

# Course Syllabus

## CSD 6400-002 Augmentative and Alternative Communication

FALL 2023

### CLASS TIME, LOCATION, & CREDIT HOURS

CLASS MEETING DATES: Thursdays, October 19, 2023 – December 7, 2023

CLASS TIMES: 8:30 am– 12:00 pm

CLASS LOCATION: Clinic Classroom

Credits: 2

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Joelle Rasmussen, MS, CCC-SLP**  
**Assistant Professor (Clinical)**  
[Joelle.Rasmussen@utah.edu](mailto:Joelle.Rasmussen@utah.edu)  
**Cell: 801.244.6490**

Department of Communication Sciences  
and Disorders

Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

417 Wakara Way, Suite 1112

Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

**Office Hours by Appointment**

## TEACHING ASSISTANT INFORMATION

None

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) for individuals of all ages, presenting with a range of abilities, communication challenges, and areas of need.

This course emphasizes the ways in which the individual, their communication partners, and their environments impact the AAC tools and strategies prescribed and implemented, as well as the services rendered. Course participants will learn about no-tech, mid-tech and high-tech AAC, various ways AAC can be accessed, and assessment processes and intervention techniques for toddlers, school-aged individuals, and adults. Case examples help to bring this content to life, to ensure participants are better able to picture AAC and the important role it plays for people who use AAC and their communication partners.

## PRE- OR CO-REQUISITES

Communication Sciences and Disorders graduate student or instructor permission

## REQUIRED MATERIAL

Hall, N. Juengling-Sudkamp, J., Gutmann, M., & Cohn, E. R. (2022). Fundamentals of AAC: A case-based approach to enhancing communication. San Diego, CA: Plural Publishing. First Edition, Copyright 2023, ISBN13:978-1-63550-353-1  
Promo Code: ST15 gives 15% off when purchased directly from Plural Publishing at <https://www.pluralpublishing.com>, Online or Hard Copy Textbook version options.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain how the individual, their communication partners, and their environment are all integral to the development of AAC tools and strategies

- Describe no-tech, mid-tech, and high-tech AAC systems
- Describe AAC assessment and intervention procedures for various populations
- Detail starting points for intervention for various populations

### **Knowledge and Skills Areas (KASAs) Covered in this Course based on 2020 Certification Standards:**

Successful completion of this class will assist students in meeting the following knowledge and skills requirements for the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology.

#### Standard IV-C

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of communication and swallowing disorders and differences, including the appropriate etiologies, characteristics, and anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates in the following area:

- Augmentative and alternative communication modalities

#### Standard IV-D

For each of the areas specified in Standard IV-C, the applicant must have demonstrated current knowledge of the principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for persons with communication and swallowing disorders, including consideration of anatomical/physiological, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates.

- Augmentative and alternative communication modalities

#### Standard IV-F

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of processes used in research and of the integration of research principles into evidence-based clinical practice.

- As related to assessment and intervention in augmentative and alternative communication modalities

#### Standard V-B

The applicant for certification must have completed a program of study that included experiences sufficient in breadth and depth to achieve the following skills outcomes:

1. a. – g. Evaluation skills in augmentative and alternative communication.
2. a. – g. Intervention skills in augmentative and alternative communication.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS**

This course will be taught through lectures, discussions, exploring case studies, guest speakers, hands-on activities, group presentations, and quizzes.

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. Eight Weekly Chapter Quizzes, 10 points each
2. Basic Programming: Demonstrate customizing the name, a picture, the template size, and voice, 20 points
3. AAC Intervention PowerPoint Class Presentation: Students will work in groups of two to review an AAC Intervention of their choice. The work product will include a 10-minute class presentation describing the intervention, the target group, and the outcomes. Must show Evidence Based Practice, 50 points
4. AAC Intervention Paper: Students will submit an APA format paper about your presentation. It will include a title page, at least 3 page written report, and a reference page. 20 points
5. Attend class at UAAT/UCAT and write one way you might utilize them in your career as an SLP. 30 points
6. AAC Evaluation/Funding Report: Each student will select a case study from the book or past client and write a Funding Report using a given template, 50 points

## GRADING CRITERIA

### GRADING CRITERIA:

1. Quizzes: 10 points each for 8 weeks: 80 points
2. Basic Programming of AAC Device: 20 points
3. AAC Intervention Presentation: 50 points
4. AAC Intervention Paper: 20 points
5. UAAT in-person attendance and write-up: 30 points
6. AAC Report: 50 points

Total Points: 250

- Grades will be determined based on a percentage of total points earned. Grades at or above the .5 level will be rounded up; grades at or below .4 level will be rounded down.

Range	Grade	Range	Grade	Range	Grade
92.5 - 100	A	79.5 - 82.4	B-	66.5 - 69.4	D+
89.5 - 92.4	A-	76.5 - 79.4	C+	62.5 - 66.4	D
86.5 - 89.4	B+	72.5 - 76.4	C	59.5 - 62.4	D-
82.5 - 86.4	B	69.5 - 72.4	C-	0 - 59.4	E

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: Our schedule is subject to revision based on the needs of our class; any updates will be made available for students through Canvas.

Day	In Class Discussion	Readings	Assignment
Week 1 10/19/23	TobiiDynavox with Bradley Heck In Clinic Classroom	Chapters 1, 2, 3 AAC Fundamentals Stakeholders No-Tech, mid-tech, high-tech AAC	Chapter Quiz 10 points Basic Programming 10 points
Week 2 10/26/23	UATT with members from Canyons School District In Clinic Classroom	Chapters 4, 5 and Essay 1 AAC Fundamentals Mobile AAC and AAC technology AAC Access	Chapter Quiz 10 points
Week 3 11/2/23	Adult Acquired Disabilities and AAC In Clinic Classroom	Essay 2 - 11 Chapter 6, 7 AAC Language Fundamentals Cultural and linguistic responsivity Language and vocabulary features	Chapter Quiz 10 points

Week 4	8:30 – 11:00 am at UATT 1595 W 500 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84104	Essays 12 - 15 Chapters 8 - 13 AAC Services for Toddlers, Preschools and School-Aged Individuals	Chapter Qui 10 points
11/9/23	At UATT 8:30 – 11:00 am	Low-Mid-High and Assistive Tech. UATT & UCAT services with Julia Pearce and Austin Oseguera	Assessment and intervention for toddlers and preschoolers, and for school-aged students Data collection AAC for children in end-of-life care
			How might utilize UATT/UCAT points
Week 5	Joelle is at ASHA Guest Speaker – PRC & Saltillo with Chad Bigham	Chapter 14 -18 Essay 16 AAC Services for Adults Services for transition-aged individuals Assessment and intervention for adults AAC in the ICU AAC for adults in end-of-life care	Chapter Qui 10 points
11/16/23	In the Clinic Classroom		
Week 6	Thanksgiving	Essay 17 - 18 Chapter 19 -24 Developmental disabilities Autism spectrum disorders Cerebral palsy Specific sensory disabilities Sensory integration challenges Complex trauma	Chapter Qui 10 points
11/23/23	No Class		
Week 7	Student Presentations on AAC Interventions	Essay 19 Chapter 25 - 30 AAC for Acquired Disorders Traumatic brain injury Motor speech disorders ALS Aphasia Dementia Medically involved	Chapter Qui 10 points Student Presentation AAC Intervention points
11/30/23			

Week 8

12/7/23

Student Presentations on AAC Interventions

Chapter 31 – 36

Essay 20

AAC for Stakeholders

AAC consultation Communication partner training

Tele-AAC

AAC Intervention Paper, 20 po

Chapter Qui 10 points

Finals

12/14/23

No Class

AAC Evaluation and Funding Report, 50 p

## COURSE POLICIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*[This section will vary from course to course and depend on instructors/students; possible categories are given below in brackets to indicate that they're optional. This section can also address Faculty and Student responsibilities such as expectations regarding work outside of class, turn-around time for grading, etc]*

**Attendance:** The University of Utah and this instructor expect attendance at all class meetings. There are only 8 classes. Students who miss class need to work with the instructor to determine specific make-up for the day they miss. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from a class colleague. Excused absences are illness, medical, or other emergencies. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible, preferably before class if you are unable to attend class. You must provide written documentation (e.g., doctor's note/Covid results, hospital bill, funeral program) to receive an excused absence.

**Punctuality:** Class starts at 8:30. We have many guest lectures. Please respect everyone's time by being on-time. Students

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

COVID-19 Campus Guidelines

Drop/Withdrawal Policies

Plagiarism and Cheating  
Course Materials Copyright  
Safety at the U  
Wellness at the U  
Addressing Sexual Misconduct  
Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)  
Diverse Student Support

## CANVAS INFORMATION

Canvas is where the course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- Access Canvas through [utah.instructure.com](http://utah.instructure.com) or through [CISLinks to an external site.](#)
- For Canvas, Passwords, or any other computer-related technical support contact the [Campus Help DeskLinks to an external site.](#)
  - 801 581-4000
  - [http://it.utah.edu/helpLinks to an external site.](http://it.utah.edu/help)
  - [helpdesk@utah.edu](mailto:helpdesk@utah.edu)
- For Canvas-related issues or bugs, contact the Teaching & Learning Technologies help desk
  - 801-581-6112 ext 2
  - [classhelp@utah.edu](mailto:classhelp@utah.edu)

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## Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Thu Dec 7, 2023	Assignment <a href="#">AAC Intervention Presentations</a>	due by 11:
	Assignment <a href="#">AAC Basic Programming</a>	due by 11:
Thu Dec 14, 2023	Assignment <a href="#">AAC Evaluation and Funding Report</a>	due by 11:



**Date****Details**

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Assignment [AAC Intervention Paper](#)

due by 11:

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Assignment [Student Course Feedback Option \(in place of Presentation Report\)](#)

due by 11:

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Assignment [UATT](#)

due by 11:

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