

Los Rios Community College District
Sabbatical/Professional Standards Type A & B Leave FINAL REPORT

Title of Proposal: Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Infrastructure Modifications – Phase II

I. Description of Proposal and Accomplishments:

There were four key projects affiliated with the *SLPA Infrastructure Modifications Proposal – Phase II*:

- 1) **Curriculum Development:** The SLPA Program at American River College is one of six board-approved programs with the State of California and became board-approved in 2009. In fall 2017, curriculum modifications were approved by the ARC Curriculum Committee and the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (SLPAHADB) to include moving from four core courses (SLPA 300, SLPA 110, SLPA 120, and SLPA 121: a total of 13 units) to six core courses (the aforementioned plus SLPA 105 and SLPA 115: a total of 19 units).

The field for the speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) does not have medical billing codes, but the overall industry is preparing to have this paraprofessional career move in that direction as well as a national examination for SLPAs. Thus the development of the following courses was proposed:

- **Adult Neurogenic Disorders – Overview and Therapy Procedures** (3 units): This course would adequately prepare the SLPA student to become familiar with the neurological conditions of the adult with communication disorders, the common types of communication disorders present in this population, and strategies (both speech and language) for meeting the needs of this population.
- **Childhood Language Development** (3 units): as most of the employed SLPAs (approximately 90%) will be employed in settings with children, and *language* is a major area of concern for those with communication disorders, this extra class would be highly beneficial for SLPA students.
- **Documentation for the SLPA** (1 unit): There are multiple documentation styles that are used in the field of communication disorders. A single course with a sole focus on this topic would be highly beneficial.

Accomplishments: The SLPA Program Coordinator was able to create two of the three proposed classes which are currently in Tech Review with the ARC Curriculum Committee:

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SLPA Program Coordinator - ARC

Course Number	Course Name	Units
SLPA 126	Neurogenic Communication Disorders for the SLPA	3
SLPA 305	Childhood Language Development	3

The information will be shared with the SLPA Advisory Committee in the spring 2019 meeting schedule. The information will also be shared with the Academic Counseling Liaison.

The new recommended coursework (not required coursework) will be sent to the SLPAHADB for review.

- 2) **SLPA Program Student Manual:** The SLPA Program has a Clinical Fieldwork Manual for fourth semester students that is updated annually. A **NEW** SLPA Program Student Manual was developed for the SLPA students who enter the SLPA program in 2016. Since the SLPA Program degree requirements have changed (as of fall 2017), this NEW SLPA Program Student Manual did not include the modifications made to the curriculum, therefore is no longer relevant with the most updated information.

This project was designed to inform second semester students and transfer students on the policies and procedures of the SLPA Program. This could be available in print to purchase through the American River College bookstore and/or available on-line.

Accomplishments: The SLPA Program Coordinator was able to provide an update to this project and has an updated **28-page** electronic copy of a SLPA Program Student Manual. This portion of the project will be shared electronically with all Department Chairs in the Health and Education Division, including the Dean of Health and Education and the Director of Nursing. The information will be shared with the SLPA Advisory Committee in the spring 2019 meeting schedule. This manual includes the following component parts:

- Foreword
- Introduction
- Mission Statement
- Purpose of the SLPA Program
- Academic Requirements for the SLPA Degree Major
- General Education Requirements for Degree Major
- Core Coursework

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- Course Description
- Units
- Prerequisites
- Hours
- Student Learning Outcomes
- Useful Information for the Enrollee . . . various pieces of information specific for the class – class assignments, observation expectations, fieldwork expectations, etc.
- Resource Materials: 15 different appendices including useful SLPA Program paperwork, industry requirements, Scope of Practice, Code of Ethics, etc.

The information will be shared with the SLPA Advisory Committee in the spring 2019 meeting schedule. It will also be shared with the Dean of Health and Education (HEED) as well as the HEED Department Chairs and/or Program Directors. As soon as it is in its final form, the SLPA Student Manual will be available for student use – either on-line, or for purchase at the American River College bookstore.

- 3) **SLPA Program Coordinator Manual:** A core manual for the SLPA Program Coordinator was originally created in 2016 and has proven to be an exceptional resource and a positive project for the SLPA Program as a whole. The SLPA Program is a part of the CTE programs on campus in the Health and Education Division and there are many intricacies in the various projects just with this program itself. Outlining job responsibilities of the SLPA Coordinator, generating general time lines for report completion, and creating procedures to follow for clinical fieldwork contract development, are all just examples of aspects of the SLPA Program Coordinator Manual. By modifying the existing core SLPA Program Coordinator Manual, the SLPA Program would run more efficiently and be better aligned with the Annual Unit Planning (AUP) ultimately meeting the goals and objectives of the college.

Accomplishments: The SLPA Program Coordinator was able to create a **45-page** electronic copy of an updated SLPA Program Coordinator Manual. This portion of the project will be shared electronically with all Department Chairs in the Health and Education Division, including the Dean of Health and Education and the Director of Nursing. The information will be shared with the SLPA Advisory Committee in the spring 2019 meeting schedule. This manual includes the following component parts:

- Foreword
- Introduction
- Mission Statement

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- Purpose of the SLPA Program
- Academic Requirements for the SLPA Degree Major
- General Education Requirements for Degree Major
- Core Coursework
 - Course Description
 - Units
 - Prerequisites
 - Hours
 - Student Learning Outcomes
 - Useful Information for the Enrollee . . . various pieces of information specific for the class – class assignments, observation expectations, fieldwork expectations, etc.
- Prepping for Clinical Fieldwork
- Annual CEU Workshop on Supervision
- Annual Unit Review/Program Review
- Budget
- Scheduling
- Resource Materials: 15 different appendices including useful SLPA Program paperwork, industry requirements, Scope of Practice, Code of Ethics, etc.

A few additional areas need to be updated and/or developed and are pending:

- *Annual Unit Review (AUR)/Program Review – as the SLPA Program is undergoing both processes for the first time this academic term;*
- *Observation Requirements – requirements for each required class and Observation Logs, SLPAHADB guidelines, solicitation of sites for observation*
- *Employment of SLPAs – supervisory requirements, CEU requirements, mandatory paperwork with the SLPAHADB*

The information will be shared with the SLPA Advisory Committee in the spring 2019 meeting schedule. It will also be shared with the Dean of Health and Education (HEED) as well as the HEED Department Chairs and/or Program Directors.

- 4) **Website Development:** At the present time, the SLPA Program does not have a website associated with the American River College website system. It is IMPERATIVE that one be established. All prospective students - AS and BA/BS need this information.

Accomplishments: The SLPA Program Coordinator was able to provide the Health and Education administrators with the information needed including the new required

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curriculum for the SLPA Program. The website has yet to be created by HEED administration.

As the website continues in its development, the SLPA Program Coordinator will be sure that the following information is included:

- The required degree curriculum with the inclusion of six core SLPA courses
- Sample outline of courses to align with Guided Pathways
- Links to the SLPAHADB
- Introductory video for the SLPA Program
- Complementary coursework
- Employment settings for completion of the AS degree in SLPA

The information will be shared with the SLPA Advisory Committee in the spring 2019 meeting schedule. It will also be shared with the Dean of Health and Education (HEED) as well as the HEED Department Chairs and/or Program Directors.

II. Explain in detail how the accomplishment of your proposal promote the objectives of serving students within the Los Rios District:

The *SLPA Infrastructure Modifications – Phase II* promoted the objectives of serving students within the Los Rios Community College District and American River College in many ways:

ARC College Goals	Justification
<p>1. <u>Students First</u> The College engages and connects students early and often to people, programs, and services as an integrated educational experience. By providing personalized, proactive support, the College fosters relationships that ensure all students, particularly the historically underserved and marginalized, persist, learn, and succeed.</p>	<p>A variety of course offerings should be made to support completion of the SLPA AS degree with the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Licensing Board (SLPAHADB); continue to review/revise and develop curriculum.</p> <p>By modifying/adding curriculum and developing the SLPA Student Manual, expectations for students are more clearly outlined, further supporting their completion of the SLPA AS degree and/or support transfer to a four-year institution.</p>
<p>2. <u>Clear and Effective Paths</u> The College provides easily recognizable pathways to, through,</p>	<p>Work with SLPs in the community to evaluate student access, success, and placement within the industry, as well as overall professional conduct.</p>

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<p>and beyond ARC. Offering well defined and supported pathways provides a foundation for success as students enter the College, make timely progress toward achieving their informed educational goals, and seamlessly transfer to other college and universities or find employment in their chosen career.</p>	<p>Continue to offer and evaluate the SLPA Program coursework based on student/community feedback and needs as well as the needs of the industry.</p> <p>The SLPA Program has very strong ties in the community and values the input of community members. The SLPA Program is at a critical juncture point to make curricular changes to meet the changing needs of the industry as a whole. Modifications to the SLPA Program are necessary and SLOs will be adjusted to reflect the changes. Students will greatly benefit from these changes by having the most up to date education reflecting needs of the community and by having clear expectations for SLPA Program involvement.</p> <p>Additionally, by modifying/adding curriculum and developing the SLPA Student Manual, expectations for students will be more clearly outlined, further supporting their completion of the SLPA AS degree and/or support transfer to a four-year institution.</p> <p>A clear academic path accessible on the ARC website will help ALL prospective students.</p>
<p><u>3. Exemplary Teaching, Learning & Working Environment</u></p> <p>The College ensures an equitable, safe, and inclusive teaching, learning, and working environment. Culturally relevant curriculum, innovative, high-quality instructional methods and technologies, exemplary academic and student support services, and comprehensive and integrated professional development create the best conditions for teaching and learning. The College promotes liberation and honors the dignity, humanity, and contributions of all members of our community.</p>	<p>Evaluate new technology and materials for incorporation into the curriculum.</p> <p>Provide educational programs that meet specific needs of community partners.</p> <p>The SLPA Program has very strong ties in the community and has a supportive and educational role with its contracted clinical fieldwork sites. SLPA graduates from American River College are consistently presenting themselves professionally and have been preferred employment candidates – even over Bachelor-level candidates from other educational institutions. Communication is consistent with community partners who have expressed the need for modifications of curriculum and additions of technology in the area of service provision for those who have communication disorders. These four projects will further enhance internal SLPA Program efficiency and promote our students' marketability.</p>

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III. What will be Taken Back to Current Assignment and/or to the College as a Whole

As stated previously, the *SLPA Infrastructure Modifications – Phase II* had four key projects outlined below:

- Curriculum Development
- Creation of a Student Manual
- Creation of a SLPA Coordinator's Manual
- Creation of a SLPA Program Website

The completion of these four projects has major implications on how the SLPA Program is managed (internally) and how information is disseminated to the prospective SLPA student, the enrolled SLPA student and SLPA administration.

With regard to how the SLPA Program is managed:

- Having the sole full-time faculty be a part of this curriculum change further strengthens the SLPA Program by solidifying internal understanding of the modification process and the workings of the college as a whole.
- The creation of the Student Manual will have a positive benefit for the students by equipping them with information that they can review before asking questions of the SLPA Program Coordinator – thus freeing up time for addressing other departmental operations → more time for SLPA program coordination.
- The creation of the SLPA Program Coordinator's Manual will have a positive benefit for the SLPA Program Coordinator:
 - Having one place to look to for questions for all information
 - Having one place to update processes

The four projects will be tremendously useful in streamlining information processes within the SLPA Program, this alone will help with time management within the program to address other needs of the SLPA Program Coordinator – thus positively impacting how I am able to perform the functions of my job.

With regard to how the information is disseminated to the student body and administration:

- The development of additional recommended curriculum will be instrumental to meeting needs of the SLPAs in the industry within the community and the present SLPA students enrolled in the SLPA Program. This demonstrates that the educators with American River College truly value their students and their foundational education as they prepare for a pending national SLPA examination. This creates American River College as a staple to the education of SLPAs in California.

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- The creation of recommended curriculum within the Socrates system is accessible to all faculty and Academic Counselors who can share information with the student body.
- The development of the SLPA Student Manual provides immediate accessibility to departmental information – whether the student purchases a manual from the ARC Bookstore or has it available on line. This in turn will allow students to look at the expectations throughout their course of education in the SLPA Program and independently plan and problem solve their academic future.
- Sharing of each of the manuals between the Health and Education Department Chairs supports similar processes between departments. We all can learn from one another and share information about how we as CTE departments are run. I will truly benefit from the input provided by my colleagues and I hope that they feel similarly with receiving the information from the SLPA Program.

OVERALL

Overall, I believe that the four projects addressed have benefited me with my ability to do my job as SLPA Program Coordinator, solidified the future academic process for students within the SLPA Program, streamlined the information sharing process between student-faculty and Coordinator-colleague, and supported American River College as a whole – student-faculty-administration.

I am grateful to have been granted the additional time to continue to develop the ***SLPA Program Infrastructure Modifications Project – Phase II*** and feel that the SLPA Program is stronger because of it.

Thank you.

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