

### **Residency While Participating in the Program**

Students, working toward the Master of Science (distance education; part-time) degree in COMD through distance education, often live in different states throughout the US. As a non-South Carolina resident, the student continues to reside in their home state while enrolled in academic courses. Current students and alumni have participated in distance education courses while living in other locations. However, current federal regulations and state legislation, pertaining to distance education, may impact Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Carolina's ability to provide distance learning and clinical practicum (experiential learning) opportunities in some states. For certain states, we cannot guarantee these experiences.

Master of Science (distance education; part-time) students must complete the 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 summer practicum experiences in South Carolina. Following completion of the SC practicum requirement, our goal is to place students for the following summer, final spring, and final internships within 1 hour of their city of residence. However, practicum site availability may be limited for students who live in specific types of areas including:

1. Rural areas with limited potential placement sites,
2. Areas with significant numbers of students from other COMD programs, or
3. Metropolitan areas with longer overall commute times.

In situations such as these, scheduled practicum sites may be further than one hour from the students' city of residence.

### **Important Information about Programs Leading to Professional Licensure Pertaining to Non-South Carolina Residents**

Each state has its own licensing board with its own speech-language pathology licensure requirements. Consequently, although the master's degree program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Carolina is fully accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, thereby making its graduates eligible for national certification (CCC-SLP) and professional licensure in the state of South Carolina, we cannot confirm that the program meets the requirements for professional licensure in another state. For applicants not living in South Carolina, the following link provides information regarding state licensure specific to individual states where a non-resident applicant lives. <http://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/>

Current students who are non-South Carolina residents are also provided with the same web link at <http://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/> for current access to state-specific licensure information for states throughout the US. If a current student is considering relocating to another state after being admitted into the program, the graduate student must initially contact the Director of Distance Education to discuss how the move may impact their ability to participate in distance education involving academic courses (distance learning) and clinical practicum (experiential learning) opportunities in a different state.

It is important to understand that the master's degree program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Carolina is accredited in the United States. This program is training students to meet the knowledge outcomes and skills competencies, including academic and clinical requirements for certification from the American Speech-Language-Hearing

Association (ASHA). Applicants must understand that, if admitted, situations such as relocating, personal choices, life decisions including leave requests, etc. while in the program, may impact the student's eligibility for *continuous* academic program progression (distance learning) and/or participation in clinical practicum (experiential learning), and may delay graduation.