**Group 1**

Research Title:

Factors affecting academic performance during pre-clinical and clinical years: Audiology and Speech Sciences students.

Introduction:

The academic performance is assumed as a measurement in measuring the students’ competency and level of intelligence in applying what they have learned in class to their clinical practice. However, the aspect of academic performance could not be judged solely based on the level of intelligence of the students as the academic performance itself is being influenced by the other factors. These factors contribute to students’ life especially in the process of learning. They could be either internal factors or external factors or both. Furthermore, academic performance itself is very much influenced by the perception of student towards the clinical years during the pre-clinical years. Each student will face different factors that influence their academic performance or they might have a similar factor. Therefore, this study will be conducted to identify the factors that affect the academic performance of Audiology and Speech Sciences students during the pre-clinical and clinical years.

Factors which will be identified in the study will be representing the academic performance in comparing the pre-clinical and clinical years. Also, this study is carried out to discover whether the related factors affect the academic performance during the pre-clinical years or during the clinical years of Audiology and Speech Sciences students respectively. The effects on academic performance during pre-clinical years and clinical years are expected to be different as the experiences are different between the pre-clinical years and clinical years along with the difference in the mastery of basic skills in clinical practice. Furthermore, the aspects of evaluation also vary between pre-clinical years and clinical years. The knowledge, experiences and evaluation from supervisors are different as the time goes by and these aspects will affect the confidence level of the students in clinic. Therefore, all these aspects are perceived to contribute in affecting the academic performance of Audiology and Speech Sciences student during pre-clinical years and clinical years. The extent of academic performance is affected together with the amount of the differences in academic performance during pre-clinical years and clinical years will be identified in this study.

Research Question:

1. Is there a relationship between clinical practice and academic performance?
2. Is there a difference between academic performance of Audiology and Speech Sciences students during pre-clinical and clinical years?
3. Does living lifestyle affect the most on academic performance during pre-clinical and clinical years?

Objectives:

1. To determine the factor that affect academic performance the most during pre-clinical and clinical years for Audiology and Speech Sciences students.
2. To compare academic performance of Audiology and Speech Sciences students during pre-clinical and clinical years.
3. To compare factors that affecting academic performance of Audiology and Speech Sciences students during pre-clinical and clinical years.

Hypothesis:

1. There is a relationship between clinical practice and academic performance of Audiology and Speech Sciences students during clinical years.
2. There is a difference between academic performance of Audiology and Speech Sciences students during pre-clinical and clinical years.

Null Hypothesis:

1. There is no relationship between clinical practice and academic performance of Audiology and Speech Sciences students during pre-clinical and clinical years.
2. There is no difference between academic performance of Audiology and Speech Sciences students during pre-clinical and clinical years.

Variables:

* Independent variables: Factors that affecting academic performance
* Dependent variables: Academic performance of audiology and speech sciences students during pre-clinical and clinical years.

**METHODOLOGY**

Research method:

This research is conducted by using cross-sectional study. Questionnaires are distributed to the selected undergraduates from Audiology and Speech Sciences Department.

Sampling:

This research is carried out by convenient sampling, in which chooses the individuals that are easiest to reach or sampling that is done easy. The total subject of this study is 55 students. 25 students from third year students and 30 students from forth year students are selected randomly.

Instrument:

Questionnaires regarding the study is distributed to have an in depth analysis of the factors affecting academic performance during pre-clinical and clinical years among Audiology and Speech Sciences students.

Data collection:

The questionnaire will be distributed and it will be collected on the same week.

Data analysis:

The data will be analyzed by using SPSS 17.