

Oklahoma State University
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)
OFF-CAMPUS PRACTICUM PLACEMENT

Requirements for SLPA Off-Campus Practicum Placement:

1. Completed Oklahoma State University's academic course of study for a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders program; OR
2. Completed a bachelor's degree in another major AND Oklahoma State University's academic course of study for post bachelor's certificate.
3. Completed the minimum of 25 hours (1500 minutes) of observation as required by ASHA.
4. Be in good academic standing (3.0 or above in the undergraduate program).
5. Complete the SLPA Practicum Application and submit it to the Clinic Coordinator in charge of off-campus placements no later than one month prior to start of practicum experience (e.g.; in the last semester of undergraduate or leveling classes).
6. Be accepted by the Clinic Committee for SLPA Practicum placement. A maximum of 10 SLPA students will be selected per semester.
7. Ability to locate/re-locate to the practicum placement site assigned by the Clinic Coordinator – typically in Stillwater, Oklahoma City or Tulsa areas.*
8. Completed OSBI background check
9. Completed required vaccinations/TB testing
10. Completed any additional orientation and/or requirements that have been outlined in the off-campus facility/OSU Memorandum of Agreement (e.g.; drug screening, CPR, etc.)
11. Enrollment in three hours of CDIS 4010 once placed at a practicum site.**

*Sites are assigned by the clinic coordinator and are not set up by the student. While every effort is made to accommodate student's requests, no site can be guaranteed.

**Placement at an off-campus site may occur anytime during the semester and will proceed until the minimum of 100 hours are completed.

Goals of practicum placement

1. To complete field work under the supervision of an ASHA-certified SLP by providing access to a client base sufficiently large and diverse. One hundred (100) hours of clinical practicum, or more if possible, is anticipated.
2. To expose the student to a facility which includes clinical viewpoints and procedures different from those experienced at the OSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic and/or previously assigned practicum site(s), if any.
3. To provide the student with an opportunity to relate to and work with specialists from related professions who also function within the facility, and to participate as appropriate.
4. To provide the student with interesting and/or unusual case types that will extend the student's breadth and depth of clinical experience.
5. To ensure that the nature and amount of clinical supervision is adjusted to the experience and ability of the student and that appropriate guidance and feedback are provided to the student. Generally, most supervisors start with 100% supervision and decrease the amount gradually. **At least 25% of each student's total contact time in clinical treatment with each client must be observed directly by the supervisor.**
6. To familiarize the student with the paperwork typical in that setting for a SLPA (i.e. documenting session results, IEPs, etc.).
7. To familiarize the student with SLPA service delivery practices.

8. To familiarize the student with the standards (accreditation, health, etc.) and legal requirements of the site.

Expectations of the OSU CDIS Department

Both the off-campus site and the student clinician can expect the CDIS Department to:

1. Locate an appropriate off-campus placement and make contact and arrangements with the site for the placement.
2. Recommend students for off-campus placement only if they meet the requirements stated. Any special needs regarding academic background or clinical skills will be communicated to the site.
3. Evaluate the feasibility of the site and certification status of all intended supervisors prior to the initiation of the placement.
4. Provide a contract specifying terms of agreement.
5. Provide malpractice insurance for off-campus practicum students.
6. Provide liaison between the off-campus site and the student and handle all grievances which may arise.
7. Provide appropriate forms (i.e. evaluation form, clock hour instructions) to the student and the off-campus supervisor(s) and inform them of deadlines and University procedures.
8. Assign the practicum grade based upon the recommendation of the off-campus supervisor(s) and the satisfactory completion of all required paperwork.

Expectations of the Off-Campus Placement Site

The site must:

1. Be regarded as a competent and reputable facility by member of the professional community.
2. Have an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist in the staff with a minimum of three years' experience that is licensed and available to supervise the 25% of the time for each treatment session.
3. Insure that the ASHA supervisor will be on-site whenever the student engages in treatment.
4. Have sufficient caseload and variety of caseload to allow the student to gain a minimum of 100 clock hours of supervised practicum within a reasonable time frame.
5. Provide the student with an opportunity to relate to and work with specialists from related professions who also function within the facility.
6. Provide the student with close supervision at first, with gradual increase in independence where warranted. If there is doubt about the student's proficiency with a particular client or case type, supervision should remain appropriately close throughout the practicum.
7. Allow the student to operate as much as possible as a full-time member of the staff of the facility, except for the supervision the student is given.
8. Structure the practicum to meet the stated purposes.
9. Complete paperwork prior to the initiation of the practicum involving names and ASHA numbers of supervisors, a description of the site, and a contract.
10. Provide an evaluation of the student's performance at the end of the practicum.
11. Assist the student in maintaining a log of practicum hours at the practicum site.
12. Communicate any problems regarding a specific student or departmental procedure with the Clinical Services Coordinator.
13. In 2012, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority has requested that student clinicians in the school settings be supervised by "direct line of sight" 100% of the time. The school

clinician should not bill SoonerCare unless they comply with this request.

Evaluation of the Student Clinician

1. The off-campus site supervisor(s) will be asked to evaluate the student clinician using the form “*Evaluation of Off-Campus Practicum*”. This will serve as the primary basis for determining the practicum grade. However, factors such as completion of necessary paperwork and problems which might have arisen during the off-campus placement will also be considered by the CDIS Department when assigning a grade. At the end of the off-campus placements, the off campus supervisor(s)’s recommendation will also play a role in determining if the student is ready SLPA training/certification application.
2. Unsatisfactory performance will consist of a grade of “C” and those clock hours will not be counted toward the 100 hours required by the state.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding supervision of students

What are the supervision requirements?

As is stated in the implementation language for Standard V-E, supervision must be in real time and must never be less than 25% of the student's total contact with each client/patient. Supervision must take place periodically throughout the practicum experience.

Who can supervise the clinical practicum?

Only individuals holding current ASHA certification in speech-language pathology may supervise the observation and clinical practicum hours required for ASHA certification. (See Standard V-C.)

What must be included in supervision?

Supervision must include direct observation, guidance, and feedback to permit the student to monitor, evaluate, improve performance, and develop clinical competence.

What activities are allowed by the Board of Examiners for the State of Oklahoma (OBESPA) for Speech/Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA)?

690:10-7-10 Roles and Responsibilities of SLPA

Allowed activities as delegated by the supervising speech-language pathologist

1. Assist the SLP with speech-language and hearing screenings,
2. Assist with informal documentation as directed by the SLP
3. Follow documented treatment plans or protocols development by the supervising SLP
4. Document client performance
5. Assist the SLP with assessment of clients
6. Assist with clerical duties
7. Perform checks and maintenance of equipment
8. Support the SLP in research projects, in-service training, and public relations programs
9. Collect data for monitoring quality improvement
10. Comply with regulations, reimbursement requirements and SLPA’s job responsibilities

Non-allowed activities of the SLPA

1. May not perform diagnostics tests, formal or informal evaluations or interpret test results
2. May not evaluate or diagnose clients for feeding/swallowing disorders
3. May not participate in parent conferences, case conferences or any interdisciplinary team without the presence or prior approval of the supervising SLP

4. May not write, develop or modify a client's individual treatment plan in any way without the prior approval of the licensed SLP
5. May not assist clients without following the individualized treatment plan approved by the SLP or without access to supervision
6. May not sign any formal documents not drafted and/or approved by the SLP prior to dissemination of the document.

**OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT (SLPA)
PRACTICUM APPLICATION**

TYPE OR PRINT VERY NEATLY!

Semester/Year Requested: _____

Name:

Last

First

Middle

OSU Address:

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

In Case of Emergency during practicum, notify: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

STATEMENT OF INTEREST: (Use back of application if needed)

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

The information in the application is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. I hereby request permission to participate in clinical practicum.

Date: _____ Applicant's Signature: _____

RETURN TO:

Megan Whitehead, Clinic Coordinator

042 Murray, Stillwater, OK 74078 or 700 N. Greenwood Tulsa, OK 74106

OR scan and email to: megan.whitehead@okstate.edu