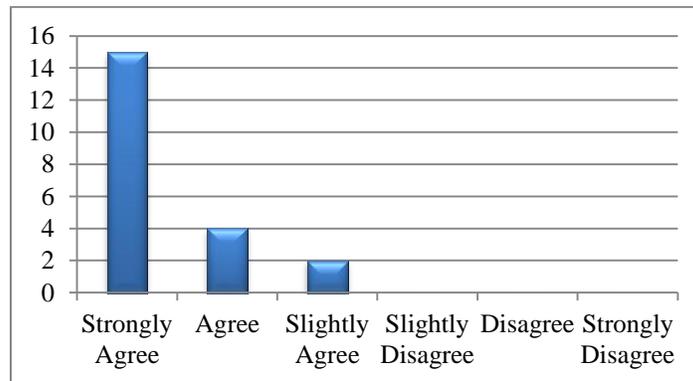


Alumni Survey Report Spring 2007 – Fall 2011

Total Number of Participants: n=21

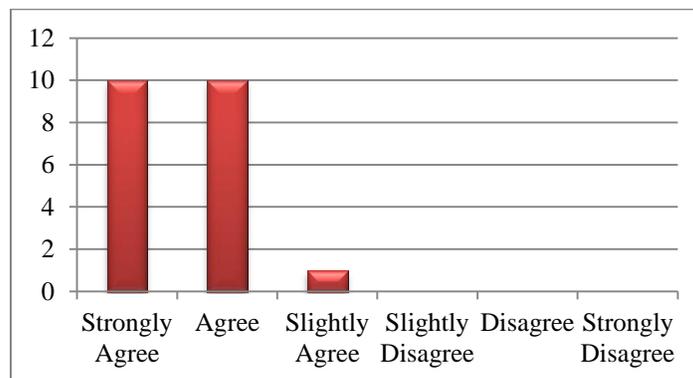
Assessment/Evaluation

1. I have the ability to select and implement evaluation procedures and adapt the procedures to meet the individual client needs.

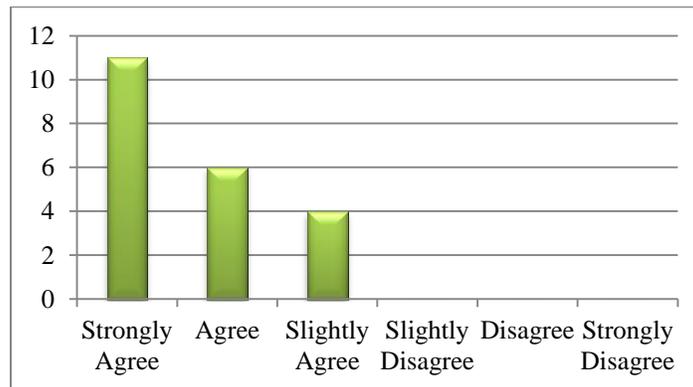


Assessment/Diagnosis/Interpretation

2. I have the ability to interpret and integrate evaluation results to define the client's communicative functioning.

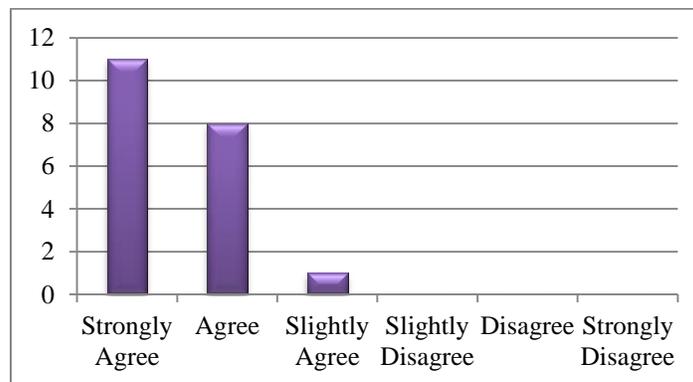


3. I have the ability to develop diagnostic impressions, integrate data to identify etiologic and/or contributing factors, and make recommendations leading to appropriate case management.

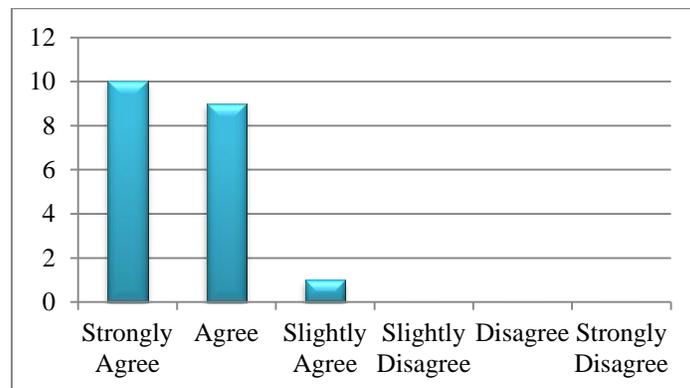


Clinical Management/Treatment

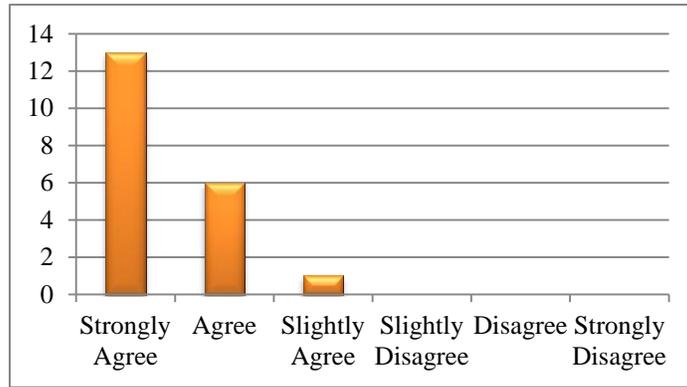
4. I have the ability to select/develop and implement intervention strategies for the treatment of communication and related disorders.



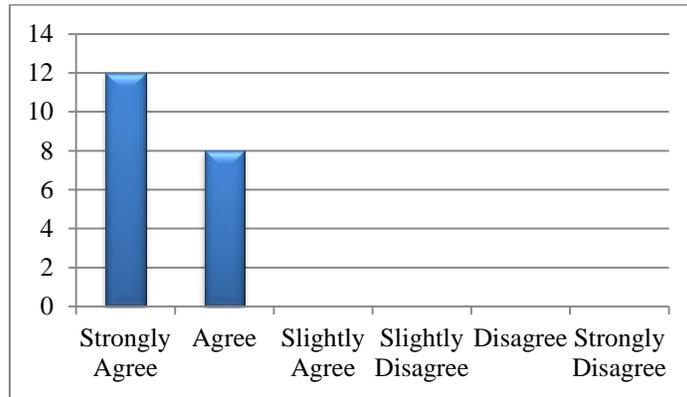
5. I have the ability to select/develop/use materials and instrumentation that will enhance the treatment process.



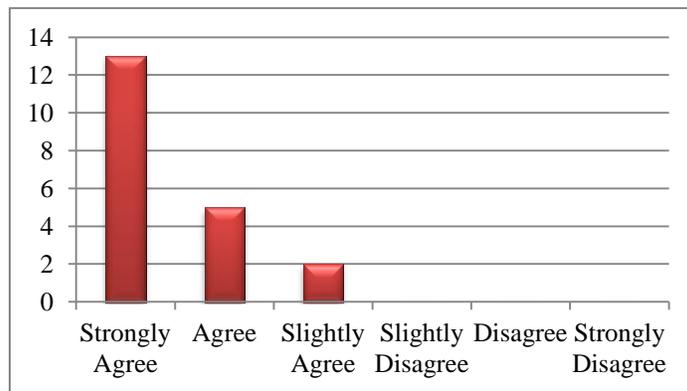
6. I have the ability to implement specific, reasonable, and necessary treatment plans.



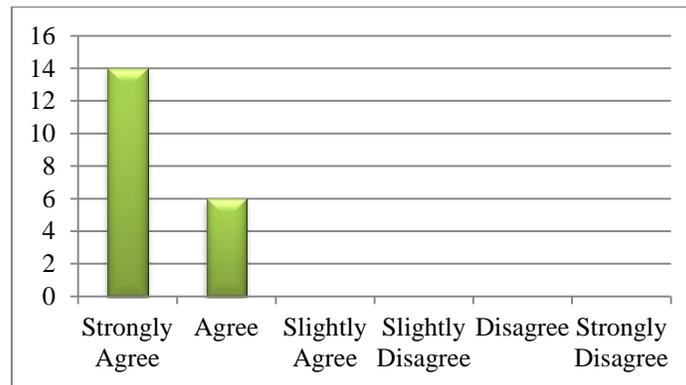
7. I have the ability to develop and implement long-term goals and measurable short-term objectives that reflect a learning sequence appropriate for the client.



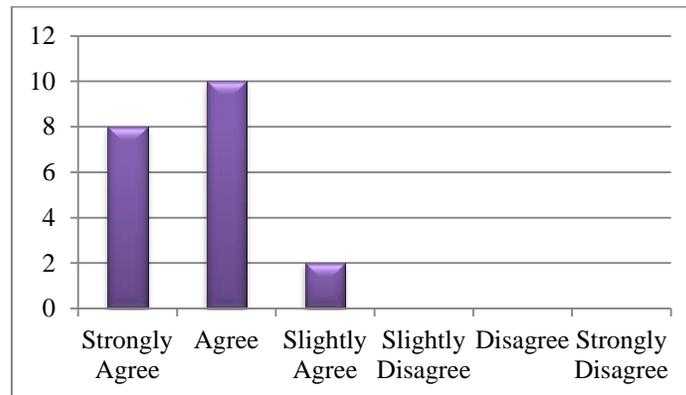
8. I have the ability to plan and implement a program of periodic monitoring of the client's communicative functioning through the use of appropriate data collection methods.



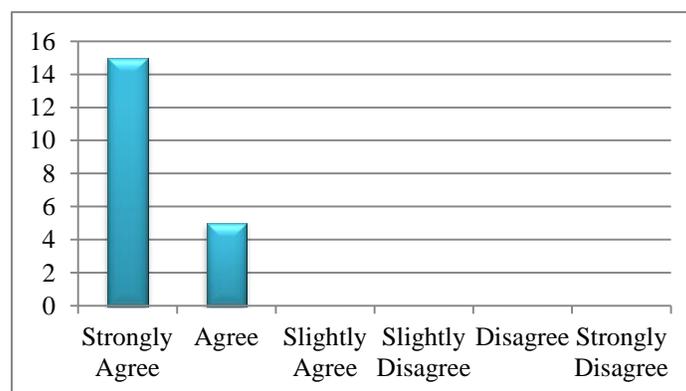
9. I have the ability to interpret and use data to modify treatment plans, strategies, materials, and/or instrumentation to meet the individual needs of the client.



10. I have the ability to apply current research findings to my clinical practice.

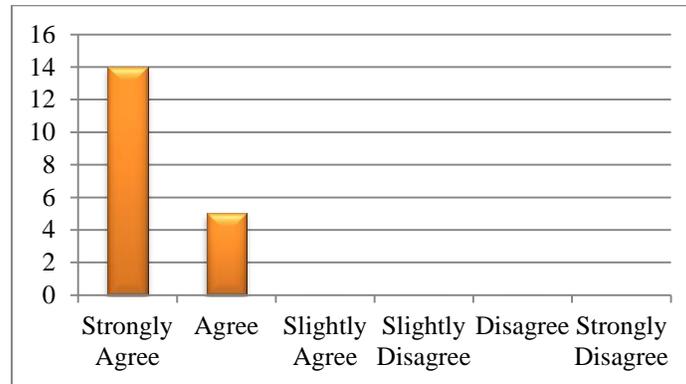


11. I have the ability to prioritize activities, maintain client records and comply with program administrative and other regulatory policies in a timely manner.

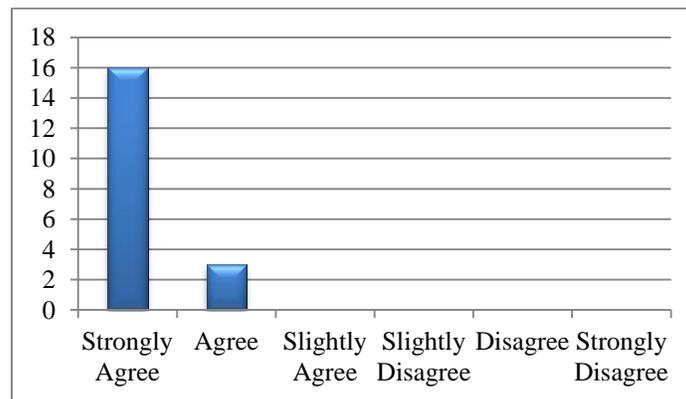


Interaction with Others/Communication Skills

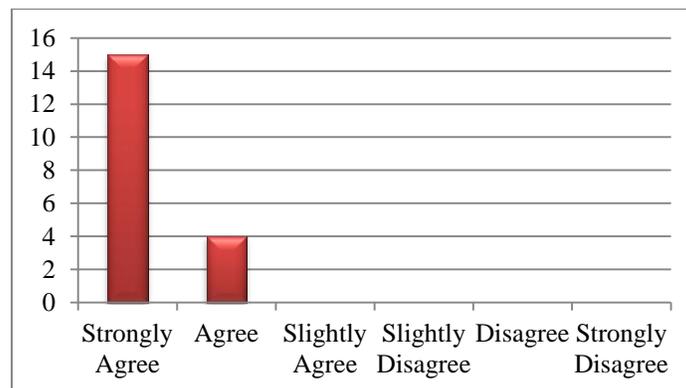
12. I have the ability to present information accurately, clearly, logically and concisely in oral communications, written reports, and letters that are appropriate for the needs of the audience.



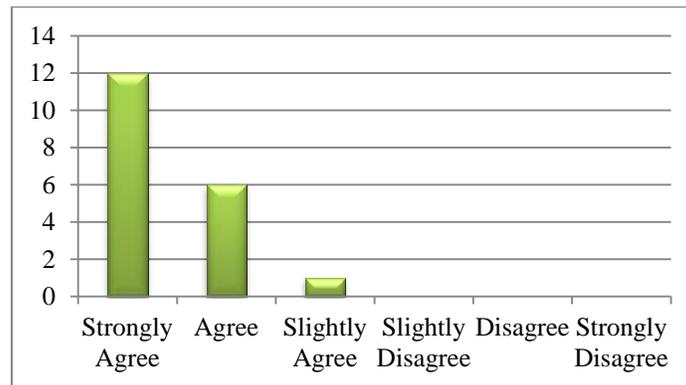
13. I have the ability to use terminology and phrasing consistent with the semantic competency of the audience.



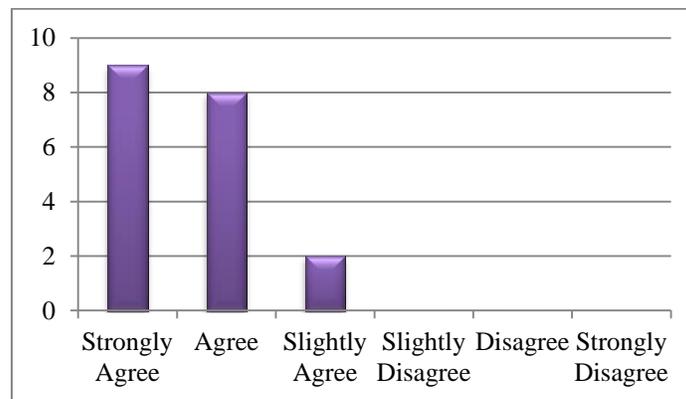
14. I have the ability to listen to input from others, make appropriate decisions based on shared information, and contribute information that promotes mutual problem solving.



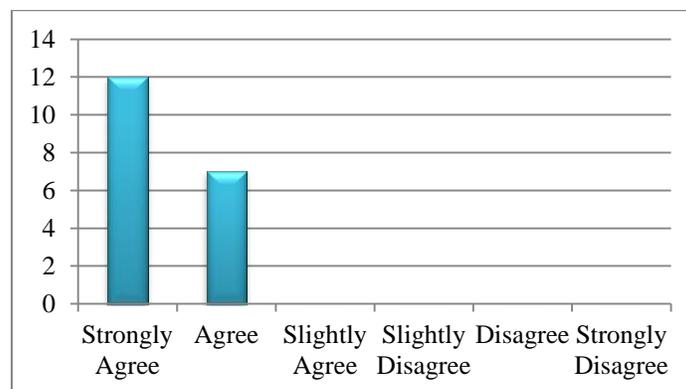
15. I have the ability to provide counseling and supportive guidance regarding the client's communication disorder to client, family, caregivers, and significant others.



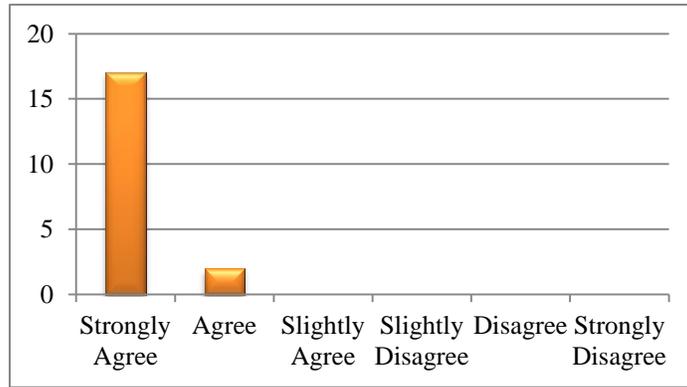
16. I have the ability to plan and implement educational programs for other professionals and/or the general public to facilitate the treatment and acceptance of disabilities associated with communication disorders.



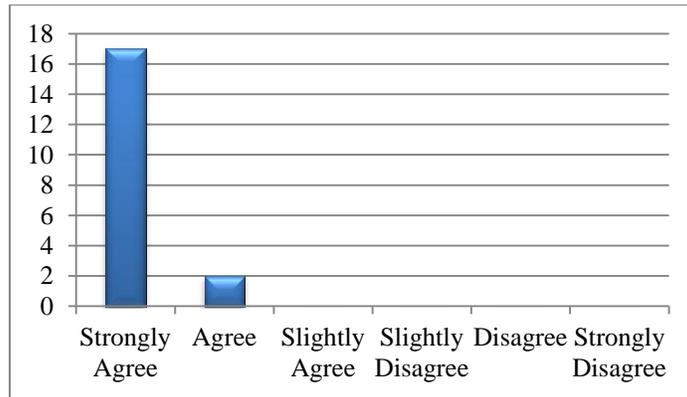
17. I have the ability to consider the needs of the audience and provide clear and meaningful educational information.



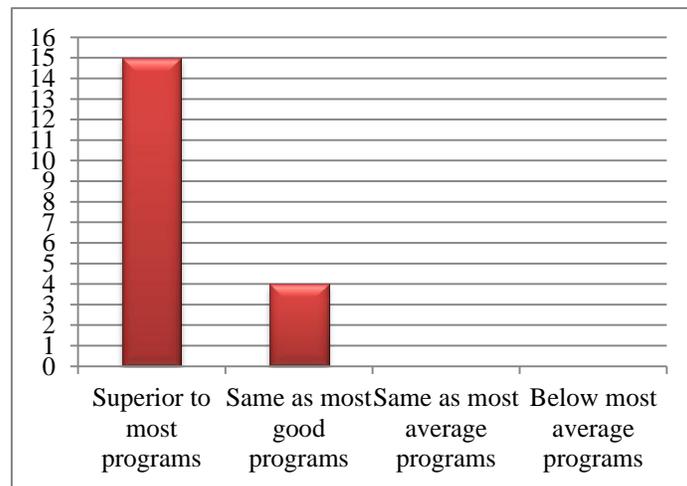
18. I maintain professional demeanor in all clinical and work-related settings.



19. I demonstrate ethical behavior in all professional interactions.



20. Compared to new graduates from other programs, I would rate the knowledge and skills I obtained from Baylor as



Open Ended Questions

1. How do you feel the Academic Experiences, Clinical Experiences, and Externship (i.e. the overall Baylor Graduate Program) prepared you for entry into the field?
 - I was exposed to a variety of situations and disorders in such a way that I felt comfortable utilizing the skills Baylor helped me develop.
 - I felt very prepared . I only wish we had completed a school based externship. Working in schools is a completely different world. I feel like we were ready to work in hospitals/nursing homes after our externships, but not so much in schools.
 - Baylor prepared me for pediatric outpatient speech and language proficiently. I felt less confident in the adult and medical aspects until my externship was complete.
 - I feel that Baylor's CSD's department prepared me in all areas (evaluation, treatment, family support, interaction with other professionals) for each setting that I have worked in (hospital, school, and outpatient pediatric). My clinical experiences, including exposure to many settings and disorders, have been invaluable in my career. I have felt confident in my abilities as an SLP in each setting I have been a part of.
 - I received an excellent education at Baylor. The academics experiences were excellent because the faculty is very knowledgeable in their particular areas of expertise. I feel I had a good clinical experience re: pediatrics, but did not have adequate clinical experience with the adult population. Of course, I received that experience in my externship, but I wish I would have had a more well-rounded clinical experience with shorter rotations in a variety of settings (i.e. nursing facilities, inpatient/outpatient rehab, acute hospital, public schools). I basically only had clinical experience in pediatric and adult outpatient clinic settings, then had a long externship in acute care. I think it would be good to have 6-8 week rotations in each type of work setting so that we have a good grasp for where our strengths lie and what type of setting we would like to work in.
 - I feel like it was a good generalized preparation- however, as an acute care SLP, I feel like there was not enough preparation for dysphagia/cognitive/trache patients- particularly adults.
 - It was a great experience! I loved the professors, patients and staff at Baylor. I would not change it for anything else :)
 - It prepared me well.
 - Academic Experiences: I feel I learned a great deal from both my undergraduate and graduate classes. I appreciate the level of difficulty and that the tests were challenging and kept you accountable to learning the material. Clinical Experiences: I learned a great deal from my hours in the Baylor clinic however would have liked to see more pediatric swallowing and adult TBI (not just cva). Externship: I learned a great deal from my externship and what I use on a day to day basis. A full time externship just like the real workplace is one of the great strengths of the program!
 - The Program did a great job of preparing me for my first job.
 - I think they provided practice in various areas so that when I graduated, I felt I had a lot of options of where I might want to go and the ability to accommodate and pursue a variety of paths. I also think we got a lot of feedback through our weekly meetings and writing evaluations so that I could write evaluations and treatment plans with a lot more ease than others leaving other programs.
 - I felt very prepared to enter the field secondary to my experiences at Baylor and through externship. Entering the field with other new graduates from other programs showed me how much more prepared I was compared to them.
 - The academic experiences at Baylor were great, though the academic introduction to the medical field of speech pathology was limited in the coursework at the time I attended. I felt the program left too many holes in education of its future therapists in medical speech pathology and left that responsibility to our Externship placement. Clinical experiences with pediatrics and outpatient group therapy for adults was great. Externship placements were good and usually of the medical speech-path field, which was great for those of us looking to go to acute care.

- Baylor professors and faculty challenged me not only in the classroom but also with my clinical experiences. They pushed me to do my best and problem-solve on my own and with my peers. Everything was taught thoroughly and our responsibilities as graduate students was a lot, with high expectations. This gave me invaluable experience in a variety of settings and circumstances in order to enhance my ability to provide the best services possible to those I encounter on a daily basis.
- I felt very prepared once I started my CF; I felt more experienced and confident than other CFYs. Every interviewer has commented about how prepared and knowledgeable Baylor CSD graduates are. The only areas I don't feel as knowledgeable about are infant/pediatric feeding and cleft palate; however, I feel that most graduates from any graduate program find themselves in similar situations with those areas.
- I can't say enough good things about the Baylor Graduate Program! Compared to other students entering our field as a CF and then changing settings after my CFY I have always felt more prepared and knowledgeable about working as a speech pathologist. I still refer to class notes and textbooks that we used at Baylor and I always receive positive feedback from patients, patient families and other SLPs that the reports I write are very thorough and informative yet easy to understand. I credit that to my Supervisors and Professors at Baylor. I have felt comfortable in many different and challenging situations as I started out in the public schools and have transitioned to the private practice and hospital settings. I believe Baylor prepared me exceptionally well to enter the field of speech pathology.
- Excellently. I was extremely well-prepared. I do wish, however, that I had had more clinical experience with the adult neurogenic population and clinical experience with voice evaluation and treatment.

2. What do you think are the greatest strengths of the overall Baylor Graduate Program?

- Baylor's Graduate program is strong academically and creates a comfortable, professional, familial atmosphere that is conducive to learning and professional development. I know that I can always refer to my former professors for advice and guidance. Baylor strives to maintain contact with their students past graduation. It is truly a privilege to be part of the network of graduates from Baylor's CSD program.
- Hands on experience! I've heard from numerous colleagues that they did not receive the same amount of hands-on or variety of experiences as I did at Baylor.
- Professors that are accessible and honest.
- The Baylor Graduate Program in CSD includes many strengths, including exposure to varying disorders/clients in a variety of settings (Camp Success, general clinic, adult aphasia individual therapy and group therapy, PLI, hospital and exposure to audiology). The faculty was fantastic and always willing to go the extra mile to help their students learn and be successful as an SLP.
- Small classroom size, approachable faculty, short length of program.
- Extensive experience with language based literacy that colleagues did not receive in their program. Adult experience in externship. Instrumentation course.
- The Baylor CSD professors are the most self-sacrificing group of professionals I've ever met. It's not about making you look good so that the school looks good; it's about making you amazing so that you can go out and make the biggest impact you can. I came so close to going to a top ten school for speech path grad schools and made a gut decision to go with Baylor. I thank God every day that I did.
- Professor and student ratio, rotating clinical experiences in a variety of settings and the Baylor community.
- Faculty and professor knowledge, demands in school are true to those in the real world
- Hospital externship Motor speech, Aphasia and and of Dr. Colson's anatomy based neuro classes. She teaches and tests in a way that you know the information, you remember long term and you are

able to apply what you learned to practical functional day to day scenarios in the work place. Ability to complete the program in less than two years

- Amazing professors who care about the field as well as the students who are in the program.
- I think the supervisor/practicum work is one of the greatest strengths because you have supervisors that are monitoring you regularly and you're really working with throughout your treatment to have ideas and different ways to approach different goals and learning new methods and ideas that way.
- Greatest strengths would be the faculty, manner of material presented (lectures, labs, etc.), and support for graduates post graduation.
- The overall quality of professors and student to professor ratio are fantastic. All staff have an open door policy and work closely with their assigned clinicians. Clinical experiences are also of wide variety with adult language programs, general pediatric outpatient clinic on campus, literacy camps, and a preschool language program all available in house.
- the small class size allowing for students to interact with professors and supervisors on a one-on-one basis
- The clinic and supervisors in each area were crucial to my learning and hands on experience. Dr. Whipple, Dr. Ritter, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Rainer, and Mrs. Powell stand out as mentors and women I learned an incredible amount from to help my clients and to further my own knowledge and skills.
- I think one of the greatest strengths of Baylor's program are the supportive relationships between supervisors, professors and students. I always felt comfortable asking questions and every supervisor and professor would take time to answer them. I think the program staff did an excellent job of teaching us how to be good and effective clinicians. Another strength of the program would be the ability to work with clients almost immediately after starting the grad program. Initially, I think most students feel overwhelmed but I think the early exposure of working with patients prepared us the most for the field.
- I think the greatest strengths of the Baylor Graduate Program are the good relationships between students, professors and supervisors and having the ability to begin working with patients from the beginning of the program. Although overwhelming at first, I believe taking classes and seeing patients for therapy is what prepared us the most for beginning work as a speech pathologist. I feel that our field is constantly changing with new research and new approaches to therapy along with varieties of cases and diagnoses; I think Baylor prepared us very well for handling change and managing caseloads. I don't think I would feel as confident of a clinician if it were not for the great relationships I had with my supervisors and professors. I feel the professors and supervisors were very open to any questions I had about a client or a topic in class. My professors and supervisors were always willing to help and I think that is important in the development of a good SLP. If I did not feel comfortable asking questions to my professors and supervisors I don't think I would feel as comfortable or confident as a clinician.
- The greatest strengths of the program are 1) clinical experience with evaluation and treatment of pediatric language & articulation disorders, including extension to written language disorders, and 2) academic experience with medical/neurogenic topics including aphasia, dysarthrias, apraxia, and dysphagia.

3. What do you think can be done to improve the overall Baylor Graduate Program, the training, the experiences, or the facilities?

- When I left there was a possibility of improving the facilities. The current building is functional but not optimal for the care of the patients or the education of the students.
- More emphasis on dysphagia and Autism. Providing an externship at a school to complete child hours.
- It would be beneficial for the Baylor Grad Program to add tracheostomy education to curriculum of at least one course. Even for those that don't go into the hospitals, they may do pediatric home health

or interact with pediatrics with tracheostomy tubes in schools and need to feel comfortable with them. One Friday morning isn't sufficient in my opinion.

- One area/diagnosis/disorder that I felt that I did not have much exposure to, was the area of feeding disorders in the pediatric population (not swallowing). Also, the building could always use improvements, however it was functional.
- See previous. I also think we should have more academic training in pediatric dysphagia since it is such a growing part of our field. It would be good if we could spend more of our adult clinical training in local nursing homes, rehabs, and hospitals. It would also be good if we could have more exposure in the public school setting, since this is the largest employer of speech therapists. I also think a "survey of medical speech pathology" class would be a wonderful addition to the curriculum. I also think it would be very helpful to have a discussion forum with recent grads who work in a variety of settings to discuss salary, work conditions and types of patients/clients, pertinent issues related to each setting (question and answer type format).
- More adult experience. Completing bedside evaluations with classmates. Prep for MBSS.
- Well, the building was never meant for speech path, but that's no secret. I think a lot of improvements have been made for what we have to work with. I guess it would be nice if we could do better about keeping dead animals out of the walls. The smell - especially in the lobby - is overpowering. I have no complaints about the training, really, although I wish I had received more adult therapy experience. I barely got a couple of weeks. The hospital helped to compensate for that, but it wasn't long-term therapy.
- More hospital experiences, variety of cases (or even case studies): cleft, behavioral (developmental), co-treating (OT/ST/PT), handling children with behavioral issues, sensory integration, NICU, etc.
- The facilities could use improvements to better meet the needs of the clients and therapists.
- NEED: Pediatric Swallowing and Feeding course, Pediatric Swallowing and Feeding Clinic & Supervisor, option for hospital externship at a pediatric hospital, more opportunities to test/evaluate adult patients (maybe figure out a way we can 'practice' giving tests to patients at a local skilled nursing or rehab facility)
- The facilities are outdated and could use more technology to keep up with the always changing field of Speech Pathology
- I do think somewhat talking to parents is a huge area that I needed to learn before I really felt comfortable in my current job. Some of the administrative areas of our job, you really have to learn once you've already graduated and I didn't necessarily feel prepared in that area.
- Improving the facilities would help the program tremendously. If Baylor was compared to other programs on facilities alone, I feel as though we would not rank as high as others.
- I think an increase coursework related to medical speech-language pathology (acute care) would improve graduates' understanding as they move to their careers. Also, facilities are nearing on insufficient in size, especially for the building to host both undergraduate and graduate coursework as well as an outpatient clinic for clinical experience and staff offices. The facility is outdated and located in an inconvenient location on campus with limited parking for community members who bring their children or family members for treatment. I would also like to see a doctoral program and an increase in research coming from the Baylor Graduate program.
- facilities - the grad lounge could be expanded
- The facilities are pretty old and confined to small spaces. The therapy rooms were great with the two way glass and in close proximity to our supervisors, but overall the clinic could meet needs better in another facility.
- I would love for our program to have an updated building! I think it would be great to have a building that would be conducive to many different kinds of patients to help them meet their needs (i.e. low-sensory rooms for autism, rooms designed for adult rehab, an outdoor garden area for different learning activities, etc) . Another area for improvement would be with autism; learning about appropriate treatment goals involving social skills and sensory needs as well as different approaches to the course of treatment would be helpful. I also feel like we learned a lot about

identifying articulation disorders, transcribing samples and treatment approaches but we did not receive very much training about how to elicit the sounds. Working with articulation clients now is fine (I really think working with clients right away at the start of grad school prepared us for anything!) but right out of school it was hard to feel confident about what I was doing.

- What I think would have the biggest impact on the Baylor Graduate Program would be a new facility and the development of a doctoral program. I think the Baylor program exceeds other programs and exhibits some of the highest standards in education, training and experiences. I think the development of a facility that could cater to the unique needs of the patients we see and the addition of a doctoral program would set the Baylor program apart from any other institution in the state of Texas and neighboring states. Personally, I would love for Baylor to develop a clinical doctorate program because I would love to be able to contribute to new research areas while still developing and maintain clinical skills. I think a clinical doctorate is very appealing and as far as I know there is not a program in the state of Texas that offers a clinical doctorate, only PhD.
 - Of course, a newer building for Communication Sciences and Disorders would be wonderful for everyone: clients, families of clients, staff, faculty, and students. Our current building simply does not reflect the quality of education and services that are currently being provided. Additionally, my experience was very disorganized in terms of course planning and financial aid allotment/disbursement which was attributable to disorganization of the CSD Graduate Program Director. Finally, I wish that I had had more clinical experience with the adult neurogenic population (apart from the acute setting, which was my externship) as well as voice evaluation and treatment.
4. What would you tell an undergraduate student who is interested in Baylor's Graduate Program and asked you to tell them about the strengths and/or weaknesses of Baylor's Graduate Program?
- Every program has pros and cons, Baylor's program is smaller, but the faculty are exceptional and really focus on teaching their students and developing excellent professionals.
 - Strengths: Knowledge of the professors, involvement of the professors
 - Strengths: Lang and Lit, Preschool Language, accurate data, research based materials, and professor accessibility Weakness: Medical familiarity and voice therapy
 - I would share with them that Baylor's Graduate Program in CSD is fantastic. They will receive a quality education with a faculty that is invested in their student's success. They will be exposed to multiple disorders and settings. When graduating from the program, they will be prepared to be a successful SLP in each setting available.
 - I would say it is a great graduate program that will prepare you very well for a future career in speech pathology. I would tell them their strengths are definitely the faculty, small program size, ability to work closely with supervisors. I would tell them it is probably more pediatric-focused, but that they will also receive a good medical/adult-patient education. I would tell them that it is an intense, fast-paced program; therefore, the classroom work and clinical work is very demanding at times, but that this will prepare them to handle a variety of challenges in the workplace.
 - I would absolutely endorse (and have done so) Baylor's program. It is an all around great program with fantastic staff/faculty.
 - The program has tons of strengths. The most prominent one being that the professors, supervisors, and other grads set such a wonderful example of how to be not only a strong clinician, but a kind and giving professional. So many schools train you to look out for "number one", so to speak, and elbow your way to the top. The girls (and guys) in the program will stop and help you with anything you need, even when they don't have the time. We learn so much from each other and the professors. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people, honestly. I learned a crazy amount in such a short time. And while it is intense - moreso than most programs - when you get out into the real world, you're practically unflappable. Others struggle when they start out because they aren't used to the work load. As far as weaknesses go...it's really no fault of the program. We're doing the best we can in a building that was never built for us. As soon as enough money is raised for the new building, so many things will fall into place.

- I have talked to about 5 who were interested in the program. If you are looking for a family, Baylor is the place to go!
- It is a fast paced program that will require your maximum attention for one year however; when you are finished you have a master's degree in one year where other programs and at least two.
- Strengths: fast track program, work really hard and get done faster, personable faculty, strong academic preparation Weaknesses: not a lot of exposure to pediatric swallowing and feeding, adult TBI or Adult Cognitive Therapy
- The program is hard, but very thorough in preparing you for this great field of work. The professors are caring, knowledgeable, and do a great job of keeping you accountable for the information that you must learn to succeed in this field of work.
- I think our program is intense but I think it really is awesome and I learned a great deal from my supervisors and my professors.
- I would strongly encourage undergraduate students/transfer students to pursue continuing their education at Baylor. The knowledge I gained in my time there has served me abundantly in the field. I have had many other professionals ask where I "got such a good education" given my performance in the field. Going to Baylor sets you up for great success in the field of Speech Language Pathology.
- The program is great for clinician's who want to go into pediatric therapy or school based SLPs. It has great professors who are always willing to help. There are a variety of on campus clinical experiences (the preschool language program being one of my favorite), however if you plan to go into medical speech-language pathology you will feel like your coursework choices are lacking and you may feel ill-prepared when you start your Externship.
- strengths - learning language and literacy, working with stroke patients, lots of pediatric experience
- Baylor is tough but worth it. You will be challenged and the faculty has high expectations for your academics and clinical practice. You will be prepared to go out into the field after you graduate.
- I would tell them how much I loved the program and the great relationships between staff and students. When I hear other SLPs talk about their grad programs they always talk about how they wished their supervisors and professors would have been more helpful and understanding. I think many students graduate with "book knowledge" but not as much "people knowledge". We were taught to listen to the patient and their family. I am so thankful for having such a great learning environment at Baylor. I would tell them the hardest part of the program is having to jump right into working with clients the first semester. I would also tell them this is a strength. I would tell them about the many different experiences I was able to work with in a smaller environment. I would also tell them how I felt very prepared to enter the field in any setting. We not only learned how to be effective clinicians but I feel like the staff's motivation and passion enabled us to see what a positive impact we can have on the world.
- I am always telling people about the wonderful experiences I had at Baylor! I would tell an undergraduate student that I think Baylor's strengths include getting to work closely with staff and the comfortable open-door relationship they have, getting to start working with patients immediately after beginning the program (I would also tell them that this will be overwhelming at first but that the supervisors and professors are more than helpful with this) and that they will get a wide variety of cases and experiences while they are in the program. I also think that the professors and supervisors enjoy what they do and it was very motivating as a student to work with people who share the same passion for the field. After talking with other SLPs who graduated from other programs I have realized that the good relationships between staff and students and their passion for the field are not common.
- I would tell them that if they are looking to work with children, that Baylor is a phenomenal program. If they are looking to work in the medical field or in adult rehab settings, Baylor is not necessarily the strongest program for that type of clinical experience. Additionally, I would simply caution them that with our Graduate Program Director also having to serve as Department Chair, this

seems to result in graduate students not being able to get questions or concerns addressed quickly or smoothly which may be an ongoing frustration.

Please select the semester and year you graduated from the Communication Sciences & Disorders Graduate Program.

Spring 2007	1	Summer 2007	1	Fall 2007	1
Summer 2008	1	Fall 2008	2	Spring 2009	2
Summer 2009	4	Fall 2009	1	Spring 2010	1
Summer 2010	1	Summer 2011	2	Fall 2011	1