

INTENSIVE APHASIA THERAPY IN ACTION: A UNIVERSITY-BASED MODEL



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

Pennsylvania
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

Intermediate Level

.1 ASHA CEUs

**EMILY SWEET MS, CCC-SLP, AND
LAUREN HAYDEN MS CCC/SLP**

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the structure and implementation of an intensive reading and writing program for individuals with aphasia within a university clinic setting
- Identify three evidence-based therapy approaches that can be used in an Intensive Reading and Writing for Aphasia Program
- Apply lessons learned from the Widener University program to conceptualize and plan similar intensive aphasia treatment programs in participants' own professional contexts.



Course Abstract

Intensive treatment frequency for individuals with aphasia has been shown to be an effective approach (Dignam et al., 2016; Molino et al., 2024). However, logistical and financial barriers often make these programs challenging to develop and implement. The Widener University Speech-Language Pathology Clinic's Intensive Writing and Reading for Aphasia Program (IWRAP) is a six-week pro-bono intensive aphasia clinic that has been successfully operating in a university setting for several years, demonstrating positive outcomes for both clients and graduate student clinicians. This clinically focused seminar will detail the development, execution, and effectiveness of IWRAP, offering practical guidance for participants interested in intensive aphasia therapy and training of graduate students. Evidence-based therapy approaches used in the program will be described, along with strategies for implementing these approaches in both in-person and telehealth formats for clients with varying levels of aphasia severity. The presentation will explore the program's strengths and limitations, share client progress and feedback, and highlight the experiences of graduate student clinicians. Lessons learned from the program's implementation will also be discussed. Graduate student clinicians will co-present alongside the clinical supervisor and the director of clinical education. Participants will leave with tools and strategies to support the development and implementation of successful intensive aphasia intervention programs, or other intensive student experiences, in their own clinical or academic settings.

Speaker Bio

Emily is a clinical associate professor for the Institute for Speech-Language Pathology at Widener University. She earned her MS in CSD with a bilingual extension from Teachers College, Columbia University. Her main areas of focus include language development in culturally and linguistically diverse children, and best practices in clinical education.

Lauren is a bilingual SLP and the Director of Clinical Education for the Institute for Speech-Language Pathology at Widener University (WU). She earned her MS in CSD with a bilingual extension from Teachers College, Columbia University, and currently specializes in clinical issues related to culturally responsive care in multilingual populations.

Speaker Disclosures

Emily is employed by Widener University and Stepping Stones Group.

Lauren is an employee at Widener University.