

Note: In order to meet the American Speech-Language Hearing Association's standards for earning a Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC), all students in the part-time online graduate program in Communication Sciences & Disorders at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire will be required to complete a minimum of 375 clock hours in a variety of supervised clinical experiences which involve direct client/patient contact. Students must take the lead on arranging and following through with these clinical experiences, as described in this document.

Clinical Requirements

1. **Observation Requirement**—25 clock hours of observation in CSD are required in order to begin any clinical practicum experience. If you do not meet this requirement prior to the start of the grad program, CSD 370 (Clinical Procedures) is offered by UWEC each summer and this can be taken to allow a graduate student to meet the observation requirement during the first summer of the graduate program sequence.
2. **Prerequisite Coursework Requirement**—Graduate students must have already had or be currently enrolled in the disorders coursework related to all clinical practicum experiences. This means that if a graduate student is enrolled in a medical-based clinical practicum assignment, but has not yet taken the dysphagia course; all work with patients with dysphagia at that site must be conducted by the credentialed SLP, not the graduate student. The graduate student may still participate in that setting and observe and assist the SLP (as deemed appropriate). However, the graduate student may not accrue clock hours or lead direct service delivery in those situations.
3. **Criminal Background Check Requirements**—A complete, national-level criminal background check (CBC), as well as all applicable state-level checks, are to be conducted at least annually during the graduate program. These CBCs are run during the start of the summer session of each of the three years. The cost of the CBCs is covered the student. In addition, if any practicum site requires a more recent or different type of CBC, this must be conducted at the student's expense. Any issues discovered by a CBC will be discussed with the graduate student. Dismissal from the program is at the discretion of the Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences, in accordance to system legal policies.
4. **Immunization Records**—A complete copy of the following immunizations is required prior to the start of the first clinical practicum experience: DPT, MMR, HepB, and varicella. These records must be scanned and uploaded to CALIPSO. In addition, if any practicum site requires additional vaccinations, the graduate student must adhere to the site requirements or locate an alternative site.
5. **TB Testing**—A negative reading on standard skin test for tuberculosis is required at the start of the first clinical experience. This documentation must be scanned and uploaded to CALIPSO. In addition, if any practicum site requires a more stringent assessment for TB, the graduate student must comply with the requirement or locate an alternative site.
6. **Clinical Seminar Requirement**— Each semester a student participates in a 1-2 credit clinical experience (CSD 769 or CSD 770), s/he will also be required to complete an online seminar that corresponds with the clinical experience. This seminar will be managed through the UW-EC course management system *Desire 2 Learn* and includes discussion forums, online classroom,

and content sharing. While the time needed to participate in the seminar functions will vary depending on the semester and specific site, an estimated 1-2 hours per week is projected. An example of required activities includes submission of detailed lesson plans, complete evaluation findings reports, self-evaluations, video submissions of clinical interactions, and more.

7. **Distance Requirement**—All practicum sites for the students in the online graduate program must be located at a distance greater than a 60-mile radius from UW-Eau Claire.
8. **CALIPSO Requirement**— CALIPSO is a web-based application that tracks all coursework, clinical hours, and clinical knowledge and skills competencies required by ASHA. Students admitted to the online graduate program will be required to register with CALIPSO upon entry into the program. This includes payment of the \$85 registration fee. This allows the student lifetime access to their clock hours, evaluations, and other items held within their CALIPSO account. On-site clinical supervisors and graduate students must keep the CALIPSO account updated and accurate throughout all assigned clinical experiences for the duration of the graduate program. This includes the logging of clock hours on a daily basis, as well as the completion of evaluations and other required elements.

Clinical Sequence/Timeline

Note: “Clock Hour” refers to DIRECT client-contact time that is planned and carried out by the graduate student. This does not mean indirect service delivery activities (e.g., conferencing, lesson planning, test scoring, etc.). It does not mean observation time. As a general rule of thumb, you will spend approximately 3 times more hours onsite than you will get clock hours for in most sites. For example, if you are assigned to a clinical site to earn 40-50 clock hours across 8 to 10 weeks, you will need to spend approximately two full days per week at that site (so being there for approximately 120 hours to earn about 40-50 clock hours). This will vary from site to site, but do not be confused by the difference between “earned clock hours” and hours onsite.

The following sequence must be followed in order to move efficiently and successfully through the graduate program.

Summer 1st Year--

- Stage I Criminal Background Check
- Submit documentation of all clinical prerequisites
- Register with CALIPSO

Fall 1st Year--

- Visit potential practicum sites for 1st clinical rotation (summer) and submit detailed and specific contact information by end of October (*See notation for contacting SLPs and potential practicum sites)

Winter and Spring of 1st Year--

- Continue site visits for potential practicum sites

Spring 1st Year--

- Continue site visits for potential practicum sites

Summer 2nd Year--

- Participate in first clinical rotation (CSD 769) with corresponding seminar component
- Visit potential practicum sites for 2nd clinical rotation (spring) and submit by end of summer
- Submit Stage 2 Criminal Background Check
- Submit Year 2 immunization and TB testing requirements

Fall 2nd Year--

- Visit potential practicum sites for 3rd clinical rotation (summer) and submit by end of October

Winterim 2nd Year--

- Visit potential practicum sites for 4th clinical rotation (fall) and submit by end of January

Spring 2nd Year--

- Participate in second clinical rotation (CSD 770) with corresponding seminar component
- Visit potential sites for both medical and school externships (final semester)
- Submit requests for Year 3 spring externships (CSD 780 and 781) by end of May

Summer 3rd Year--

- Participate in 3rd clinical rotation (CSD 769) with corresponding seminar component
- Submit Stage 3 Criminal Background Check
- Submit Year 3 immunization and TB testing requirements and any other requirements set forth by the upcoming externship placement (e.g., first aid training, HR training, etc.)

Fall 3rd Year--

- Participate in final pre-externship clinical rotation (CSD 770) with corresponding seminar component
- Submit Stage 3 Criminal Background Check
- Submit current TB test results and updated immunization records (as specified by practicum sites)

Spring 3rd Year—

- Participate in one nine-week, full-time medical externship placement (CSD 781)
- Participate in one nine-week, full-time student teaching placement (CSD 780)
- Attend final clinical capstone experience in residence at UW-EC prior to commencement (third week of May)

Miscellaneous Clinical Information

Clock Hour Requirements

General clock hour (ch) requirements:

- Total Supervised Clinical Observation and Clinical Practicum: **400** ch
- Clinical Observation: (**25** ch)
- Clinical Practicum: (**375** ch total)
- **325** ch at graduate level in the area in which the certificate is sought (SLP)
- A **minimum of three sites with 50+ ch earned per site** (at least one medical site and at least one educational site; at least one site serving adult clients/patients and at least one site serving children)

Specific clock hour requirements:

Although the ASHA Certification Standards do not prescribe specific numbers of hours with differential diagnoses or in treatment vs. diagnostics, the standards do stress breadth of clinical experiences during practica.

"Supervised practicum must include experience with client/patient populations across the life span and from culturally/linguistically diverse backgrounds. Practicum must include experience with client/patient populations with various types and severities of communication and/or related disorders, differences, and disabilities."

As such, clinic hours will be recorded in the following categories and **MUST** show a breadth of client diagnoses and experiences with them:

Child/Evaluation—

articulation fluency voice dysphagia language cognition hearing AAC

Child/Therapy—

articulation fluency voice dysphagia language cognition hearing AAC

Adult/Evaluation—

articulation fluency voice dysphagia language cognition hearing AAC

Adult/Therapy—

articulation fluency voice dysphagia language cognition hearing AAC

The graduate program in CSD follows a general guideline that every graduate student should earn a **MINIMUM** of 10 clock hours in every category (e.g., adult articulation, child language, etc.). For this reason, students in the distance education graduate program must seek, secure, and practice in a wide range of sites and clinical experiences. While some of these clock hours may be earned during residency weeks (e.g., participating in an intense practicum experience at UW-EC to conduct 10 hours of hearing screenings), many or most will need to be earned in the student's home region through opportunities in schools, clinics, hospitals, etc. that are sought out by the student.

Note: The program (i.e., Online Graduate Coordinator and Director of Clinical Education) must approve all practicum site requests to assure that every graduate student is participating in a sufficient breadth and depth of clinical experiences.

DPI Practicum Standards for School Certification:

Any graduate student ~~hoping~~ planning to seek Wisconsin DPI licensure must earn a minimum of **100** ch in a school setting. Students planning to seek licensure to work in a K-12 school system outside of Wisconsin should check the requirements of the educational licensing agency in that state.

Seeking and Contacting Practicum Sites

Online graduate students will be required to take the lead on finding specific practicum sites for CSD 769, 770, 780, and 781 in their geographical region. Students are required to find both medical and educational placements for their enrollments in CSD 769, 770, 780, and 781. Approximately 40 clock hours per credit of clinic is expected for CSD 769 and 770 (so 40 hours for CSD 769 and 80 hours for CSD 770). This will typically mean two half-days per week for each credit of clinic, across each 16 week semester. Approximately 100 clock hours should be earned for each of CSD 780 and 781 (final semester full-time externships). This will require the graduate student to be engaged at those placements for approximately 40 hours per week across nine weeks.

To start this process, identify geographic regions and specific sites of interests. Find these options through word-of-mouth, wisdom of practice, and online. Make an initial contact to the site to inquire about any potential for pairing with a credentialed SLP to participate in a structured practicum experience. Some sites will prefer to arrange placements with the Director of Clinical Education for the graduate program. Submit this contact information to the Director in these circumstances. When possible, arrange for a visit to shadow for part of a day and to have a conversation with a prospective site's SLP. (In order to take a student at a practicum site, the SLP must have at least three years of field experience and hold the ASHA CCCs.) After a visit, if interest exists for both the student and site (i.e., SLP), submit the site request to the Director. A high level of professionalism is expected from the graduate student when contacting potential sites. Failure to adhere to this expectation can compromise a student's ability to secure placements and complete the program.

Connecting with UW-Eau Claire Liaison

Every time a graduate student is enrolled in a clinical practicum experience (i.e., CSD 769, 770, 780, or 781) a UWEC Liaison supervisor is assigned. For enrollments in CSD 769 and 770, that person will likely be the instructor for the seminar component of the clinical experience. For CSD 780 and 781 the liaison supervision will be conducted by a UWEC faculty member who is a logical match for the specific type of site/setting. Each UWEC liaison supervisor sets his/her own specific guidelines for the experience. At a minimum, weekly contact through a periodic summary form from the graduate student to the liaison supervisor is required. A format for this feedback is provided through CALIPSO. Conference calls, online discussions, or other forms of contact may be deemed important and must be adhered to when required. The UWEC liaison supervisor will work closely with the onsite SLP supervisor for each practicum experience to come to a consensus for the final grade.