University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Online Graduate Program

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 Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences 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 SLHS are required to begin any clinical practicum experience. If you do not meet this requirement prior to the start of the grad program, SLHS 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). Graduate students are only permitted to earn clock hours in moments where they are directly engaged in service delivery.

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. The initial CBCs is run during the first fall of the graduate program. Renewal checks are run each fall thereafter. The cost of the CBCs is covered by 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 with system legal policies.

4. **Immunizations**—A complete copy of the following immunizations is required prior to the start of the first clinical practicum experience: tetanus, MMR, COVID, HepB, COVID-19, annual flu vaccine, and varicella. 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**—Two-step tuberculosis testing is required at the start of the first clinical experience. 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 clinical experience, s/he will also be required to complete an online seminar that corresponds with the clinical experience. This seminar will be managed through *Canvas* 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.

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 $125 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.

Summer 1st Year--

- Register with CALIPSO

Fall 1st Year--

- Submit documentation of all clinical prerequisites (vaccines, TB testing, etc.)
- Contact and/or visit potential practicum sites for 1st clinical rotation (to be conducted in the summer of 2nd year) 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 contacts/visits for potential practicum sites

Summer 2nd Year--

- Participate in first clinical rotation with corresponding seminar component (at least 1 credit of clinic is REQUIRED during this 2nd summer)
- Continue to contact potential practicum sites for clinical rotations

Fall 2nd Year--

- Participate in clinical rotation (if applicable) with corresponding seminar component
- Submit Year 2 compliance documentation (e.g., background check, flu shot, and TB testing)
- Contact potential practicum sites for additional clinical rotations

Winterim 2nd Year--

- Contact potential practicum sites for additional clinical placements

Spring 2nd Year--

- Participate in additional clinical rotation (if applicable) with corresponding seminar component
- Contact potential sites for both medical and school externships (final year placements)

Summer 3rd Year--

- Participate in additional clinical rotation (if applicable) with corresponding seminar component

Fall 3rd Year--

- Submit Year 3 compliance documentation (e.g., background check, flu shot, and TB testing)
- Participate in additional clinical rotation (if applicable) with corresponding seminar component

Spring 3rd Year—

- Participate in one nine-week, full-time medical externship placement
- Participate in one nine-week, full-time student teaching placement
- *Note: The above plan is most typical, but an alternative plan of externship part-time final fall and one part-time final spring is also permitted.*

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)
- 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). For those seeking WI DPI licensure, a minimum of 100 of these clock hours must be from the public-school setting.

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 SLHS 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 a handful of these clock hours may be earned during residency weeks (e.g., participating simulations and competencies), almost all of them 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 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 in their geographical region. Students are required to find both medical and educational placements for their enrollments in clinic. Approximately 40-50 clock hours per credit of clinic is expected. This will typically mean two days per week for each credit of clinic, across each 16-week semester. Approximately 100 clock hours should be earned for each full-time final externship (final semester). 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 interest. 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 two 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 **(submitting this to the Director means that the supervisor/site has fully completed the Supervisor/Site Intake Form**). 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.

Paid Placements

You should not be going out of your way to seek wage-earning practicum experiences. Very few actually exist, and the program discourages these. If you encounter an opportunity for a placement that is wage-earning, notify the Director of Clinical Education and make a request for this to be an option. Keep in mind, these are approved on an individual basis. Also, all clinical placements must have an assigned supervisor who is an SLP in that setting who holds the ASHA CCCs and this supervisor must directly observe 25% or more of your clinical work. That supervisor must provide a model of service delivery and be available to you for assistance during the entirety of your clinical placement.

Connecting with UW-Eau Claire Liaison

Every time a graduate student is enrolled in a clinical practicum experience a UWEC Liaison supervisor is assigned. That person will likely be the instructor for the seminar component of the clinical experience. 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 Canvas. Conference calls, online discussions, or other forms of contact may be deemed important and must be adhered to when required. The UWEC graduate program coordinator will work with the onsite SLP supervisor for each practicum experience to come to a consensus for the final grade.