

## Example 4 (2016)

My passion for the dynamic field of Audiology was defined long before joining the Communication Sciences and Disorders program. A combination of my enjoyment of helping others and my love for singing led me to want to help others who struggle to communicate. This prompted me to pursue Speech-Language Pathology. As I began coursework, I was introduced to the field of Audiology and realized the possibilities within this field are limitless.

Through Expressive Movement Initiative, I have the honor to teach movement to children who are differently abled. A mission of the organization is the "mentorship between our students and teachers;" we say mentorship because these kids teach us more than we could ever teach them. A smart, energetic boy helped solidify my decision to become an Audiologist. I realized that before communication can begin, *hearing* the communication must occur. You can see the desire to communicate in his eyes and I want to help clients find the sound so they may find their voice.

With this degree, I will be impactful to surrounding communities to allow for easier access to hearing technologies, regardless of age and cognitive abilities. My experience with those who are differently abled will help me develop easier and more effective ways of diagnosing and treating hearing loss. I will advocate for the expansion of existing programs to improve accessibility and create new inclusive programs. In the distant future, I hope to take these programs internationally.

I work hard to be a multi-faceted person who achieves within the classroom, and while giving back to the community. I accomplish most with a full schedule and work through my stresses by staying organized and focused on milestones. I am a problem solver and hard-worker; I will use my determination to set goals for my clients and approach treatment with diverse methods to help others most effectively.

This year, I am assisting the Hearing, Evaluation, Rehabilitation, and Outcomes (HERO) laboratory with the lab's ongoing research endeavors and a research project of my own. I realized my dad has signs of hearing loss; yet in his words, "I pass the hearing tests." This sparked my interest in a research project that aims to determine firefighters' knowledge of, experiences with, and attitudes toward hearing loss and hearing conservation. Our goal is to present at AAA and Oklahoma Research Day.

I am eager to begin learning the necessities and beyond to make an impact on the clients I will treat during my externship, and as a clinical practitioner. While I do not plan to begin a PhD immediately, I am hopeful to continue with research so that one day I can serve as a mentor to future students. In the distant future, I would love the opportunity to serve as an Audiologist in a university setting. I understand that completing a doctoral program is no easy task but I am determined to be successful alongside the Doctor of Audiology Class of 2020 at *your* University.