Policy on students who speak English with accent, nonstandard dialects and/or who present with communication deficit(s)

All students who are enrolled in clinical practicum at the Oklahoma State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic are provided opportunities to evaluate and treat patients with communication disorders as long as they demonstrate knowledge on normal and disordered communication and are able to model the desired behavior. If there is a specific condition that prohibits the student from modeling the desired behavior to the patient, then the student will be provided active guidance on modeling the specific behavior before providing further clinical services to the patient. For example, a student speaking English with a certain accent could potentially have difficulty in modeling a target phoneme to a child with articulation disorder. In this case the student will be put on a remediation plan before providing further clinical services to the child. As a part of the remedial plan, the clinical supervisor will work with the student and provide guidance on modeling the target behavior. Once the student is able to demonstrate that he/she is capable of modeling the specific phoneme then he/she will be again assigned a patient with an articulation disorder.

The Oklahoma State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic will not discriminate against persons based on their spoken dialect and language, race, color, religious affiliation, or parental status. In line with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association position statement “Students and Professionals Who Speak English With Accents and Nonstandard Dialects: Issues and Recommendations”, we understand that all individuals speak with an accent and/or dialect; thus, we facilitate our students to receive maximum clinical experience that they are entitled to.