Auburn University

Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling

1. **COURSE NUMBER:** RSED 4910

**COURSE TITLE:** Practicum – Communication Disorders

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**PREREQUISITES:** Instructor Approval, Clear background check

**CO-REQUISITES:** None

# **University Supervisor Information**

## CMDS Placements:

Dr. Schweck

1234A Haley Center

(334)844-3588

[kschweck@auburn.edu](mailto:kschweck@auburn.edu) - I will make every effort to respond to your email in a timely manner. I cannot guarantee a quick response to emails sent after 6:00 p.m. It is your responsibility to be proactive with any questions you might have and allow a reasonable amount of time for a response.

Office/Zoom hours by appointment

2. **TERM**: Fall 2020

**DAY/TIME**: 3 hours a week. Schedule to be worked out with SLP and be consistent throughout the semester.

* **SYLLABUS PREPARED**: August 2020

3. **TEXTS**: Readings posted on Canvas as needed.

Clear background check required before entry to the schools is permitted.

4. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**: (variable) The practicum provides the student the opportunity during his or her career preparation to translate theory and research into practice in an educational or community service delivery setting aligned with degree program option.

Practicum placements could be up to 60 miles away from AU campus and are assigned based on department approved placements. Reliable transportation is necessary. If you feel you cannot meet the travel requirements for the course, it is recommended that you consult the instructor and your advisor and drop the course.

5. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** This course is a semester-long field-based laboratory experience. The specific objectives are related to the specific needs and placements of individual students, as well as the specific programs. A general course objective for all students taking practicum is to translate theory and research into practice in an educational or community service delivery setting aligned with degree program option. Specific practicum objectives will vary however with each individual student according to his or her needs and the nature of the assigned experience (e.g., disability types, severity of disability, assessment, instruction, placement, etc.). Also, the objectives will vary according to program (e.g., ECSE).

### The student will gain experience in:

1. Developing, selecting, administering, and interpreting formal and informal assessments; 34(1)(b)1
2. Translating assessment information into functional long-term goals and short-term benchmarks; 34(1)(b)2
3. Implementing or assisting other teachers/SLPs in implementing the student’s individualized education program by selecting, developing, and using appropriate instructional techniques and methods, ongoing measurement techniques, media and materials, equipment, including assistive technology devices, technology devices, technological advances, and support personnel; 34(1)(b)3
4. Utilizing effective teaching strategies designed to promote learning and improve student achievement; 34(1)(b)6
5. Modifying methods, materials, and equipment to meet student needs; 34(1)(b)7
6. Implementing research-based behavior management techniques and practices that include school-wide, classroom, and individual proactive positive behavior supports; 34(1)(b)8
7. Designing and implementing programs that reflect knowledge, awareness, and responsiveness to diverse cultures, including cultural and socioeconomic factors; 34(1)(b) 11
8. Working effectively with members of the instructional team and professionals from related fields; 34(1)(b)12

6. **Course Content:** Students will work directly with the assigned Speech and Language Pathologist in his/her assigned school(s). All Dates Listed in Assignments/Evaluation Table on following pages.

7. **Course Requirements:** Students will be required to observe in the following instructional areas: (1) Assessment, (2) Program writing and implementation, (3) Data collection, (4) Program decision making and evaluation, and (5) Classroom or community service setting management and organization. In addition, students will:

1. Wear their picture identification at all times during practicum. Details in obtaining the identification will be provided prior to beginning practicum.
2. Go to their assigned sites for a total of 3 hours per. The schedule should be worked out during the student’s first visit. The student and SLP will determine the best days and times to come based upon the SLP’s daily schedule and the student’s class schedule. Practicum hours should be during times the student has direct contact with students (i.e. not planning, lunch, etc.).
3. Keep an attendance log using the form on Canvas. Students will obtain SLP initials weekly and submit on Canvas. Students will turn in a final copy containing the SLP’s complete signature at the bottom of each page.
4. Complete all assignments and submit via Canvas. Failure to complete assignments will result in a grade of unsatisfactory for practicum. All assignments must be in Microsoft Word or .pdf format. Students are expected to combine multiple page documents into one document as appropriate and rotate so they are in the proper viewing orientation before submitting assignments to Canvas.
5. Revise assignments until they are considered satisfactory by supervisor. Revisions must be completed in a different font color. Revisions are due within 3 days from date of feedback from supervisor. Students must check Canvas every day.
6. Work with SLP on a schedule that permits the student some time to observe and assist before taking over instructional duties.

## **Assignments and Evaluations**

All online assignments are due by 8am on the assigned due date. All forms and grading rubrics are available on Canvas.

Please be sure to allow yourself plenty of time in case of any Canvas issues. Screenshots to document Canvas errors will not be accepted to excuse tardiness of assignments.

| **Assignment and Due Date** | **Description** | **Possible Points** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Memorandum of Understanding and Syllabus Signature Page  DUE: 8/24 | Students must sign the Memorandum of Understanding and the Syllabus Signature Page and submit on Canvas. | 50 |
| Attendance Verification  DUE:  Midterm- 10/5  Final – 11/30 | Complete the attendance verification form daily. Have your cooperating SLP initial the form weekly to verify your attendance and sign the bottom of each page when a page is completed. You will submit the form on Canvas twice during the semester and also submit a hard copy of your final attendance verification at the end of the semester. | 50 points |
| Weekly Reflections  DUE: Every Monday by 8:00 a.m. beginning 8/31 through 11/23 | Type a reflection of your activities and performance for the week. Reflections should be at least a paragraph. | 25 points each |
| Weekly Schedule and Contact Information  DUE: 9/9 | Provide personal contact information, SLP contact information, name of school principal, and any holidays, field trips, assembly dates, etc.  List all of the times you will be at your practicum site broken into 30-45 minute increments. Briefly describe what you will be doing during each of those times as well as the room number where I can find you and the name(s) of the teacher(s) with whom you will be working. Submit the complete form on Canvas.  If your schedule changes, please resubmit your schedule and notify your supervisor. | 50 points |
| School Emergency Information  DUE: 9/8 | Make copies of the school’s emergency procedures for severe weather, fire, and intruder. You must describe signals/sirens, specific procedures to follow, and evacuation routes/destinations. Submit on Canvas. | 50 points |
| Cooperating SLP Evaluations  DUE:  Midterm – 10/5  Final – 11/30 | Provide appropriate forms to your cooperating SLP at least a week in advance. Be sure to complete all demographic information prior to providing the forms to your SLP(s). Make sure all forms contain signatures before uploading to Canvas.  Submit hard copies of evaluations at the end of the semester.  2 Professional Disposition Evaluations – completed by your SLP.  It is expected that students will demonstrate acceptable professional dispositions throughout the semester. If, at any time, there is a concern about a student’s professional dispositions, the student will be notified, and a follow up meeting will be scheduled. Each dispositions evaluation containing an unacceptable rating will result in a 225-point deduction. | 225 points each |

8. Grading and Evaluation: Grades will be either S (Satisfactory) or U (Unsatisfactory). Final grade will be determined by observational ratings conducted by the course instructor and the on-site supervisor as well as the timeliness and quality of assignments. A standardized instrument is utilized for the evaluation of the student’s performance during classroom observations.

In order to earn a Satisfactory in the course, the following criteria must be met:

* 80-100% of points on assignments are earned and final dispositions evaluation contains all acceptable ratings
* All assignments were submitted
* Revisions were made to assignments until they were considered satisfactory and points were assigned
* All policies in the syllabus were followed
* All days/hours were completed prior to the end of finals week

Failure to meet all of the listed criteria will result in a U for the course.

9. **Class Policy Statements**:

Participation: Students are expected to participate in all class discussions and participate in all activities. Students should not be on electronic devices during meetings on campus or during time at their actual site. Assignments are due according to the dates provided. Unexcused late assignments are not acceptable. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor if assignment deadlines are not met. Students are responsible for initiating arrangements for missed work.

Attendance: Attendance at practicum meetings is required. Attendance for 3 hours a week is required at your site. All absences must be excused. No more than 2 excused absences are permitted. Students must contact supervisor and cooperating SLP to inform of absence in advance. All absences must be made up prior to the end of the final examination period with approval from supervisor and SLP. At the discretion of individual instructors, verified absences may be excused under unusual circumstances (see the [Student Policy eHandbook](http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies)). In order for any absence to be considered excused, the instructor must be in receipt of the original documentation within seven days from the date of the absence.

* Students who are diagnosed with COVID-19 or who are engaging in self-quarantine at the direction of a health care professional should not attend class/clinical residency in person.
* Students directed by the Stay Safe Together Health Check to seek medical attention should not attend class/clinical residency until they have done so.
* When possible, students should provide formal documentation from a health care provider for absences. If students have to miss class, they should:

• Notify instructors in advance of the absence, if possible.

• Keep up with classwork if they can do so.

• Submit assignments digitally.

• Work with their instructors to try to reschedule exams, labs, and other critical academic activities.

* All official student codes of conduct and rules of academic integrity will be upheld.

**See COVID Related Policies at the end of this document for additional details.**

Excused Absences: Students are granted excused absences from class for the following reasons:  Illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student’s immediate family, the death of a member of the student’s immediate family, trips for student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for University classes, trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoena for a court appearance, and religious holidays.  Students who wish to have an excused absence from this class for any other reason must contact the instructor in advance of the absence to request permission.  The instructor will weigh the merits of the request and render a decision. The student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of any excused absences. In no case shall such notification occur more than one day after the absence.  Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required. Please see the [Student Policy eHandbook](http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies/) for more information on excused absences.

Assignments: Assignments are expected to be typewritten, grammatically accurate, and free of spelling and typographical errors. Assignments are to be of a quality that would be expected of a professional. All assignments must be completed and submitted on Canvas and revised until acceptable. Revisions are due within 3 days and should be made in a different color. Late assignments will have 10% of possible points deducted per day the original submission or revision is late. More than 2 late assignments will be considered a failure to meet the professional disposition standard related to meeting deadlines.

Communication: Candidates are expected to check tigermail and Canvas daily. Tigermail is the official form of communication for Auburn University. Requests for revisions to assignments will be made on Canvas.

Professionalism: As faculty, staff, and students interact in professional settings, they are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College’s conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are listed below:

* Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices
* Contribute to collaborative learning communities
* Demonstrate a commitment to diversity
* Model and nurture intellectual vitality

Dress Code: Auburn students project the image of their own emerging professionalism and the overall program. Attire that could present a health or safety problem or could be disruptive is not appropriate. With this in mind, the following rules concerning dress and grooming are mandatory for all students participating in clinical experiences, practica, and internship. These regulations are based on those of schools and early intervention programs in which graduates of the program will be working.

1. Students keep their hair clean, groomed, and away from the eyes and face.
2. Students wear closed-toed shoes/foot garments.
3. Students are neat and clean at ALL times.
4. Clothing is clean and in a state of good repair.
5. Clothing and personal items are free of logos, words, draws, pictures, and other images. **Exceptions:** Auburn University related logos covering an area of less than 3 square inches.
6. Clothing covers the body in a professional manner. No leggings.
7. Tattoos and non-traditional piercings must not be visible.
8. No jeans may be worn to practicum.

Zoom/WebEx policies: When we meet on Zoom and in the event you participate in virtual instruction via any livestream services, your attendance, attention, and participation are expected. Zoom participation requires you to keep your video on and your microphone muted when you are not speaking unless otherwise directed. Although you may be participating from your domicile, our Zoom/webex meetings are professional interactions. You should dress and behave as you would in a normal F2F classroom. To the extent possible, please minimize distractions in the background. I reserve the right to dismiss anyone from a Zoom/Webex meeting whose environment or behavior is distracting or problematic. If you have any issues with sharing your video feed, adhering to this policy, or anything else related to your use of Zoom/Webex please notify me via email in the first week of class. I’m happy to consider and provide accommodations, but you will need to be in communication with me. Also, in order to protect and maintain confidentiality of the students and schools you serve, zoom/webex participation should take place in a setting where privacy can be ensured.

Forms of Address: Names and Pronouns

Our institution's non-discrimination policy includes gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and sexual identity, and requires all Auburn-affiliated personnel to take reasonable steps to ensure equitable experiences. One way we can support self-identification is by honoring the name and pronouns that each of us go by. Many people (e.g. international students, trans people, and others) might go by a name in daily life that is different from their legal name. In this classroom, we will refer to people by the names that they go by. Pronouns are a way to affirm someone's identity. They are simply a public way in which people are referred to in place of their name (e.g. "he" or "she" or "they" or "ze" or something else). In this classroom, you are invited to share what pronouns you go by, and we will refer to people using the pronouns that they share. The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students who need accommodations are asked to electronically submit their approved accommodations through AU Access and to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact your supervisor by e-mail. If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

Honesty Code: All portions of the Auburn University student academic honesty code (Title XII) found in the Student Policy eHandbook ([www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies](http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies)) will apply to university courses. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee.

Auburn University Policy on Classroom Behavior: *The following policy applies to all settings (i.e., university, school setting, and off campus locations pertaining to the field experience).* “. . . Behavior in the classroom that impedes teaching and learning and creates obstacles to this goal [learning] is considered disruptive and therefore subject to sanctions . . . Students have the responsibility of complying with behavioral standards. . . Examples of improper behavior in the classroom (including the virtual classroom of e-mail, chat rooms, telephony, and web activities associated with courses) may include, but are not limited to the following: arriving after a class has begun, eating or drinking, use of tobacco products, monopolizing discussion, persistent speaking out of turn, distractive talking, including cell phone usage, audio or video recording of classroom activities or the use of electronic devices without the permission of the instructor, refusal to comply with reasonable instructor directions, employing insulting language or gestures, verbal, psychological, or physical threats, harassment, and physical violence.” (See Student Policy eHandbook at www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies)

Course Contingency: If normal class and/or lab activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

Resolving Concerns Regarding Practicum:

Work with your SLP and university supervisor to resolve practicum concerns in a professional manner. You are expected to follow the chain of command in resolving issues that occur during your practicum. If an issue relates to occurrences at the school site, discuss your concerns with the SLP and keep your university supervisor apprised of the situation. If an issue relates to practicum requirements or supervision, share your concerns with your university supervisor(s). If issues are not resolved through these efforts, share your concerns with the person in the next level of authority at the institution.

AU Academic Grievance Policy: Auburn University students have access to a procedure for redress of grievances resulting from the actions of faculty or administrators.  Students who desire to file a grievance should review their options described under the [Student Academic Grievance Policy](https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universitypolicies/Policies/StudentAcademicGrievancePolicy.pdf).

**COVID Related Policies**

*These statements are subject to change as additional guidelines and policies are released by the country, state, city, or University.*

**You are expected to complete your Healthcheck screener daily.**

A Healthier U Campus Community Expectations:

We are all responsible for protecting ourselves and our community. Please read about student expectations for fall semester, including completing the daily GuideSafeTM Healthcheck (<https://ahealthieru.auburn.edu/>).

You are expected to (1) take your temperature daily and (2) complete your Healthcheck screener to receive you’re a Healthier U pass. You may be asked at any time to show your pass.

Face coverings:

As a member of the Auburn University academic community you are required to follow all university guidelines for personal safety with face coverings, physical distancing, and sanitation. Face coverings are required in all classes and field experiences and in all campus buildings and school sites. Note that face coverings must meet safety specifications, be work correctly, and be socially appropriate.

You are required to wear your face coverings at all times. If you remove your face covering or are non-compliant with the university’s or school system’s [policy on face coverings](https://ocm.auburn.edu/news/coronavirus/updates/20200618-face-masks-required.php?ref=coronavirus), you will be instructed to leave the classroom/site and will be held to the protocols outlined in the [Auburn University Policy on Classroom Behavior](https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universitypolicies/Policies/PolicyonClassroomBehavior.pdf). Any student who willfully refuses to wear a face covering and does not have a noted accommodation may be subject to disciplinary action.

Physical distancing:

Face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing. Students shall observe physical distancing guidelines where possible in the classroom, laboratory, studio, creative space setting and in public spaces both on and off campus.

Students should avoid congregating around doorways before or after class sessions. If the instructional space has designated entrance and exit doors students are required to use them. Students should exit the instructional space immediately after the end of instruction to help ensure social distancing and allow for the persons attending the next scheduled class session to enter.

This also applies to school settings for field experiences. Due to COVID-19, extra safety precautions will be in place at your school site. You are required to follow all safety protocols in place from the first day you arrive at the school. This may include but is not limited to: wearing a mask, clear face shield, and/or gloves and practicing social distancing.

If a student has a medical exception to the face covering requirement, please contact the Office of Accessibility to obtain appropriate documentation.

Assignments/schedule subject to change due to pandemic:

The course schedule and assignments are designed with the most up-to-date information and policies in mind. If the situation changes I will make every effort to keep the schedule as consistent as possible; however, please note that the due dates for assignments and tests may be changed during the semester in response to the changing health and safety requirements or policies of the University. When changes are made, they will be communicated via Canvas Announcement, Canvas message, and all assignment due dates will be updated.

In the event a student in class tests positive:

Students must conduct daily health checks in accordance with [CDC guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html). Students testing positive for COVID-19, exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or who have been in direct contact with someone testing positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend in-person instructional activities and must leave the venue immediately. Students should contact the Student Health Center or their health care provider to receive care and who can provide the latest direction on quarantine and self-isolation. Contact your instructor immediately to make instructional and learning arrangements.

Attendance:

Your health and safety, and the health and safety of your peers, are my top priorities. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or if you discover that you have been in close contact with others who have symptoms or who have tested positive, you should not attend in-person classes. You will not be penalized for such an absence nor will you be asked to provide formal documentation from a healthcare provider. My hope is that if you are feeling ill or if you have been exposed to someone with the virus, you will stay home to protect others. I don’t want the need for documentation to discourage you from self-isolating when you are experiencing symptoms. However, clinical residency does require completion of an entire semester. If you have absences related to COVID-19 (self-quarantine or test positive), please notify your clinical educator and university supervisor immediately. Extensive absences due to documented COVID-19 will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the university supervisor in consultation with the Dean’s office.

Please do the following in the event of an illness or COVID-related absence:

·   Notify me in advance of your absence if possible

·   Provide me with medical documentation if possible

·   Keep up with coursework as much as possible

·   Participate in class activities and submit assignments electronically as much as possible

·   Notify me if you require a modification to the deadline of an assignment or exam

·   Develop a plan to keep up with your course work and requirements during such absences

·   Finally, if remaining in a class and fulfilling the necessary requirements becomes impossible due to illness or other COVID-related issues, please let me know as soon as possible so we can discuss your options.

Students with questions about COVID-related illnesses should reach out to the COVD Resource Center at (334) 844-6000 or [athealthieru@auburn.edu](mailto:athealthieru@auburn.edu).

If a student cannot attend due to COVID-19 related absences (e.g., isolation, quarantine, illness):

         Immediately contact your supervisor and cooperating teacher by composing one email to both of them explaining your situation. Students are expected to follow Auburn University and school system guidelines for quarantine, isolation, and re-entry into classroom settings. If possible, you should continue participation in your assigned placement and clinical residency meetings virtually. All absences will have to be made up in order to earn credit for clinical residency. In the event you are unable to complete all of your days, you will be assigned an incomplete until you are able to satisfy attendance requirements for the course. If you are unable to assist your cooperating teacher virtually during your absence, alternate instructional activities will be assigned to you to help you meet this requirement.

If the instructor cannot attend due to COVID-19 related concerns (e.g., isolation, quarantine, illness):

         If Dr. Schweck is unable to perform duties related to this course due to COVID-19 concerns, Dr. Alexcia Moore will serve as the back-up instructor/supervisor. Her contact information can be found on page one of this syllabus. She will communicate any changes or updates to the course schedule or mode of instruction as soon as possible. Additionally, observations may be conducted by submitting recorded lessons or livestreaming lessons for your supervisor to evaluate.

If no one can attend due to COVID-19 related closures/absences:

         In the event that AU ends face to face instruction for the semester, you will be expected to follow and participate in the method of instruction employed by your clinical residency sites. If your schools are still providing face-to-face instruction, then you will be expected to do the same. If your schools move to virtual instruction, you will do the same. Alternate assignments and activities may be provided in order to assist you in satisfying requirements for clinical residency in the event of school closures. Please note: requirements to earn teaching certificates are established by the Alabama State Department of Education. The Auburn University College of Education and your program faculty will be in communication with the ALSDE and will do everything they can to help you meet requirements in the case of school closures. However, it is possible that due to factors outside of our control, you will have to complete steps to earn your teaching certificate after the semester has ended.

         Any disruptions in your placement due to COVID-19 should be addressed with your university supervisor. Please remember, you are required to be full-time in the school for a full semester in the teaching field for which you are seeking certification. If there is an unavoidable reduction of the full semester due to COVID-19, you will be notified by your university supervisor per guidance from the Dean’s office.

In the event of school or university closures due to COVID-19, it may become necessary to adjust assignments accordingly. An alternate assignment table will be provided in the event one is needed. The alternate assignments will be discussed in a clinical residency meeting. It is your responsibility to read the changes and discuss and questions you might have with your university supervisor.

Please be aware that the situation regarding COVID-19 is frequently changing, and the delivery ode of this course may adjust accordingly. In the event that the delivery method is altered, please be assured that the learning goals and outcomes of this course will not change; however, some aspects of the course will change in terms of the mode of delivery, participation, and assessment methods. Those details will be shared via Canvas as soon as possible. Please be prepared for this contingency by ensuring that you have access to a computer and reliable internet.

If you need access to additional technological support, please contact the AU Bookstore at [aubookstore@auburn.edu](mailto:aubookstore@auburn.edu).

Health and Well-Being Resources:

These are difficult times, and academic and personal stress is a natural result. Everyone is encouraged to take care of themselves and their peers. If you need additional support, there are several resources on campus to assist you:

·   COVID Response Team ([www.ahealthieru.edu](http://www.ahealthieru.edu))

·   Student Counseling and Psychological Services (<http://wp.auburn.edu/scs/>)

·   AU Medical Clinical (<https://cws.auburn.edu/aumc/>)

·   If you or someone you know are experiencing food, housing, or financial insecurity, please visit the Auburn Cares Office (<http://aucares.auburn.edu/>)

# Syllabus Signature Statement

I have read and reviewed the **RSED 4910 Special Education CMDS Practicum Syllabus for the current semester**. In compliance with the information outlined, **I agree to adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in this document.** I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that I am following the policies and procedures and meeting all requirements in order to pass practicum and protect confidentiality for my students and any information pertaining to them.

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Student Signature Date