

SPCHSCI 701

Dysphagia for Speech-language Therapists (e-learning course)

Course description

Speech Science at The University of Auckland offers a postgraduate e-learning course in dysphagia that meets NZSTA and SPA requirements for dysphagia education for qualified speech-language therapists (SLTs). This course is designed as a professional entry-level qualification covering all aspects of swallowing and feeding, rather than a professional development course for dysphagia-trained therapists.



Course Content

The course has a number of modules and themes. The course emphasizes evidence-based practice, family-centered care and a holistic approach throughout. It includes a number of case-studies. The modules are:

1. Biomechanics
2. Safety, efficiency and risk management
3. Clinical assessment
4. Instrumental assessment
5. Management planning and decision making
6. Intervention

Adult and paediatric dysphagia

Both adult and paediatric dysphagia are covered. Information and assignments relate to both adult and paediatric cases. You can choose a topic for your assignments that focuses on further research into your chosen topic. For example cerebral palsy or craniofacial topics may be selected by someone with an interest in paediatrics. You are assessed on your knowledge of all aspects of dysphagia, regardless of your clinical interest.

Course structure

The course is taught and examined wholly on-line. The course website includes written content, articles, videos and quizzes to work through. You are expected to contribute to the group regularly throughout the course through online discussion. It is a flexible course allowing you to contribute at those times of the day or evening that are personally convenient. Learning is assessed through coursework, a written test and an analysis of videofluoroscopy (all on-line). The course co-ordinator is available on-line for support.

There is no practical component to this course. You are strongly recommended to gain practical experience in your local community before or during the course if you are not currently working in dysphagia. You can arrange this with your local SLT team.



Time and resources commitment

The SPCHSCI 701 course can be taken alone as a one-semester Certificate of Proficiency (COP) through the Faculty of Science, or as part of an 8-paper Postgraduate Diploma in Science (PGDipSc) completed full or part-time. It cannot be taken in preparation for or as part of the Masters in Speech-language Therapy Practice (MSLTPrac). SPCHSCI 701 contains similar content to SPCHSCI 721 but is specifically designed for non-MSLTPrac students. Students should plan to spend around 10 hours per week studying.

As the course is on-line, through Canvas (the University's intranet management system) you should have broadband internet access. You should be familiar with and have access to IT resources such as e-mail, MSWord, journal databases (available through the university library), Google Scholar and other search engines, MSPowerpoint or other presentation software. We suggest VLC media player to control the playback of audio-video files and Mozilla Firefox for the course website access.

Course dates

The SPCHSCI 701 Dysphagia course is offered in semester 1 and semester 2 every year. A minimum number of participants is required.

- For semester 1 dates are end-February to mid-June, test will be mid-June, results mid-July.
- For semester 2 dates are mid-July to end-October, test will be early-November, results end-November.

Entry to course

Entry to the course is subject to fulfilling the admission and enrolment requirements of The University of Auckland. You should allow at least four weeks to complete the application process – especially if you are applying from overseas.

- Contact the course co-ordinator if you want any further information about the course content and structure. You need to contact the course co-ordinator (see below) to discuss your intention to enrol and complete the Supplementary Application form.
- If you are an NZ resident or citizen go to www.studentservices.auckland.ac.nz for support with your application and queries about fees.
- If you are not an NZ resident or citizen, contact the International Office for support with admission and enrolment and fees. Phone +64 9 373 7513, Email int-questions@auckland.ac.nz www.auckland.ac.nz/international
- Students who have not previously studied at The University of Auckland may be required to obtain ROPAS (Recognition of Previous Academic Study) approval. Telephone 0800 61 62 63 or the International Office for advice. This can take several weeks to process. (There is an additional cost associated with this.)
- Once you have applied online you will be given a student ID. Your enrolment must then be completed online. For details go to www.studentservices.auckland.ac.nz. The course co-ordinator must approve your enrolment at this point. Please also ensure that you have completed the [Supplementary application form](#).

Fees

Online information is available for [Tuition Fees and money matters](#) or contact the International Office +64 9 373 7513.

Further Information

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Website: [Speech Science courses](#)

DISCLAIMER

Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this document is provided as a general guide only for students and is subject to alteration. All students enrolling at The University of Auckland must consult its official document the current issue of Calendar of the University of Auckland, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies.