

Client Term Limit and Discharge Policy

(Aligned with the ASHA Code of Ethics)

In accordance with the **ASHA Code of Ethics**—particularly the principles of **beneficence, fairness, clinical competence, and responsible service delivery**—the university teaching clinic maintains a term limit and discharge policy to ensure ethical care, equitable access to services, and appropriate clinical training experiences.

Clients receiving services in the university teaching clinic are eligible for treatment for a **maximum of six (6) academic terms**. Upon reaching the six-term limit, clients will be **discharged from clinic services**, regardless of goal status. Discharge planning will include appropriate documentation and referrals to community providers when clinically indicated to support continuity of care.

Discharge may also occur **prior to reaching the six-term limit** for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to adhere to clinic policies or established treatment protocols
- Repeated cancellations, no-shows, or inconsistent attendance that interferes with treatment effectiveness
- Determination by supervising clinical faculty that services are no longer clinically indicated or ethically appropriate
- Client or caregiver request for discharge
- Failure to meet financial obligations, including nonpayment of fees or failure to follow established billing and payment policies

All discharge decisions are made under the supervision of **licensed clinical faculty**, are consistent with ethical standards of practice, and are documented in the client record. The clinic does not abandon clients and will provide referrals or recommendations for alternative services when appropriate, consistent with **ASHA's ethical obligation to avoid client abandonment**.