

Audiology Clinical Education Network (ACEN)

Meeting Minutes: 9-6-23

Academic Program Update (Erin Miller-Univ. of Akron)

- An FAQ document that was created by Erin and Ian Windmill has been sent to the academic programs, with a request that they also share it with the clinical sites where their students are applying. The academic programs have also been asked to request that sites not participating in the ACEN timeline consider encouraging participation as a benefit to the students.
- Ian has spoken with AAA regarding the Hear Careers site. They are willing and able to add something to the Hear Careers application where a site can indicate (perhaps a check box) that the site is participating in the ACEN application timeline. Hear Careers is typically where students begin their search for externship sites.

ACEN and Website Update (Catherine Palmer)

- There are currently over 160 sites listed on the ACEN website as offering externships. Approximately 4-5 sites have indicated that they will not be participating this year, with at least a few of those indicating that it is because they will not be able to accept an extern in the upcoming year.
- When entering externship information on the website, there is now a button where the site must indicate that they will follow the timeline. This will remain on the site and each year a clinic site will be asked to voluntarily continue to follow the timeline. As we are all participating on a voluntary basis, we have now way to enforce other than to contact and remove sites that are found to deviate from the timeline.
- Discussion of a possible application portal on the ACEN site was held. Technically this may be a challenge. Attempts will be made in the 2024 application cycle to beta test this. If we are successful, this would allow students to apply to multiple sites and will only need to enter demographic and core information (ex. CV, cover letter, transcripts) one time. At issue is how to ensure that letters of recommendation are kept confidential from the student and to link to additional information that sites require.

ASHA Presentation (Catherine Palmer)

- Catherine shared the initial talking points for the invited presentation at ASHA. Catherine, Charlotte Mullen, Erin Miller, Kaylee Smith and Izabela Jamsek will be presenting which will allow us to discuss ACEN from the academic, clinic and student perspectives. The presentation is Friday Nov. 18, 4-5 p.m. in convention center room 102B.

Additional Presentations:

- Tammy Fredrickson (Univ. of Colorado) has been invited to speak at CAPSCD on clinical placements in AuD programs. She will also incorporate information about ACEN.
- Erin Miller has been contacted by AAA about presenting at that conference in 2024.

Other Items:

- Ian has been in contact with third party recruiters to inform them of the purpose and mission of ACEN. It has been agreed by the ACEN steering committee that only individual clinic sites should post on the ACEN website.
- Timeline plan going forward: following this application, interview and offer cycle, the steering committee will solicit feedback from participating sites. Rather than modifying the timeline each year, a three-year plan will be made.
- One of the missions of ACEN is to share best practices. We will look for ways to collect feedback from current externs using the Preceptor Evaluation Tool that is currently on the ACEN website. This will allow us to collect aggregate data on strengths and weaknesses of the final year training and plan for future discussions and education.
- Michelle Wu is the new SAA President and will join the steering committee.

Next ACEN group meeting: Wed. November 1, 6:00 eastern time