

# SLP Program Policy 302

## Clinical Practicum Requirements in Speech-Language Pathology

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**Policy:** All MA Speech-Language Pathology students are required to meet ASHA's clinical practicum requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP), state licensure, and additional practicum. Those wishing to obtain clinical certification must also meet these requirements.

### Procedure:

#### I. Practicum Requirements

- a. ASHA certification standards are described at:  
<https://www.asha.org/certification/2020-slp-certification-standards/>.
- b. A minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised clinical experience is required, 375 of which must be spent in direct client/patient contact and 25 spent in clinical observation. All clock hours included in the 400 must be within the scope of practice for speech-language pathology.
- c. At least 325 of the 400 required practicum hours must be completed while engaged in graduate study. No more than 75 practicum hours can be counted from an undergraduate program.
- d. Students will obtain clinical experiences to prepare them to diagnose and treat communication disorders and differences across the scope of practice of speech-language pathology. Clients will include children and adults from culturally/linguistically diverse backgrounds. Experiences will be obtained in various settings.
- e. Supervision must be provided by individuals who hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence in the appropriate area of practice and hold the appropriate state license. The amount of supervision must be appropriate to the student's level of knowledge, experience, and competence with a minimum of 25% direct observation of the student's total contact with each client. This direct observation should take place periodically throughout the practicum to ensure the welfare of the client.
- f. Upon graduation, students "must possess skills in oral and written and other forms of communication sufficient for entry into professional practice" (ASHA, 2017).
- g. Additional practicum guidelines for the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders include:
  - i. At least 125 clock hours of the total 400 are to be obtained under the direct supervision of the faculty at the University of Memphis.
  - ii. Students will gain experience across the scope of practice. Student clinical journeys will be unique to them and may look different from other students' clinical journeys.
- h. It is the student's responsibility to investigate the licensure laws of states that they may seek employment in and inform the Co-Directors of Clinical Education in Speech-Language Pathology in sufficient time to arrange clinical experiences to

meet that state's unique requirements during the student's graduate experience at the University of Memphis.

- i. Students who are placed at an external practicum site should be assigned a minimum of one client under the direct supervision of a faculty member at the University of Memphis.
- j. Students must complete a minimum of one semester in a diagnostic practicum under the direct supervision of a faculty member at the University of Memphis.
- k. A detailed list of roles and responsibilities of the clinical faculty and student is listed in Appendix 3.7. A description of the progression of clinical experiences and expectations for each semester is listed as well.