

***The School of Communication Sciences and Disorders
The University of Memphis***

Presents the
Betty Webster Symposium for Clinical Education

Navigating Common Challenges in Clinical Education

Speaker:

Katherine Mendez, MA, CCC-SLP

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: Community Health Building, Room 2009

4055 N. Park Loop

Memphis, TN 38152

Abstract

Clinical education is a cornerstone of professional preparation in communication sciences and disorders, yet clinical educators frequently encounter challenges that can complicate the teaching and learning process. This session, Navigating Common Challenges in Clinical Education, will provide participants with the opportunity to identify and analyze common difficulties encountered in clinical education settings, including issues related to feedback, interpersonal dynamics, learner performance, and balancing dual roles as clinician and educator. Through case-based discussion and guided problem-solving, participants will explore a range of practical strategies for addressing these challenges in ways that support both learner development and client care. Emphasis will be placed on fostering reflective practice, applying evidence-based approaches, and considering multiple perspectives in order to promote effective, ethical, and responsive clinical education. Attendees will leave with actionable tools and strategies to enhance their effectiveness and confidence as clinical educators.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify at least three common challenges that arise in clinical education across diverse settings.
2. Describe practical approaches for navigating common clinical education challenges.
3. Apply problem-solving frameworks to real-world clinical education scenarios.
4. Reflect on their own clinical teaching practices and develop an action plan for enhancing effectiveness as a clinical educator.

Time-Ordered Agenda

Number of Minutes	
10	0:00 – 0:10 Welcome and Overview
25	0:10 – 0:35 Identifying Common Challenges in Clinical Education
35	0:35 – 1:10 Exploring Strategies for Navigating Challenges
35	1:10 – 1:45 Case Scenario Discussion/Problem-Solving
15	1:45 – 2:00 Reflection, Action Planning, and Q&A

Biography

Katherine Mendez serves as Co-Director of Clinical Education in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Memphis, where she facilitates graduate student training across a wide range of clinical experiences. She is a practicing speech-language pathologist with experience and expertise in clinical education, mentorship, and the development of reflective, student-centered learning environments. Katherine is particularly passionate about preparing future clinicians

to provide evidence-based, equitable, and culturally and linguistically responsive services. With her background spanning both academic and clinical practice, she brings a practical and thoughtful perspective to clinical education, supporting educators and students alike in navigating the complexities of learning and teaching in clinical settings.

Speaker Disclosures:

Speaker Name	Relevant Financial Relationships	Relevant Non-Financial Relationships
Katherine Mendez	Honorarium; Salary; University of Memphis	

Satisfactory Completion Requirements

Satisfactory completion requirements for continuing education credit include attending the course in full, completing the Assessment of Learning Outcomes Qualtrics survey, and submitting the Program Evaluation Qualtrics survey.



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