
University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

MA Augmentative and Alternative Communication (Coursework) (01252132)

Duration of study 2 years

Total credits 240

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Admission requirements

- A bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology; or
- A BAHons (AAC) degree; or
- Any other relevant degree at the level of an honours degree, provided that sufficient background in communication theory and research is evident, in which case an admissions examination may be required;
- A minimum average of 65% in the final-year modules of the previous relevant qualification;
- A minimum of 65% in the research module of the previous qualification.

Curriculum: Year 1

Core modules

Theoretical constructs in AAC 811 (AAK 811)

Module credits	45.00
Contact time	3 other contact sessions per week
Language of tuition	English
Academic organisation	CAAC
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Theories of communication, information processing, language development and literacy acquisition are dealt with as related to persons in need of or using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). The role of AAC within a bioecological, social constructivist view of disability is explored. Current research issues in the field are explored in relation to different contexts and different populations. At the end of this module the student must be able to

- discuss different communication models relevant to AAC and apply these to case studies;
- discuss the influence of AAC on communication, information processing, language development and literacy acquisition in relation to specific cases;
- Identify and review current research focus areas in the field

Implementation science in AAC 812 (AAK 812)

Module credits	45.00
Contact time	3 other contact sessions per week
Language of tuition	English
Academic organisation	CAAC
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

This module will discuss the participation model (based on a bioecological, social constructivist approach) as a framework for AAC assessment and intervention. The following aspects will furthermore be dealt with in more detail:

- Appropriate assessment approaches;
- Intervention approaches specific to selected populations with specific reflection upon the evidence base for these approaches;
- The use of communication aids with specific focus on devices, as well as considerations for appropriate selection, design and programming;
- Appropriate positioning for maximising participation of persons with physical disabilities.

At the end of this module the student should be able to apply this knowledge to devise, justify and critically reflect upon an appropriate assessment and intervention plan for a given client.

Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Mini-dissertation: AAC 895 (AAK 895)

Module credits	90.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Both Afr and Eng
Academic organisation	CAAC
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

The mini-dissertation should consist of an independent research project of limited scope on a topic related to the field of AAC selected in collaboration with the supervisor(s). The project must be based on an approved research proposal and ethics clearance if the latter is required for the project.

At the end of this module the student must be able to

- develop a clearly defined research proposal that reflects an understanding of the different components;
- obtain ethics clearance for this project;
- conduct a thorough literature review based on the topic proposed;
- conduct a pilot study to test methodological procedures; and
- discuss the expected outcomes in a well-integrated manner.

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