

Session 2:
Critical Appraisal of Treatment Evidence across Scope of Practice and Lifespan
Presenters: Thiel College MS-SLP Class of 2027
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Tepper, CCC-SLP



Speech-language pathologists need to be critical consumers of research in order to practice at the top of their license and apply evidence to their daily practice. Critical appraisal is the process of systematically examining research evidence to judge its validity, importance, and clinical application to allow clinicians to use research evidence reliably and efficiently. This series of technical presentations will provide critical appraisals of treatment evidence across the speech-language pathology scope of practice and lifespan.

Instructional Level: Introductory

Presentation 2 Time Ordered Agenda 12:45-2:45

15 Minutes—CATE #1 presented by Katabella Byers

15 Minutes—CATE #2 presented by Megan Gee

15 Minutes—CATE #3 presented by Olivia Giardina

15 Minutes—CATE #4 presented by Taylor Nickum

15 Minutes—CATE #5 presented by Vincent Rodriguez

15 Minutes—CATE #6 presented by Lillian Sitzer

15 Minutes—CATE #7 presented by Abigail Smagala

Disclosure: The above listed graduate students are full-time students of Thiel College. They have no other relevant financial or non-financial relationships relating to course content.

Upon completion of Session 2 of this course, participants will be able to:

1. State the importance of being critical consumers of research evidence.
2. Identify the components of a critical appraisal of treatment evidence.
3. Apply the findings of the critical appraisals to inform their treatment approaches.



Dr. Amy Tepper is the Program Director of Thiel College's Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program and Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. She leads a graduate program focused on evidence-based practice, interprofessional education, and service to rural and underserved communities.

A licensed speech-language pathologist with more than 20 years of clinical experience and nearly a decade in higher education, Dr. Tepper previously served as a tenured associate professor at Baldwin Wallace University. Her scholarship and leadership focus on removing barriers to learning, supporting diverse learners, and promoting equitable, inclusive education.

She earned her doctorate in Disability and Equity in Education from National Louis University and holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Communication Disorders and Sciences from Eastern Illinois University. Dr. Tepper is an active member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, a frequent presenter at professional conferences, and co-author of *Grounded in Greater: A Faith-Informed Approach to K–12 Education and Beyond*.

Disclosure: Dr. Amy Tepper is a paid faculty of Thiel College. She has no other relevant financial or non-financial relationships relating to course content.