Policies and Procedures for Clinical Internship  
Department of Communication Disorders  
University of Nebraska-Kearney

The purpose of the clinical internship is to provide graduate students in speech language pathology an opportunity to obtain experience with a variety of communicatively impaired individuals in a non-educational setting. These settings are typically acute care hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, private practice facilities, and nursing homes.

It is expected that students will have opportunities to observe other professionals working with clients as well as to conduct speech language assessments and treatments. Direct contact with clients must be under the supervision of an American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) certified clinician according to ASHA guidelines.

While it is not our intention to prescribe specific activities or types of clients for students to experience, we suggest that students have a well-balanced program of observation, assessment, treatment, and report writing with a diverse (i.e., linguistic, ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, gender, age) client population. It is the responsibility of the on-site clinician to arrange for, supervise, and evaluate these experiences.

**ASHA requires that Speech Language Pathology interns be supervised at minimum, 25% of the time.** The clinical supervisor should adjust their supervision time according to the individual needs of the interns. This may require 50% to 75% supervision in the beginning and then tapering off to 25%.

ASHA has the following minimal standards for the number of clock hours and categories under which said clock hours are acquired. ASHA strongly recommends a minimum of 20 clock hours in each of the following eight categories:

- Evaluation of speech disorders in children (this includes swallowing)
- Evaluation of speech disorders in adults (this includes swallowing)
- Evaluation of language disorders in children
- Evaluation of language disorders in adults
- Treatment of speech disorders in children (this includes swallowing)
- Treatment of speech disorders in adults (this includes swallowing)
- Treatment of language disorders in children
- Treatment of language disorders in adults

**For Nebraska State licensure and to be eligible for ASHA certification students must acquire a minimum of 375 clock hours of supervised practicum** (including on-campus and both school and medical placements)

It is the responsibility of the University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) supervisor to review the internship plan and provide assistance as needed. Accordingly, the UNK supervisor will contact both the on-site supervisor and the student intern periodically to verify that
the experience is going well. The UNK supervisor will arrange with the on-site supervisor to make at least 2-3 contacts during the student’s internship via email, telephone or teleconference (according to preference of the on-site supervisor) to confirm that the student’s internship experience is progressing. At this time, if an intervention plan is needed the UNK supervisor and the on-site supervisor will decide on further arrangements for formal site visits, weekly meetings, or other remediation plans. However, if the clinical internship supervisor has any concerns about the student intern, she/he should contact the UNK supervisor immediately so that a meeting can be arranged to discuss any concerns.

**Evaluation**

- Clinical Internship at a clinical site is taken for a letter grade.

- Evaluation of the student clinician is a continuous procedure occurring throughout the semester.

- The on-site supervisor must observe the student clinician 25% of the time or more based on the individual needs of the students and in accordance with ASHA guidelines. This is true for each individual or group session in the student clinician’s caseload.

- It is the student intern’s responsibility to have all paperwork verifying hours completed and signed by the clinical internship supervisor.

- The student clinician’s final grade will be determined by the university supervisor, based on the information provided on the forms, (i.e., communication from the on-site supervisor to the University Supervisor, the Midterm and Final evaluation and any other input from the on-site supervisor.

- We request that the on-site supervisor provide regular oral and written feedback to the student intern regarding his/her performance. In addition to the informal comments or notes, UNK requires a formal written mid-term and final evaluation report for our records. Copies of the evaluation forms are included in your packet.

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