

WIU CENTENNIAL HONORS COLLEGE
Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day 2023

Abstract

Poster

Major: Speech Pathology and Audiology

Faculty Mentor(s): Julie Cox

The Social and Occupational Impact of Stuttering in the Workplace

Ashley Bratkovich

Stuttering is a speech disorder that can impact occupational performance and evoke negative emotions in the workplace. These negative emotions can include embarrassment, frustration, and anxiety when speaking. The purpose of this study was to gain a more comprehensive understanding of how the disorder influences adults in social and occupational settings. The study will provide additional information on the disorder and provide a better understanding of what Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) can do to set their clients up for success in the workplace. A total of 20 participants, 13 males and 7 females, completed a survey that included 21 questions divided into four sections – Demographic Information, Relationships/Social Questions, Occupational Questions, and Technique Questions. The data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively to identify the social and occupational impacts of stuttering in the workplace. Exclusion criteria included applicants under the age of 18, no stuttering diagnosis, or never working at least a part-time job; all other participants were counted during data collection and analysis. The results of the survey revealed that stuttering influences many areas in social situations and in the workplace. Regardless of severity, participants indicated that they often experience feelings of embarrassment or frustration when stuttering. These negative emotions can impact workplace relationships and the ability to effectively carry out occupational tasks. Additionally, the study revealed that many people who stutter choose an occupation that requires minimal verbal communication.