

**Vision in Neurorehabilitation:
Practical Tools for Assessment &
Management—The SLP Track**

Jan 21–Mar 25, 2025
On-demand Course



Vision in Neurorehabilitation: Practical Tools for Assessment & Management—The SLP Track

The Academy is the educational arm of Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (formerly RIC), a non-profit rehabilitation hospital in Chicago that has been ranked number one by *US News and World Report* since 1991. The Academy offers a wide range of accredited programs with the common goal of improving patient outcomes through clinical excellence. Our commitment to sharing the best evidence and rehabilitation practice with clinicians around the globe has always been an integral part of our mission.

The Academy is committed to creating an inclusive, authentic and comfortable learning environment that celebrates and supports all learners. We are dedicated to providing the highest-quality teaching regardless of race, age, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation/identity, ability, religion, language or culture. Above all, we believe that everyone should feel safe, respected, and welcomed when attending our programs at the hospital or online. We encourage the sharing of experiences and perspectives so we can learn from one another, and from our varied points of view.

Course Description

This online course offers a comprehensive exploration of how visual and perceptual impairments can profoundly impact an individual's daily routines and their ability to engage in designated roles. Visual impairments can limit progression across different levels of care and various types of activities (e.g. reading, mobility and self-care.) This course aims to familiarize participants with prevalent visual-perceptual impairments that often constrain the performance of patients coping with visual challenges stemming from neurological injury or illness. Participants will not only revisit key anatomical features but will also delve into the fundamental components of a comprehensive vision assessment. This assessment encompasses critical aspects like visual acuity, ocular motor control, ocular alignment, visual fields and spatial neglect. These concepts are organized in a simple framework that supports effective interpretation of a visual assessment and clinical decision-making to develop of a plan of care. Instructors will provide insights into adaptable assessment approaches tailored to individuals facing cognitive or communication impairments. Case examples and videos will support the interpretation and application of novel concepts.

Location and Delivery Method

This course is taught virtually using Zoom, an online meeting platform, and the Academy Learning Portal. Other online learning materials may also be utilized. This is an on-demand course. All materials are designed to be self-paced and completed based on the course schedule. All course material must be completed by March 25, 2025.

Successful Completion

Participants will complete a total of 16 hours of material divided into foundational knowledge and clinical application. This online content will consist of videos, readings, case studies, vision screening practice and knowledge checks. It is recommended that the course material be completed in sequential order. There will be two optional office hours with course faculty to allow the opportunity for live interaction with the course material. All participants will be required to complete a final online evaluation by March 25th, 2025.

Who Should Attend

Speech-Language Pathologists

Learner Outcomes

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

1. Identify key anatomical features of the visual system and common visual-perceptual deficits associated with neurologic diagnoses
2. Select appropriate components of a comprehensive vision assessment using the framework introduced during course (visual acuity impairments, visual field loss and spatial neglect)
3. Critically assess and interpret findings from a visual assessment in the context of case examples
4. Develop strategies to address visual deficits during assessment, structured and functional visual, written or reading tasks
5. Identify symptoms or other contributing factors that may influence performance during a visual assessment with neurologic patients

Featured Faculty



Viktoriya Landar, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist, Atlanta, GA

Viktoriya Landar graduated from Boston University in 2016 and has since worked with patients with stroke and brain injury throughout the continuum of care from inpatient to outpatient rehabilitation. Viktoriya has a strong interest in vision, previously working for several years as a vision lab specialist at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. Viktoriya has previously guest lectured on topics related to management of visual changes and spatial neglect, at universities and interdisciplinary conferences. Special interests include assessment and treatment of spatial neglect, diplopia management and low vision strategy/advocacy for patients with new onset low vision or chronic eye health issues. Viktoriya is currently pursuing her Master of Public Health at Emory University.



Kelsey Watters, CScD, OTR/L, BCPR, CBIS

Occupational Therapist, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Adjunct Faculty, University of Pittsburgh, Occupational Therapy program

Adjunct Faculty, University of Illinois Chicago, Occupational Therapy program

Kelsey Watters is an occupational therapist (OT) and clinical practice leader for OT at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab since 2012. She graduated from University of Washington with her master's in occupational therapy in 2011 and her doctorate of clinical science (CScD) in occupational therapy at the University of Pittsburgh in 2022. Clinically, she works in Robert R. McCormick Foundation Think + Speak Lab and specializes in working with patients to address challenges with both functional cognition and vision/perception. In 2020, Kelsey obtained her AOTA Board Certification in Physical Rehabilitation (BCPR). Her clinical interest areas include traumatic brain injury, visual/ perceptual impairments and functional cognition. Kelsey has led workshops about brain injury, functional cognition and vision at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. She is an adjunct instructor in the occupational therapy program at the University of Pittsburgh and teaches regularly at the University of Illinois Chicago's occupational therapy program.

Additional Faculty (Listed Alphabetically):



Stacey Lane, PT, DPT, NCS

Physical Therapist, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Stacey began her career 15 years ago working in inpatient rehabilitation at Craig Hospital in Denver, CO. During that time, she developed a passion for treating patients with neurologic conditions and soon realized the prevalence of vestibular dysfunction in many of her patients. For the past 12 years with Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, Stacey has gained expertise in treating individuals with a wide range of vestibular conditions, concussion and cervicogenic dizziness. She has also cultivated a team approach to vestibular mentorship for clinicians within the organization to better serve patients. Stacey completed the Vestibular Rehabilitation Competency-based Course at Emory University in 2014.



Shelby Masland, MA, CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Shelby Masland graduated from the University of Florida with her Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology in 2014. Prior to joining the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab team in 2019, Shelby spent time in Georgia and Texas, working with patients across settings (outpatient, acute, inpatient rehab) and across the lifespan (NICU, pediatric, adult, geriatric.) In 2022, she was awarded the titles of senior speech-language pathologist at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, and adjunct assistant clinical professor in the School of Communication at Northwestern University. Shelby's special interest patient populations include brain injury, medically complex and progressive neurological disorders.



Haleigh Nierman, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Haleigh Nierman graduated from Rush University in 2018 and works on the inpatient pediatric floor as well as a vision lab therapist in Robert R. McCormick Foundation Think + Speak Lab at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. Coming from a family of optometrists, Haleigh has a special interest in working with patients with visual impairments and challenges. Haleigh enjoys mentoring colleagues in all things vision and acts as the pediatric vision lab specialist on the inpatient floors.



Dr. Michael Zost, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD

Optometrist, Vision Rehabilitation Associates

Dr. Michael Zost has served as an associate professor of Optometry at the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago since 1986 where he also received his Doctor of Optometry degree. He then completed a residency in Rehabilitative Optometry at the Northport VA Medical Center in Northport, New York with an emphasis on primary care, vision therapy, contact lenses, and low vision. Dr. Zost is a vision consultant at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab where he examines and treats patients who experience disrupted or loss of vision due to an acquired brain injury.

Course Syllabus

Online Introduction to The Course

Available Jan. 21, 2025

1. Describe course logistics
2. Discuss course expectations for interacting in a collegial learning environment

Office Hours

Optional office hour one: Week of Feb 17 Day/Time TBD

Optional office hour two: Week of March 10 Day/Time TBD

Session One: Introduction to Visual Processing System & Anatomy

Session One: Objectives

- Describe the implications of visual impairments on daily function and recovery process within the rehabilitation setting
- Identify key anatomical features of the visual system and associated visual-perceptual deficits
- Identify common presentations associated with neurologic vision diagnoses

Part One: Foundational Knowledge

- Read article: *A Model for Vision Rehabilitation and the Role of the Physiatrist on the Interdisciplinary Team* (41 minutes)
- Watch video content (51 minutes)
- Complete knowledge check quiz

Part Two: Clinical Application

- Watch video content (90 minutes)
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Session Two: Assessment of Visual Integrity

Session Two Objectives

- Describe the components of comprehensive vision assessment and discuss potential adaptations to vision assessment administration to a patient with various cognitive and communication needs
- Select the appropriate assessment tools to measure different aspects of visual acuity and visual fields
- Describe findings from initial patient intake, acuity and visual field assessment using objective terms within clinical documentation

Part One: Foundational Knowledge

- Watch video content (107 minutes)
- Complete knowledge check quiz

Part Two: Clinical Application

- Watch video content (90 minutes)
-

Session Three: No Foundational Knowledge Work or Clinical Application Components for Speech-Language Pathologists

Session Four: Introduction to Intervention & Caseload Management

Session Four Objectives

- Identify common presentations associated with low vision diagnoses
- Describe clinical decision-making framework when developing a comprehensive treatment plan using intervention guidelines to address common visual impairments observed in neurologic patients
- Prioritize interventions to address low vision impairments to support occupational performance based on available evidence, patient presentation and goal areas

Part One: Foundational Knowledge

- Watch Video Content (93 minutes)
- Complete Knowledge Check Quiz

Part Two: Clinical Application

- Watch Video Content (90 minutes)
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Session Five: Advanced Application of Intervention & Caseload Management for The SLP

Session Five Objectives

- Apply clinical decision-making framework when developing a comprehensive treatment plan using intervention guidelines to address common visual impairments observed in neurologic patients.
- Discuss recommendations for documentation and considerations for integrating speech or cognition-based goals in the context of visual interventions.
- Prioritize interventions to address visual impairments in speech or cognition-based tasks based on available evidence, patient presentation and goal areas.

Part One: Foundational Knowledge*

- Complete padlet post
- Please identify a patient you have worked with in the past or are currently working with and their visual deficits
- Describe or list interventions, modifications and/or strategies you would consider trialing or completing with this patient
- [Click HERE for Padlet Link](#)

Part Two: Clinical Application

- Watch video content (120 minutes)

*NO ASHA CEUs are associated with this self-study task

Session Six: Spatial Neglect & Perception

Session Six Objectives

- Identify key anatomical features, common symptoms and performance patterns associated with spatial neglect
- Describe common assessment tools available to determine presence and severity of spatial neglect and differentiate from other perceptual deficits
- Describe various treatment strategies to manage spatial neglect and clinical reasoning for selection of specific intervention approach through the use of case examples and videos

Part One: Foundational Knowledge

- Read article: *Spatial Neglect and Anosognosia After Right Brain Stroke* (51 minutes)
- Watch video content (71 minutes)
- Complete knowledge check quiz

Part Two: Clinical Application

- Watch video content (90 minutes)

Session Seven: |Interprofessional Care of The Patient With Visual Impairment & Wrap Up

Session Seven Objectives

- Describe each discipline's role on the interprofessional team when working with a patient with a visual impairment
- Review key take-aways from the entire course that will influence future practice

Part One: Foundational Knowledge

- No foundational knowledge content for session seven

Part Two: Clinical Application

- Watch video content (90 minutes)

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be requested by email at academy@sralab.org. Refunds less a 20 percent administrative charge will be given 30 days before the start date of the course. If the cancellation notice is received less than 30 days from the start date of the course, a credit towards a future continuing education program would be applied for one year from the start date of the canceled course. The Academy reserves the right to cancel or change any programs for due cause. The cancellation of a program by the Academy will result in a full refund of tuition.

Important Registration Information

Registrations will be taken in the order in which tuition checks or credit card information is received. We highly encourage you to register online as these are processed more quickly than mailed registrations. Full tuition must accompany the registration form in order to confirm your place in this course. Until you receive your confirmation letter, you are not officially registered for the course. For online registrations, you will receive email confirmation on the same day that you register. For registrations received by standard mail, the confirmation may take up to three weeks to process. If you do not receive confirmation within this period, please call 312.238.6042. One week prior to the course, only internet registrations that include an email will be accepted. Please note that once the course has reached its maximum enrollment, no additional spots will become available.

Technology Requirements

To participate, you will need access to a computer with an internet connection. High-speed broadband access (LAN, Cable or DSL) is highly recommended.

- Internet connection: broadband wired or wireless (3G or better)
- Web browser with latest stable version. Recommended browsers are Apple Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge
- JavaScript and Cookies enabled
- Speaker or headset to listen to audio files and participate in Zoom calls
- Do NOT use Internet Explorer, as it is not supported

Accessibility

Please contact the Academy if you require any special accommodations for this course.

Continuing Education Credit

Speech-Language Therapy

Speech-Language Pathology:



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
dba Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Advanced Level

1.60 ASHA CEUs

Faculty Disclosures

Course Director's and Planning Committee Members' Disclosure Information:

Julie Lenkiewicz, MS, CCC-SLP

Has nothing to disclose.

Leslie Marriott, OT

Has nothing to disclose.

Speakers, Moderators and Panelists' Disclosure Information:

Viktoriya Landar, OTR/L

Has nothing to disclose.

Stacey Lane, PT, DPT, NCS

Has nothing to disclose.

Shelby Masland, MA, CCC-SLP

Has nothing to disclose.

Haleigh Nierman, OTR/L

Has nothing to disclose.

Kelsey Watters, OTR/L, BCPR

Has nothing to disclose.

Dr. Michael Zost, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD

Has nothing to disclose.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank **MERZ** for their educational grant which supports The Academy at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab and helps us pull together programs such as this.

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Register online at <https://www.sralab.org/academy> or complete the form below and return with payment.

Mail to: Academy
 Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
 355 E. Erie Street, Suite 12-West
 Chicago, Illinois 60611

Early Bird Registration Fee by July 23, 2024	\$400
Registration Fee After July 23, 2024	\$450

Please contact the Academy for group discounts

Questions? Contact Julie Lenkiewicz, jlenkewic@sralab.org, 312-238-3107

Please TYPE or PRINT your name and professional initials (MD, OT, PT, RN, etc.) as you would like them to appear on your continuing education certificate.

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Home Phone (_____) _____ Prof. Initials _____
 Home Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Organization/Facility _____
 Work Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Work Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____
 Position _____
 E-mail (required) _____

Please note: registration will not be processed without full payment.

Method of Payment: Check enclosed (Payable to: Shirley Ryan AbilityLab)
 Credit Card

Credit Card Users Must Complete the Following Information:

MasterCard VISA American Express

Credit Card # _____
 Expiration Date __/__/__ CW _____ (security code on back of card)
 Name on Card _____
 Billing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Cardholder's Signature _____