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

A clinical practicum in speech language pathology, (student teaching) in the public schools is required for those individuals who wish to obtain a Nebraska Teaching Certificate upon graduation. It is available to students in the College of Education provided the student fulfilled the necessary prerequisites.

The student clinician is given the opportunity to work under the tutelage of an experienced Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) who holds the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Speech Language Pathology. The experienced SLP is referred to as the cooperating SLP when serving as a supervisor for a student teacher in speech language pathology. Additionally a university supervisor is assigned as liaison to the cooperating SLP and the student clinician. The university supervisor is also certified through the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) with the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Speech Language Pathology.

The student clinician must complete a minimum of 10 full weeks of clinical practicum. 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 cooperating SLP to arrange for, supervise, and evaluate these experiences.

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)

The UNK supervisor will arrange with the cooperating SLP and the student to make two-three on-site supervisory visits during the course of the student’s internship. During these
visits the UNK supervisor will observe the student conducting evaluation or treatment activities and provide feedback.

The UNK supervisor will establish contact with the cooperating SLP via email, telephone, teleconference, or face-to-face meeting (according to preference of cooperating SLP) to confirm that the student’s internship experience is progressing. At this time, if an intervention plan is needed the UNK supervisor and cooperating SLP will decide on further arrangements for formal site visits, weekly meetings, or other remediation plans. However, if the cooperating SLP 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 practicum in the public schools is taken for a letter grade.

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

- The cooperating SLP 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 school internship supervisor.

- The student teacher’s final grade will be determined by the university supervisor, based on the information provided on the forms, (i.e., University Supervisor Observation/Visit Reports, Midterm and Final evaluation and other input from the cooperating SLP.

- We request that the cooperating SLP 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.

Included in this packet is a list of recommended experiences for student teaching in speech language pathology. The cooperating SLP, to fit the particular individual needs of the student and availability of clients may modify these items as needed.

(ren. 10-22-14)