a syllabus and the title and author of the textbook used for each Speech Pathology and Audiology undergraduate and master's level class. If the applicant's native language is not English, the applicant is required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants must meet a minimum scaled score of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based), or 100 (internet-based). Applicants should note that these are more stringent than the scaled score requirement of the Office of International Services.

#### **K. GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP**

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available. **Although assistantships must be renewed annually, doctoral students on funding typically are guaranteed funding for a maximum of three years.** Assistantships typically provide an annual stipend and a 10-credit tuition waiver for each semester. **Students must be registered for a minimum of 10 credit hours each semester to maintain an assistantship.** Graduate assistants are expected to provide up to 20 hours of work per week. Work assignments are reviewed each semester with assignments based upon departmental need. Assistantships may be removed at any time should students fail to complete assigned duties.

**APPENDIX A: SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY LETTER**

February 1, 2006

Dear Plan of Study Committee:

Brenda Beverly, Ph.D.

Mike Carpenter, Ph.D.

Paul Dagenais, Ph.D.

Robert Moore, Ph.D.

Please find attached a copy of my plan of study. This plan outlines coursework, teaching components, and dissertation hours that will assist me in the completion of the Ph.D. program. The plan of study includes a major area of study within Psychoacoustics and a minor in Aging. Completion of the proposed classes will allow me to complete the comprehensive examination and conduct research in many areas of audiology, especially the area of speech perception.

Upon completion of my degree, I hope to have a university faculty position, teaching, supervising and performing research in the area of speech perception. I also will have the knowledge to be able to teach graduate and undergraduate audiology courses. Ultimately, I would prefer to be in a university department similar to USA's, in which the focus is on teaching and research.

A projected comprehensive examination date has been set has been set for February 2007. The tentative breakdown of comprehensive exam hours is: Child Language (Beverly, 6 hrs.), Event-Related Potentials (Carpenter, 4 hrs.), Research Design (Dagenais, 2 hrs.), and Psychoacoustics (Moore, 6 hrs.).

Completion of the degree program is estimated to be May 2008.

Sincerely,

A. Student

**APPENDIX B: SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Fall, 2005</b> IDE 620 Quantitative Methods I 3 CSD 651 Advanced Instrumentation (PD/RM) 3 CSD 694 Advanced Psychoacoustics (RM) 3 <b>TOTAL</b> 9 GOAL: Start Predissertation Research Project	<b>Spring, 2006</b> IDE 621 Quantitative Methods II 3 CSD 694 Child Language (BB) 4 CSD 694 Advanced Psychoacoustics II (RM) 3 <b>TOTAL</b> 10 GOAL: Present Predissertation Prospectus	<b>Summer, 2006</b> CSD 650 Research Methods (PD) 3 CSD 694 Specific Language Impairment (BB) 3 CSD 694 Speech Recognition (RM) 4 <b>TOTAL</b> 10 GOALS: Collect Data and Write Pre-Dissertation
<b>Fall, 2006</b> CSD 694 Directed Study 3 CSD 694 Directed Study 3 CSD 697 Prof Prac: Clinical Supervision 2 <b>TOTAL</b> 8 GOAL: Defend Predissertation Research Project	<b>Spring, 2007</b> CSD 694 Directed Study 3 CSD 694 Directed Study 3 CSD 698 Prof Prac: Teaching 2 <b>TOTAL</b> 8 GOALS: Take Comprehensive Examination and Present Dissertation Prospectus	<b>Summer, 2007</b> CSD 799 Dissertation 9 <b>TOTAL</b> 9 GOALS: Collect Data and Write Dissertation
<b>Fall, 2007</b> CSD 799 Dissertation 6 <b>TOTAL</b> 6 GOAL: Defend Dissertation	<b>Spring, 2008</b> CSD 799 Dissertation 6 <b>TOTAL</b> 6 GOAL: Complete Dissertation	<b>Summer, 2008</b> <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> 66

*Note.* The sample plan represents *minimum* curriculum requirements. A student, with approval, may take additional coursework in a specific area if it is needed to support the student's specialization area or to obtain knowledge in an ancillary area. The nature of the doctoral program allows for a wide variety of specialization areas, which often results in unique plans of study for each student. For departmental elective courses (e.g., CSD 694) students should assign an intended course name and instructor's initials (see examples above).

## **APPENDIX C: ACADEMIC COURSES OF THE PH.D. CURRICULUM**

### **CSD 600 Doctoral Colloquium (1 cr)**

This seminar is designed to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of faculty and doctoral student research projects. Topics may also include: teaching and learning styles and grant writing. Must be repeated until candidacy is achieved.

### **CSD 650 Research Methods (3 cr)**

Current methods and strategies used in research of communication processes.

### **CSD 651 Speech and Hearing Science and Instrumentation (3 cr)**

Advanced review of the process of speech production, acoustic phonetics, coarticulation, and speech perception with emphasis on laboratory research methods.

### **CSD 662 Studies in Speech Science (3 cr)**

Basic and advanced principles of the acoustics and physiology of speech production.

### **CSD 663 Studies in Hearing Science (3 cr)**

Advanced study of psychological and physiological acoustics.

### **CSD 664 Studies in Language Science (3 cr)**

Intensive study of the theoretical foundations underlying syntax, semantics, pragmatics, phonology, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, and applied pragmatics.

### **CSD 665 Studies in Communication Neuroscience (3 cr)**

Advanced survey of neurosciences as they relate to processes and pathologies of human communication, including functional neuroanatomy and clinical neurology. Interdisciplinary research paradigms will also be discussed.

### **CSD 672 Laboratory in Speech Science (1 cr)**

Laboratory experience in speech science.

### **CSD 673 Laboratory in Hearing Science (1 cr)**

Laboratory experience in hearing science.

### **CSD 674 Laboratory in Language Science (1 cr)**

Laboratory experience in language science.

### **CSD 675 Laboratory in Communication Neuroscience (1 cr)**

Laboratory experience in neuroscience.

### **CSD 682 Seminar in Speech Science (3 cr)**

Intensive review of current research in speech production. May include normal and disordered processes. Topics may include acoustic phonetics, physiological phonetics, prosody, production and perception, fluency, and voice. May be repeated.

**CSD 683 Seminar in Hearing Science (3 cr)**

Intensive literature review of current knowledge and research in hearing and hearing disorders. Topics may include cochlear mechanics, complex signal processing, electrophysiological measures, and development of hearing, hearing in the elderly, and hearing in other species. May be repeated.

**CSD 684 Seminar in Language Science (3 cr)**

Intensive literature review of current methods, problems, and strategies in language research. Topics may include normal language acquisition, language-learning disorders, clinical aphasiology, and neurolinguistics. May be repeated.

**CSD 694 Directed Study (1-3 cr)**

Independent study under the direction of a graduate faculty member. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of Graduate Advisor.

**CSD 695 Directed Research (1-3 cr)**

Research under the direction of a graduate faculty member. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of Graduate Advisor.

**CSD 696 Professional Practicum: Administration (2 cr)**

Supervised professional experiences in administration under the guidance of graduate faculty mentors. May be repeated.

**CSD 697 Professional Practicum: Clinical Supervision (2 cr)**

Supervised professional experiences in clinical teaching under the guidance of graduate faculty mentors. May be repeated.

**CSD 698 Professional Practicum: Teaching (2 cr)**

Supervised professional experiences in academic teaching under the guidance of graduate faculty mentors. May be repeated.

**CSD 799 Dissertation Research (1-9 cr)**

Independent research under the direction of a graduate faculty member. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Admission to doctoral candidacy, or Consent of Dissertation Director and Graduate Advisor.

**IDE 620 Quantitative Methods I (3 cr)**

Basic quantitative methods for decision making in the educational environment. Computer application of basic descriptive and inferential statistics.

**IDE 621 Quantitative Methods II (3 cr)**

Basic research designs, with appropriate statistical analysis. The course will consider strategies needed for , but not limited to, the following: N-of-One research surveys and needs assessments; ex post-facto designs, and true experimental designs. Prerequisite: IDE 620.

**APPENDIX D: RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL APPROVAL FORM**

**Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology  
Proposal Approval Form  
Thesis/Predissertation/Dissertation**

This form constitutes an agreement between the student and his/her Thesis, Predissertation, or Dissertation Committee. The form is signed by each committee member and the student after a formal written proposal is presented and the student has successfully completed an oral presentation and committee meeting. The signed form and a copy of the title page of the written proposal are to be placed in the student's file.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_

(check one): Thesis \_\_\_\_\_ Predissertation \_\_\_\_\_ Dissertation \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that the attached project proposal represents an accurate summary of the project I plan to complete as part of the requirements of the program of study in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at the University of South Alabama.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Following completion of the oral presentation and subsequent committee meeting, the committee agrees to one of the following:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Accept (No additional approval required.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Accept with Conditions (Nature of condition to be specified below.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Unacceptable in current form (Further committee meeting required. Another signed form authorizing either Pass or Pass with Conditions required for the project to move forward.)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

We (the undersigned) have reviewed the project proposal and agree that it is an acceptable plan for the student to pursue. We agree to serve on the student's Research Project Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair's Name (typed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member's Name (typed)

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Committee Member's Signature

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Committee Member's Name (typed)

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Committee Member's Name (typed)

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Committee Member's Signature

**APPENDIX E: MODEL OF RESEARCH PROJECT COMPLETION**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Select a research topic	Student and Major Advisor	
Form the Research Project Committee	Student and Major Advisor	For dissertation, a list of committee members must be submitted to the Graduate School for approval
Prepare the prospectus	Student, with help from the Major Advisor and Committee as needed	
Complete the Human Participant Protections Education Program	Student	Usually only necessary to complete once during the student's program
Submit an IRB application	Student, with help from the Major advisor as needed	Subsequent to completing the Human Participant Protections Education Program
Submit the written document to the Research Committee Members	Student	Minimum 2 weeks prior to oral presentation
Oral presentation of the prospectus	Student	
Data collection	Student	Subsequent to Research Committee approval and IRB approval
Submit the written document to the Research Committee Members	Student	Minimum 2 weeks prior to oral presentation
Oral presentation and defense of the project	Student	
Originality review through turnitin.com or a similar service	Student	Performed after making any final changes requested by the Research Committee
Submit the written document to the Graduate School	Student	Only necessary for the dissertation

*Note.* The model identifies the general steps necessary for completing the predissertation and dissertation requirements. It is not intended to represent every student's plan. For some students the order of tasks or particular tasks may be inappropriate. For example, IRB approval can occur prior to or after the prospectus meeting depending on the student's specific situation.