



ASHA Announces 2012 Student Ethics Essay Award Topic

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is pleased to announce the 2012 Student Ethics Essay Award (SEEA) competition. The competition is open to both undergraduate and graduate students who are members of NSSLHA and enrolled full time or part time in a communication sciences and disorders program during the 2011-2012 academic year.

2012 Essay Topic

Persons in our professions are as likely as anyone else to suffer from mental illnesses of varying degrees of severity or to suffer from various forms of addiction and substance abuse. The term “impaired practitioner” is widely used to refer to professionals when such illnesses and addictions adversely affect their ability to carry out their responsibilities. Write an essay in which you consider the ethical issues raised by the problem of impaired professionals, giving attention to such questions as the following:

- What ethical responsibilities does the professional have in dealing with his or her own impairment, particularly when it may adversely affect his/her clinical, administrative, supervisory, teaching, research, and/or business practices in the professions of communication sciences and disorders?
- What ethical responsibilities do the colleagues, supervisors, and employers of an impaired professional have?
- What responsibilities should ASHA have in this area and why?
- When the impaired practitioner/researcher falsifies charges for services, misrepresents information in reports or research, abandons patients, fails to document treatment, or violates the Code of Ethics in other ways, should their impairment have a bearing on the findings of the Board of Ethics; and if so, what should that be?

In developing their essays, students should draw upon ASHA’s Code of Ethics (<http://www.asha.org/docs/html/ET2010-00309.html>), relevant Issues in Ethics statements, and other ethics-related documents and resources accessible from the *Ethics: Documentation and Issues* page at <http://www.asha.org/practice/ethics/>.

Each NSSLHA chapter may submit up to five essays for the 2012 SEEA competition. Monetary awards (amounts to be determined later) and certificates will be provided for the top three essays. Complete SEEA information and application form will be posted on the ASHA and NSSLHA Web sites by mid-September 2011. Program faculty may want to consider making the ethics essay a classroom assignment. A list of previous SEEA recipients and their essays are posted at http://www.asha.org/Practice/ethics/ethics_essay_recip/.

The SEEA program was established to provide opportunities for NSSLHA members who are undergraduate or graduate students in communication sciences and disorders (CSD) to think about ethical decision making as they prepare for careers in audiology, speech-language pathology, or speech, language, and hearing sciences. The goal of the SEEA is to create awareness of situations individuals may encounter that could pose ethical dilemmas and options for addressing these dilemmas.