

Aphasia Communication Enhancement Program at Western Michigan University

23 people with aphasia participated in the ACE Program.

Most people came to our clinic. Some had therapy virtually by ZOOM.

Participants were from 6 different counties in southwest Michigan.

We had individual sessions, as well as small (2-3) group conversation sessions.

People with aphasia worked on their **personalized goals for communicating**. For example:

- Reading excerpts of favorite authors
- Creating phone scripts to converse with family members
- Using pictures to convey preferences
- Learning phone technology for memory or communication support

Group sessions also addressed participation interests. For example:

- Listening to podcasts and discussing them,
- Watching videos to learn more about aphasia,
- Writing Facebook aphasia advocacy posts,
- Participating in group games (Jeopardy)

Care partners (family, friends or support aides) also participated in ACE! Some joined in an **ACE Care Partner Discussion session**. Others went in **treatment sessions** to gain skills or to support their family members. Our lobby also provides the opportunity for informal **discussions and peer support**. ACE clinical faculty were available for **individual meetings** to provide community resources, referrals or support as needed.



EVERYONE wore masks to protect our health.

ACE Students provided the direct **clinical treatment** in the therapy sessions. **Ten graduate students** in speech-language pathology participated in ACE. Each student had the opportunity to gain valuable skills in providing both **individual and group treatment** sessions. Both **evidence-based** approaches and **creative** adaptations were used for meaningful outcomes.

ACE Supervisors provided ongoing guidance to the student clinicians through individual **discussion** or **written feedback**. A weekly **clinical practicum class** also provided in-depth instruction and discussion. We also shared our clinical and teaching expertise with speech-language pathologists around the country, through participating in a **podcast, 2 webinars, and published articles**.

Thanks to everyone who helped to create a positive semester!

Aphasia Communication Enhancement (ACE) Program

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