



Speech-Language Pathology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Clinical Education Handbook 2024-2025

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Welcome to Clinical Education in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology

This handbook is a comprehensive guide for students, site coordinators (SCs) and clinical educators (CEs). In it, you will find essential information about the clinical education process at the University of Toronto Department of Speech-Language Pathology (UofT SLP). We hope this guide will help make your experience as a student or an educator as smooth and rewarding as possible. If, after reading this guide, you do not find answers to your questions, we encourage you to reach out to the Academic Coordinators of Clinical Education (ACCEs).

Here are a few of the many ways that clinical education at UofT SLP is unique.

1. **Clinical education is strongly linked to the academic portions of the curriculum:** Competencies are systematically developed across the curriculum, with particular emphasis on research evidence as the foundation for professional practice. At U of T, clinical placements follow related academic work allowing students to immediately apply academic learning in the clinical practice setting and to develop the related competencies.
2. **Graduated clinical expectations across placement units:** Performance expectations build from one placement to the next, increasing the breadth and depth of clinical work expected and expanding the role the student clinician takes. A steady progression of internship expectations ensures consistent development of clinical and professional competencies for all students.
3. **Learning Conferences and Teaching Clinics support the development of reflective practice skills: Through these activities** students develop critical reflection, self-assessment and clinical reasoning competencies in a supportive learning environment.
4. **All placements occur in actual clinical settings, rather than in “in-house” clinics:** This prepares our graduates well to manage the many issues that impact professional life. Four separate clinical courses allow students to experience a range of clinical settings.

All clinical courses are designed to integrate the eight curriculum learning objectives of the M.H.Sc. program and the [National Speech-Language Pathology Competency Profile \(2018\)](#).

List of Abbreviations, Acronyms and Programs

Organizations

ASHA	American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
CACUP-ASLP	Council for Accreditation of Canadian University Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
CASLPO	College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario
ICDR	International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation
MCU	Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Government of Ontario
SAC	Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
WSIB	Workplace Safety Insurance Board
UofT	University of Toronto
UofT SLP	Department of Speech-Language Pathology, University of Toronto

Professional Designations

MHSc	Master of Health Science
SLP	Speech-Language Pathology/Speech-Language Pathologist

Roles

ACCE	UofT Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education
CE	Clinical Educator
CEAA	Clinical Education Administrative Assistant
CI	UofT Course Instructor, typically the ACCE coordinating the placements
SC	Site Coordinator

Miscellaneous

CPPP	Collaborative Placement Planning Process
InPlace	Cloud-Based On-Line Placement Management System
PHI	Personal Health Information (patients/clients)
PRC	Police Record Check
Synergy Gateway	Documentation Collection, Verification and Reporting Service
VSS	Vulnerable Sector Screen

Important Contacts

Mailing Address

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Academic Coordinators of Clinical Education / Course Instructors:

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SLP 1532H - Clinical Laboratory in Hearing Disorders

TBD

SLP 2500Y - Advanced Internship - On Study Leave until January 2025.

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Overview of Course Descriptions

Practicum Objectives

The general objectives of the practicum courses enable development of:

- a) humane, objective and supportive attitudes toward individuals with communication disorders, differences and/or disabilities and their families;
- b) assessment and interpretation skills;
- c) rational and flexible treatment and management programs;
- d) a sense of responsibility to society in making available professional expertise for the prevention, identification and remediation of communication disorders;
- e) critical and evaluative attitudes that will permit ongoing change and improvement of all aspects of clinical practice and research and
- f) clinical skills appropriate to entry-level professional practice in speech-language pathology, as specified in the National Speech-Language Pathology Competency Profile and the [CACUP-ASLP Interim Curriculum Standards Guide](#).

At the end of the degree program, students will be eligible for membership with SAC and registration with CASLPO.

IMPORTANT: Students who are considering future work in other jurisdictions are responsible for advanced planning to determine any additional registration requirements needed (e.g., additional hours tracking).

Placement Calendar

As part of the M.H.Sc. in Speech-Language Pathology degree, each student must successfully complete *five* clinical courses across four placement units. The following represents the curriculum for the current academic year.

Curriculum Map

Cohort	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG
Year 1	Unit 1 and Unit 2 Academic Course Work					Unit 3 SLP 1500 (8 weeks) OR SLP 1507 (4 weeks) OR as assigned AND SLP 1532		Unit 4 Academic Course Work		Unit 5 SLP 1500 (8 weeks) OR SLP 1507 (4 weeks) OR as assigned AND SLP 1532		
Year 2	Unit 6 Academic Course Work				Unit 7 SLP 1508 (8 weeks) AND SLP 1532		Unit 8 Academic Course Work		Unit 9 SLP 2500 (10 weeks) AND SLP 1532			

Academic Preparation and Clinical Courses

Year 1

Academic Preparation

Unit 1 (Year 1: September – December)

SLP 1502Y – Anatomy, SLP 1505Y – Child Language I, SLP 1514Y – Applied Audiology, SLP 1520H – Principles of Clinical Practice, SLP 1522Y – Speech Physiology and Acoustics, SLP 1509Y - Integrating Client, Practitioner and Research Knowledge in Practice

Unit 2 (Year 1: January – February)

SLP 1503Y – Articulation and Related Disorders, SLP 1506H – Child Language II, SLP 1529H – Fluency Disorders, SLP 1509Y - Integrating Client, Practitioner and Research Knowledge in Practice

Unit 4 (Year 1: May – June)

SLP 1516H – Aural Rehabilitation, SLP 1521H – Augmentative and Alternative Communication, SLP 1530H – Voice Disorders, SLP 1509Y - Integrating Client, Practitioner and Research Knowledge in Practice

Year 1

Clinical Courses

By the end of each practicum, through experience gained in the activities related to the required Minimum Expectations and general placement activities, a student will be required to meet specific objectives detailed in the course outline.

1. SLP 1500 – Internship

Unit 3 (March - April) AND/OR Unit 5 (July - August) or as assigned

- Eight-weeks
- 40 days equivalent, including statutory holidays
- At a clinical teaching site with a CE(s), as assigned by the CI.

The purpose of this course is to *introduce* a student to the clinical practice of speech-language pathology in the area of developmental communication disorders.

[Appendix 1.1 Full Course Outline](#)

[Appendix 2.1 Recommended Course Schedule](#)

TIP: Please make note of the early stage of clinical learning connoted in these course objectives and observe how these grow in breadth and expectation in each of the subsequent placements.

2. SLP 1507H - Clinical Laboratory in Speech-Language Pathology

Unit 3 (March - April) AND/OR Unit 5 (July - August) or as assigned

- Four-week equivalent
- A clinical skills laboratory course
- Synchronous and asynchronous live and virtual clinical activities.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to *expand* clinical experiences leading to the further development of clinical and professional skills in *any* of the practice areas studied to date [i.e., developmental language disorders, articulation/phonological disorders, fluency disorders, voice disorders, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and hearing disorders]. By the end of this course, a student will be functioning as a **novice** learner at the *supervised clinical practice level*

[Appendix A1.2 Full Course Outline](#)

[Appendix A2.2 Recommended Course Schedule](#)

Year 2

Academic Preparation

Unit 6 (September –December)

SLP 1525H – Structurally Related Disorders, SLP 1533Y – Aphasia, SLP 1534H – Motor Speech Disorders, SLP 1536H – Swallowing Disorders, SLP 1538H – Neurocognitive Communication Disorders, SLP 1509Y - Integrating Client, Practitioner and Research Knowledge in Practice

Unit 8 (March - April)

SLP 1527H – Clinical Analysis of Communication & Swallowing Disorders, SLP 1535Y – Advanced Principles of Clinical Practice, SLP 1509Y - Integrating Client, Practitioner and Research Knowledge in Practice

SLP 1509Y Capstone Presentation Week (Beginning of May)

Clinical Courses

By the end of each practicum, through experienced gained in the activities related to the required Minimum Expectations and general placement activities, a student will be required to meet specific objectives detailed in the course outline.

1. SLP 1508Y – Advanced Clinical Laboratory in Speech-Language Pathology

Unit 7 (January and February)

- Eight weeks
- 40 days equivalent, including statutory holidays
- At a clinical teaching site with a CE(s), as assigned by the CI.
- Focuses on neurogenic and structurally related disorders
- Hours will be accrued in the areas of acquired language, motor speech, swallowing, voice and/or articulation.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to *continue to expand* clinical experiences leading to the further development of professional skills in speech-language pathology with individuals with neurogenic and/or structurally related disorders and their families. By the end of this course, a student will be functioning as an **intermediate** learner at the *supervised clinical practice level* in an efficient and effective manner:

[Appendix A1.3 Full Course Outline](#)

[Appendix A2.3 Recommended Course Schedule](#)

2. SLP 2500Y – Advanced Internship

Unit 9 (Mid-May – Mid-July)

- Ten weeks
- 50 days equivalent, including statutory holidays
- At a clinical teaching site with a CE(s), as assigned by the CI.
- The final unit in the curriculum

Note: Students will have completed their academic preparation for entry-to-practice following successful completion of this placement. Hours accrued in this placement may be in any area to ensure that CASLPO and SAC academic and clinical learning requirements are met.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to develop **entry-level** clinical competence.

[Appendix A1.4 Full Course Outline](#)

[Appendix A2.4 Recommended Course Schedule](#)

Year 1 and Year 2 Clinical Course in Hearing Disorders

1. SLP 1532H – Clinical Laboratory in Hearing Disorders

Units 3, 5, 7 and 9

Typically, practical experience will be acquired through hearing disorder related experience in Units 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Course Objectives: In this course, the student will apply knowledge regarding the ramifications of hearing loss (i.e., its nature, degree, age of onset, and progression), as related to a number of factors:

- its effect on the individual and significant others, personally, socially, educationally (where applicable) and vocationally (where applicable);
- other existing physical, psychological and environmental conditions.
- comprehension, production and use of language in oral, signed and/or written modalities.

The student will be required to meet specific objectives detailed in the course outline.

[Appendix A1.5 Full Course Outline](#)

TIPS: To see how it all fits together, see the Curriculum Map Appendix A3.1. For a reminder of when placement documentation is due, see the Recommended Course Schedules (Appendices A2.1 - A2.4)

Minimum Expectations

What are Minimum Expectations?

Minimum expectations are:

- included in each clinical course
- to ensure equity of learning experiences across disparate clinical sites
- at a minimum, must be successfully completed at the supervised clinical practice level
- These expectations are outlined in the syllabus for each of the clinical courses. Wherever possible, students are expected to submit evidence from the placement setting to demonstrate that they have met these expectations for the courses. However, in some cases, due to privacy issues and/or site policies, suitable evidence may not be acquired. In these instances, and in the final placement an alternate process will apply. The student will initiate the alternate process when this is the case (instructions are found on Quercus). A peer review of the Minimum Expectations is organized by the ACCE post-placement.

Roles and Responsibilities

There are many individuals with varying roles involved in the clinical education enterprise:

Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education / Course Instructor

The ACCEs for UofT SLP serve as the **primary channel of communication** between clinical teaching sites and UofT SLP. The Course Instructor (CI) is typically the ACCE who coordinates the placement in a particular unit. In the role of placement course instructor, ACCEs liaise with SCs, CEs and students.

The ACCE undertakes the following activities and functions:

- a) initiates or responds to contact with potential clinical teaching sites;
- b) visits potential sites and CEs and provides information to the university on a site's potential as a teaching site;
- c) makes arrangements with sites for clinical placements;
- d) makes arrangements with student for clinical placements;
- e) serves as primary liaison person for CEs wishing to discuss any aspect of student clinical placement with the university;
- f) serves as primary liaison person for any student wishing to discuss matters concerning clinical placement with the university and
- g) plays a major role in ensuring that each student in the program receives wide ranging clinical experience in accordance with the student's ongoing professional development.

The CI undertakes the following activities and functions:

- a) orients students and CEs to course expectations;
- b) manages the on-going clinical placement;
- c) supports students and CEs to address any concerns regarding a placement experience and
- d) finalizes and submits the final grades for the clinical courses.

Clinical Education Administrative Assistant (CEAA)

The CEAA for the department acts as the main communication contact for administrative aspects of the clinical education process and maintains pertinent records.

Some of the activities and functions of the CEAA are:

- a) acts as the primary contact for students and clinical sites regarding administrative aspects of placement planning and implementation, including for InPlace;
- b) manages record of student clinical experiences;
- c) maintains website resources for clinical education;
- d) acts as the agency co-contact for PRC (Toronto Police Services Region - only) and
- e) acts as primary contact for issues relating to WSIB/Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU).

Site Coordinator

The SC is designated by a placement site and **acts as the administrative liaison** between the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and CEs.

The SC undertakes the following activities and functions:

- a) liaises with ACCEs, informs ACCEs/CIs of factors impacting clinical placements, disseminates information sent by the UofT SLP to speech-language pathologists relating to clinical education and professional education opportunities, supports the process of clinical education by facilitating the development of related knowledge and skills among speech-language pathologists and ensures a placement agreement is signed and current;
- b) arranges clinical placements offers by liaising with colleagues and facilitating related decisions and administration;
- c) gathers details of placement opportunities, such as date, location, disorder areas available, work setting, age of client population and special learning opportunities;
- d) submits placement offer description to the university using the on-line placement offer system;
- e) facilitates exchange of information between the placement site and the university relating to the student placements, including pre-placement administrative requirements;

- f) ensures students receive an orientation to the placement site and placement expectations
- g) completes the Collaborative Placement Planning Process, if applicable.

Clinical Educators

The CE is a certified speech-language pathologist (SLP), audiologist or other qualified professional (e.g., auditory verbal therapist), as deemed appropriate, who provides and oversees suitable learning experiences for a student during a clinical practicum course.

Potential CEs who intend to take a *primary* role in supervision must have worked in the field at least two years. Clinicians in their second year of practice who wish to participate as a CE with the support and mentorship of a more experienced peer are encouraged to do so, with the knowledge of the ACCE at the university. The potential CE should provide names of qualified SLPs who would be able to provide supervision in the event of illness or absence. Where applicable, they must be registered with their professional regulatory college. If there is not a regulatory body in their location, then potential CEs are strongly encouraged to be registered with their provincial or national professional association.

The CE undertakes the following activities and functions:

- a) explores each student's theoretical and experiential background for working with the allocated clients;
- b) familiarizes self with and follow the UofT SLP Clinical Education Handbook and Guide;
- c) familiarizes self with and follow expectations described in the course outlines;
- d) outlines for each student the major philosophies and procedures current at the clinical site so that students will gain knowledge of a variety of approaches to clinical administration, including awareness of referral systems, reporting responsibilities and the place of the SLP service in the overall structure of the institution;
- e) provides opportunities for student observation of SLP practice;
- f) provides access to templates or examples of clinical documentation commonly in use at the clinical site;
- g) requires the student to adhere to the norms of professional interaction used in that particular treatment centre;
- h) encourages students to evaluate critically both procedures and philosophy in treatment;
- i) outlines, where appropriate, possibilities for applied research;
- j) encourages or require the student to pursue specific background preparation when working with certain types of disorders through assignment of readings or advance preparation for test administration. that can be integrated realistically within the student's academic schedule;

- k) contacts the ACCE concerning any aspect of student placement and experience which requires clarification or discussion and
- l) immediately contacts the CI with any and all concerns regarding the student's performance.

CEs are strongly encouraged to review the CASLPO position statement entitled *Supervision of Students of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology* that can be accessed at:

[CASLPO's Supervision of Students of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology](#)

Clinical Placement Sites

Clinical experiences must be completed at a clinical site that has been formally approved by the Department of Speech-Language Pathology.

Guidelines for Designation as a Clinical Placement Site

- a) Maintain a current signed Placement Agreement between the Governing Council of the University of Toronto and the Placement Site.
- b) Identify facilities for student activities, including provisions for observation, workspace, audio, or visual equipment, etc.
- c) Periodically document and update all professionals who would be involved in the clinical education, their qualifications, and years of experience.
- d) Identify any specialty areas served, the primary model of service delivery, and other specialized experiences available within the clinic.
- e) Document approval, in principle, by the administration of the clinic to have the site involved in clinical education and the implied time and other commitments required by CEs.
- f) Document clinical tools, including those used for diagnostic purposes and for treatment, which are routinely used by the clinical site.
- g) Host periodic clinical site visits by an ACCE to share clinical education information or when staff and resources change, when possible. The purpose of these visits is primarily to gain first-hand knowledge of the facilities and of the clinical education capacity and for promotion of professional development in the area of clinical education.
- h) At any clinical sites that offer a clinical placement and where billing for service is used, it is expected that use of SLP student time must comply with regulatory college guidelines.

Our innovative curriculum was developed in close consultation with the clinical community. Implementation depends upon and on-going close partnership with our clinical sites.

Thank you for providing these valuable learning experiences for our future colleagues.

Student Role

Students In Clinical Placements Have Multiple Roles

Students are *learners* who benefit from experience in actual clinical placements to translate academic learning into clinical practice skills. Learning may be accomplished through, for example;

- observing,
- modeling observed clinical skills,
- sharing clinical tasks with a student peer or clinical colleague,
- conducting simulated clinical activities,
- planning and implementing assessments or interventions with clients,
- writing reports,
- participating in clinical team meetings,
- preparing and presenting education sessions
- participating on committees or workgroups (in the final placement),
- learning and demonstrating self-assessment skills and
- engaging in formative and summative assessment of clinical and professional performance.

Students are *managers/administrators* who are responsible for knowing the learning expectations of a clinical course and helping to ensure that the placement experience aligns with the expectations. They must:

- track clinical hours obtained while on clinical placement,
- manage related forms and signatures,
- ensure that the performance assessment material is submitted to the university by the due date and according to instructions,
- gather evidence to show that the course Minimum Expectations have been met and
- submit this evidence to the university according to instructions provided.

Students are *collaborators and scholars*. They:

- share responsibility with CEs for developing a positive learning environment and supportive communication,
- promote best practice in clinical settings by sharing and applying current knowledge learned in the academic setting and,
- assess the clinical environment and address issues that face our profession through research-to-practice assignments and reflective learning activities.

They are prepared!

- ✓ All students have prepared health/immunization records that can be requested by clinical sites, as required by site policy.

- ✓ All students have a complete a Police Record Check (PRC) if required by the site. These records are retained in the student's possession and can be viewed upon request, as per clinical site policy.
- ✓ All students have completed work readiness on-line learning modules.
- ✓ All students have University of Toronto name tags that can be used at clinical sites.
- ✓ All students have completed academic coursework related to their upcoming placements!

Clinical Placements

Placement Resources

InPlace – Clinical Placement Management System

InPlace is a web-based system that is used to manage the clinical placement process, including:

- submission of clinical placement offers
- student review of offers
- placement assignment process
- student access to CE/SC contact details and site requirements for assigned placements
- tracking and approval of clinical hours
- mid-term and final assessments
- calculation of annual site MCU funds
- SC and CE communications
- CPPP annual submissions where applicable and
- other record-keeping requirements for placements.

As with academic courses, Quercus is used for course management for clinical placements and related communication with students. Students are responsible for checking Quercus on a regular basis. On Quercus, students can access course materials, such as time sensitive course announcements, resource materials, links to on-line resources, information about Teaching Clinics and upload areas for Internship Practicum Contract and Minimum Expectation evidence.

Placement Process

The process for developing the needed number of quality clinical placements and assigning these to students is complex, involving numerous stakeholders: students, CEs, clinical sites, CIs, and university staff. Every effort is made to ensure that the process is respectful of the separate and varied needs of all parties.

A priority outcome of the placement process is to enable all students to meet CACUP-ASLP / CASLPO requirements upon graduation. The curriculum has been designed to ensure that

students obtain a broad range of clinical experiences. It may not be possible to arrange the needed number of quality clinical placements within the Toronto area placement region (Peel, Toronto, York, South Simcoe, Durham, Peterborough, Northumberland, Kawartha lakes inclusive) for each placement unit. Although efforts are made to place students in their preferred facilities and geographical areas, it is not always possible to do this. As a result, each student should be prepared for the possibility of a placement outside of this region. Likewise, students seeking placements outside of this area should be prepared that this may not be possible for all units.

Students may request targeted placements outside of the UofT region. The ACCEs will work to develop these placements, however, out-of-region placements are not guaranteed. By requesting these, **the student agrees to accept the placement as arranged.**

The U of T ACCE is responsible for coordinating and liaising with all placement sites. As part of this process, clinical sites are evaluated to determine suitability for clinical placements.

TIP: No student may undertake to make her/his/their own arrangements for a clinical placement with a facility or an individual clinician. Any such arrangements will not be honoured. Students are encouraged to discuss potential new placement sites with an ACCE.

Students are assigned their placement sites through a computer-assisted process, with consideration of student learning needs and precords. The process is reviewed and updated from time to time with stakeholder representatives. The University of Toronto Department of SLP reserves the right to place students in specific facilities/areas of practice in order to meet their learning needs and provide students with a balanced clinical education program.

Students are responsible for planning and financing travel/accommodations, or other costs related to assigned placements, and should expect to spend upwards of \$3000.00 in support of their clinical education experiences. Students may be able to apply for partial reimbursement of eligible expenses.

Before Placement Begins - Student Responsibilities

1) Preparation for Placement

Students are required to:

- a) closely read and frequently refer to this Clinical Education Guide and all appendices.
- b) complete several training modules to prepare them for experiences in the clinical environment. Some of these modules are government requirements under the Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and others are clinical site requirements. Prior to the first placement (Unit 3), Year 1 students complete a number of required e-learning modules. Students will find the links and proof of completion upload areas on the SLP 1500Y – Internship Quercus site Students may

be asked to repeat a module or complete a similar module in Year 2, if a site requires it.

Clinical Placement prep e-learning modules:

- ✓ Handwashing Training
- ✓ WHIMIS Training
- ✓ Workplace Violence and Safety Training
- ✓ Confidentiality and Privacy Module
- ✓ Basic Occupational Health & Safety Awareness Training
- ✓ OHRC E-learning Module - Working Together: The Code and the AODA

2) Contact with Clinical Site

Once students have received their placement assignments, they will review the description of the clinical placement provided by the site and follow any site-specific instructions. Students will contact the SC (or CE, if indicated in the placement description) to discuss any pre-placement preparation or administrative tasks, such as:

- ✓ Student's personal contact information
- ✓ PRC requirements
- ✓ Mask-fit testing requirements
- ✓ Proof of immunization requirements
- ✓ Travel requirements
- ✓ ID Badge requirements
- ✓ Computer access information
- ✓ Required reading
- ✓ Dress code / Footwear requirements
- ✓ Pre-placement orientation materials and/or site visit details
- ✓ Where and when to be on the first day

3) Resume and Cover Letter

As soon as possible, prior to the beginning of the placement, all students are expected to send a one-page resume and cover letter to the CE(s) at the site to which they have been assigned a clinical placement. Students are required to carefully review the information and related instructions contained in the placement offer prior to writing the cover letter.

Resume

- One-page
- Include relevant educational and volunteer experience

Cover Letter

- One-page

The purpose of the cover letter is for the student to introduce herself/himself/themself to the CE(s) and to provide the CE(s) with information to enable more effective planning of the placement, such as:

- ✓ Outlining specific interests related to the placement
- ✓ Summarizing personal strengths, areas for development, learning style
- ✓ Inquiring as to how to best prepare for the placement (i.e., suggested readings)

It is the responsibility of the student to e-mail the resume and cover letter to the CE(s). Contact names and e-mail addresses will be provided in the placement confirmation e-mail.

Note: Students are required to use their utoronto account for all placement-related correspondence with sites. Please note that e-mails to facilities from sources such as gmail and hotmail may be automatically filtered into junk mail folders.

Planning the Placement

These documents are provided to assist both CEs and students with placement planning and preparation.

Internship Practicum Contract:

This form is used to develop the agreement between the student and the CE about various aspects of the placement; it is submitted by the student on Quercus by the end of the first week and reviewed by the CI. Experience has shown that including as much detail here as possible will help ensure that expectations are explicit and avoid confusion or misunderstanding. Incorporate of goals arising from the student's prior placement whenever possible.

One Site: If the student is attending a single site for a placement unit, use this form:

[Appendix B1.1 One Site Contract](#)

Two Sites: If the student is attending two sites for a placement unit, use this form:

[Appendix B1.2 Two Site Contract](#)

(Information on expectations will be shared across both sites.)

Note: When a student is at two clinical placement sites, the minimum expectations are prorated or divided across them.

Background Questionnaire (OPTIONAL)

This can be used as a "get to know you" when the student and the CE meet for the first time.

[Appendix B1.3 Questionnaire](#)

Student Clinical and Professional Development Goals

This document is completed at the end of each placement and is used to guide a student to reflect on learning and future goals. The CE(s) review(s) it with the student and signs it. It is to be taken to the next placement where it should be used to guide development of the Practicum Contract and can be used for future professional development after Unit 9.

[Appendix B1.4 Student Clinical and Professional Development Goals](#)

Assessment:

A primary key responsibility for the CE is to provide opportunities for formative assessment, as well as to complete a formal summative assessment used for grading purposes by the university.

Formative Assessment

- Formative assessment refers to ongoing feedback about performance
- Should include a balance of both confirming and developmental feedback
- Some form of written feedback should be provided on a regular basis (more frequent for earlier placements than for later placements).
- It is best for the CE to retain a copy of written feedback provided to the students to refer to during the midterm and final assessment to support ratings and comments.
- Formative assessment is ongoing throughout the placement.

The following tools support this process.

Feedback Log (Optional)

This Word document can be used to give daily written feedback (double click on the check boxes to select and print or print and fill-in by hand). Both CEs and students retain a copy. Its use is optional.

[Appendix C1.1 Feedback Log](#)

Alternately, a shared document on Google Docs or One Drive or other on-line collaboration tools a great way for both students and CEs to keep track of feedback. This is especially helpful in a situation with multiple CEs so all parties can be aware of feedback provided. We recommend having the student document and keep track of feedback on a session-by-session or daily basis.

Learning Conference – [for SLP1507 and Year 2 Placements (Unit 7 and 9)]

This guided self-assessment supports a student to develop reflection skills important for life-long learning. A half-hour (max.) learning conference is arranged, as per the course outlines.

The student will prepare a self-assessment for discussion and record minutes of feedback received.

[Appendix C1.2 Learning Conference](#)

Summative Assessment:

The assessment process for both the midterm and final is composed of two parts:

- (a) quantitative ratings and
- (b) qualitative summary comments.

Midterm Performance Assessment (SLP1500 (Unit 3/5), SLP1508 (Unit 7), and SLP2500 (Unit 9)):

Mid-way through the placement, the student will be assessed by the CE addressing clinical skills and professional behaviour (please note that summary comments **MUST** accompany each section). This assessment, though formalized, is not factored into the final grade, rather it is meant to guide growth in the second half of the placement. The CE will review and discuss the results of these assessments with the student before they are sent to the CI.

NOTE: The CE must inform the CI in the event regarding any concerns about student performance and/or if there is a possibility that the student may not meet any of the assessment criteria by the end of the placement.

Final Summative Performance Assessment (All placements: SLP1500, SLP1508, SLP2500):

A summative assessment will be completed by the CE at the end of placement, including an assessment of clinical skills and of professional behaviour, as well as summary comments. The CE will review and discuss the results of these assessments with the student before they are submitted.

The CI will determine a final grade for each student, based on the numerical ratings of each behaviour and the supporting Summary Comments forms.

[C2.1 Explanation of the Assessment of Student Performance in a Placement](#)

Record-Keeping Requirements

An inherent part of clinical skills is appropriate record-keeping. A grade penalty will apply for each day paperwork is late (see course outline).

Students will submit placement paperwork to InPlace or the appropriate Quercus course assignment area within two business days of completion, according to the schedule as outlined in the table in the course outline.

The remaining Minimum Expectations are to be submitted **no later than one -week post-placement.**

Peer Review of Minimum Expectations is typically completed one week following submission of all placement paperwork. Students are to schedule this, as per the course information (this pertains to SLP1500 and 1508).

Process for Supporting Students and CEs in Clinical Placements:

Preamble

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology is committed to supporting students and CEs in clinical placements. It is our hope that the placement experience is positive and rewarding for all involved.

We recognize the fundamental role that CEs play in ensuring the success of clinical placements, as does CASLPO, whose position statement on supervision of students states:

“The member shall:

1. be familiar with students’ learning objectives and with their curriculum; including course content, program philosophy and expectations;
2. orient the student to the facility, department, and/or program (including equipment, protocols and documentation requirements) and to the specific condition, needs and/or goals of individual patient/clients;
3. ensure that duties assigned are commensurate with the student’s level of education, ability, experience, comfort level and learning style, as well as the complexity of the environment/practice setting;
4. provide feedback to the student regarding performance on a consistent, timely basis, based on the criteria established by the respective university program;
5. ensure that informed consent is obtained from the patient/client or substitute decision maker, prior to the student initiating direct care with the patient/client;
6. discontinue a student placement when the member, in the best interests of the public, deems such action to be appropriate.”

UofT SLP also has an essential role to play in promoting student success and has developed many steps and procedures to optimize the student and CE experience in clinical placements. CIs work with both students and CEs to support positive learning and teaching experiences.

Student Record Confidentiality

Student consent is required in order for university representatives to provide information to clinical sites about students’ accommodations or past academic, clinical, or professional performance. A student’s performance record is confidential. It is important to avoid any action that may unintentionally or inappropriately bias or prejudice the CE who will assess

the student's performance. However, information will be shared related to learning skills that may be relevant to the CE as an instructor, to ensure the learning environment is optimized for the student. In some circumstances, a student may provide permission to share relevant confidential information, and, in these cases, the CI will be in communication with the CE.

In order to optimize the students and CEs experience in clinical placements, the following procedures are in place:

Pre-Placement

- All required documentation must be completed and/or reviewed, as per specified timelines, such as:
 - o MCU Declaration of Understanding
 - o health and immunization forms
 - o police record checks

 - o health and safety e-learning modules.
- In order to provide an equitable learning environment while respecting the academic integrity of the University of Toronto, any student with a disability (temporary or permanent) who requires academic accommodation must register with [Accessibility Services](#) (St. George Campus). Information on how to register can be found on-line or by calling (416) 978-8060. Accommodations for clinical placement are made through Accessibility Services, *NOT* the instructor.
- Students requiring accommodations in a clinical placement must arrange these in advance of the placement. The CI is required to review the accommodations proposed and to advise on their feasibility in the clinical setting.
 - o Students are STRONGLY encouraged to make every effort to obtain this information prior to the placement match so that it may be considered in the site assignment process.
- Students are expected to complete **full-time** clinical placements, as per the curriculum expectations.
- Students must successfully complete all courses in the academic unit preceding the clinical placement unit before they can proceed to take a clinical placement course.
- Students must attend the requisite Pre-Placement Planning Lecture/Orientation Lectures.
- Clinical sites provide a description of placement opportunities in the placement offer, detailing typical learning experiences, the required knowledge base and other requirements or characteristics of the placement. Sites are encouraged to make these as detailed as possible so that students can use this information to rank precords for placements that best fit their needs, learning style and interests.

- Students identify and rank their preferred placement sites based on the written descriptions provided by the sites.
- Students are matched to a placement site, as per the Placement Assignment Policy and Process.
- The CI will contact the SC and CE in advance of the placement regarding any accommodations that are in place for students.
- Once the match is confirmed, students and CEs begin e-mail correspondence as soon as possible prior to the placement start date to make arrangements for the placement.
- CEs can contact the CI for an orientation to the course and materials, if desired. Additionally, many clinical sites provide orientation information/packages/workshops to students regarding expectations of the site.
- When appropriate, a student will be encouraged by the CI to share with a clinical site any specific strategies that may be beneficial to optimize learning.
- If at any time in the pre-placement process a student or CE identifies a real or potential challenge, she/he/they should immediately contact the CI to identify the appropriate course of action and/or support.

During the Placement

Practicum Contract:

In preparation for completing the Practicum Contract, CEs and students are encouraged to discuss the student's background preparation, learning style, personal factors, etc. The "Background Questionnaire" form may be used for this purpose (optional). An open discussion about these topics facilitates smooth placement planning and understanding of individual student issues.

At the conclusion of the first placement course, CEs and students are directed to discuss the Student Clinical and Professional Development Goals form in preparation for completing the Practicum Contract. At the end of each subsequent placement, this form is completed collaboratively with the CE and is intended to support future learning goal planning.

Teaching Clinics:

During clinical courses, students participate in university-led Teaching Clinics. As part of the day, students complete a guided self-assessment to determine their progression towards completing the Minimum Expectations of the course. These reports are submitted to and reviewed by the CI, who follows up with individual students, as needed. Students can also meet individually with the CI, as needed.

For more information about Teaching Clinics, see "Embedded Placement Activities" on Page 37.

Learning Conferences:

For Year 2 placements, two weeks prior to the mid-term assessment and two weeks prior to the final assessment, the student completes a self-assessment and meets with the CE to review and devise an action plan for the remaining weeks of the placement.

Assessment of Student Performance in Clinical Placements: Clinical and Professional Skills:

This formal assessment is completed at midterm as formative feedback to guide learning in the final weeks of the placement, it is not considered in the final grading. Following submission, these are reviewed by the CI who contacts students and CEs if needed for clarification. It is important for students to receive direct feedback that lets them know if they are or are not on track to meet expectations so they have an opportunity to make changes and access any additional resources that may be required. The midterm assessment includes the opportunity to indicate this. **CEs are strongly encouraged to contact the CI if they have even the slightest concern, as often a quick check-in can be beneficial for all.**

Support:

The CI is available to support students and/or CEs throughout the placement. These discussions can remain confidential on request.

If Challenges Arise

Step One: Early Identification

Students and CEs are strongly encouraged to bring any concerns regarding a practicum experience to the attention of the CI **as soon as they arise**. CEs are prompted on the midterm assessment to contact the CI if there is **any** indication that the student may not meet performance expectation levels by the end of the placement. Contact with the CI prior to the midterm is encouraged when there are any questions regarding a student who is challenged or struggling in the placement. The CI will help to problem-solve and to facilitate discussion and management of such concerns. Students and/or CEs may discuss their experience *in confidence* with the CI. Once a plan has been decided, the individual may implement the plan independently, or with the support of the CI, who will contact the second party only with consent of the first party.

Step Two: Developing a Written Plan

On occasion, a student may experience challenges in meeting the learning and performance expectations for a practicum course. In such cases, the CE must notify the CI as soon as concerns arise, even if a midterm assessment has not yet occurred.

If a student is not demonstrating adequate performance in either professional behaviour and/or clinical skills, based on the assessment of the CI, written notice must be given to the

student and a specific written plan for developing these skills must be negotiated cooperatively by the CI, CE and student.

This plan will include:

1. Clear identification of challenges in learning and teaching;
2. Specification of learning objectives to be achieved and behaviour changes expected;
3. Any necessary actions, procedure or modifications required to the clinical practicum and
4. A time schedule and procedures for evaluating the outcome of the plan.

The CI will document the plan and provide a copy to the student and the CE.

At this time, the Coordinator of Graduate Studies and the student's faculty advisor will also be notified.

Note: In extreme circumstances, a placement may be discontinued with the knowledge and approval of the Chair of the department.

Step Three: On-Going Support and Final Grading

The CI will also assist the student and the CE in implementing the plan and in evaluating its success on an on-going basis.

If a student achieves below B- (minus) in a Clinical Course

If the student does not meet the learning objectives outlined in such a plan, a grade of failure (FZ) will be assigned for the practicum course by the CI. This grade is the equivalent of a failure in an academic course and is subject to the regulations and appeal procedures described in the [SGS Calendar](#).

Note: If a student fails a placement, the student may choose to appeal the grade, in which case the CE may be called upon to personally offer evidence in support of the assessment. It is advisable to keep a dated written record of meetings with students at risk of not meeting performance expectation levels.

Evaluation of Clinical Faculty Teaching

At the end of the placement, students will provide feedback about her/his/their individual clinical education experiences. The general performance and quality of teaching is addressed in the topic areas and utilization of the rating scale, as indicated below. Areas of teaching not addressed in the placement are left blank. Typically, reports are provided annually to those

clinical educators for whom evaluations from three or more students have been accumulated, however, this may change with notice to the community.

Feedback is shared ONLY with the individual CEs for the purpose of enhancing their clinical teaching skills, unless consent is otherwise provided. In instances where ratings are consistently low or concerning, ACCEs may reach out to discuss with and gain clarification from the CEs. Further education on supporting clinical learning will be provided to the CE, as needed.

1. The first question asks the student to indicate the amount of contact she/he/they had with the clinical faculty member. It is recognized that time spent with the CE varies based on the structure of the placement and/or the stage of learner (Scale: 1- poor, 2 - Fair and 3 - Good).

For Items 2 -19 the following rating scale is used 1 = Poor, needs much attention, 2 = Fair, needs some attention, 3 = Good, satisfactory, 4 = Very good, consistently better than average, 5 = Excellent, exemplary teaching.

General Evaluation:

The students are asked to provide their view of the CE's performance using the above rating scale based on all their experiences with the CE:

2. Established clear expectations.
3. Was responsive to your learning style.
4. Incorporated your learning agenda and objectives.
5. Was readily accessible, given workplace limitations.
6. Demonstrated enthusiasm for teaching.
7. Demonstrated a caring attitude for clients and families.
8. Demonstrated sensitivity to the needs of students.
9. Took time for questions and discussion.
10. Stimulated problem-solving.
11. Answered questions clearly.
12. Explained CE rationale for decisions.
13. Suggested alternative sources to obtain information.
14. Maintained an atmosphere that encouraged differing points of view.
15. Provided constructive feedback.
16. Promoted self-assessment and self-responsibility for learning.
17. Shared CE relevant knowledge and experience.
18. Was an effective role model.
19. Overall, I would rate this experience as

Evaluation of Quality of Teaching:

The students are asked to provide their view of the CE's quality of teaching in the following content areas. If the content area was not dealt with, an N/A should appear on the CE's report.

20. Assessment
21. Oral and Written Reporting
22. Developing and Planning
23. Intervention
24. Counselling and Interviewing
25. Evaluation and Problem-Solving
26. Ethical Issues
27. Administration
28. Prevention and Screening Issues
29. Family and Community Issues
30. Research in Speech-Language Pathology and/or Audiology

Students may also make additional comments or suggestions under each category and/or provide general comments upon completion of the above.

Guidelines, Policies and Procedures

Recording Clinical Hours

Proof of completion of a minimum of 350 hours of clinical experience is required for registration with most provincial regulatory bodies and professional associations in Canada, as well as for international regulatory agencies, such as those in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The student is required to keep accurate records of clinical hours on InPlace, as per the required guidelines.

While not a requirement of the program, it is helpful to track additional experiential hours to support reflections on clinical performance in placements, especially if applying for certification in a jurisdiction outside of Ontario (e.g., Total Hours at Clinical Placement, Number of Hours in Observation and Number of Indirect Hours).

Note: Students must also be aware of the requirements of the regulatory body in the area where they plan to work and keep records throughout the SLP program accordingly. Students are strongly encouraged to separately collect and track required clinical and academic data of these types in a format suitable for the relevant agency.

Over the course of the two-year M.H.Sc program, students engage in clinical activities in a variety of disorder areas that are counted as clinical hours. This primarily occurs during

clinical courses, however, all students could potentially accrue over 50 hours (this varies from year to year) during academic coursework.

The Clinical Education Representatives track and compile a list of clinical hours obtained in academic courses (at the end of each academic unit), which the ACCE will approve. Students will use this list as evidence to confirm that the hours they have reported have been approved.

In each clinical placement, the student will complete the InPlace Logbook to show the summary of clinical hours obtained. This logbook will be verified by a CE (for more information see the next section) and approved by the course instructor.

General Guidelines Concerning Clinical Activities

In clinical placement courses, students will be involved in various clinical activities as appropriate to their level of experience and the clinical setting. Definitions of clinical activities used in the SLP program are based on the current guidelines for clinical hours.

For counting clinical hours in clinical courses see:

[Appendix D1.1 General Guidelines for Clinical Activities in Practicum Courses](#)

Tracking and Reporting Hours

Summary of Clinical Practice Hours - InPlace Logbook Form

Students will track their clinical hours using daily logs on InPlace. Students are strongly encouraged to submit hours daily, but at a minimum hours must be submitted for CE approval on a weekly basis.

IMPORTANT: It is critical that students submit hours logs with careful attention to detail. The logbooks support the student in accurately compiling total clinical hours accrued at the end of the professional program for submission to professional and regulatory agencies. Any changes to logbooks after they have been verified by the CE must be approved by an ACCE.

Reporting the Total Hours to Professional and Regulatory Agencies

At the end of the final placement, students will be guided to complete a summary report of all clinical hours accrued throughout their M.H.Sc program. This will include clinical hours completed during academic coursework, in addition to all clinical hours accrued during clinical courses.

Students will need to be vigilant about counting hours as per the requirements of the jurisdiction in which they plan to register. They should be prepared to submit clinical hours form in the format required by the program, as well as in the format required by any other jurisdiction, along with a brief report noting any variance in allotting clinical hours.

This final program form is verified by an ACCE. Students will also complete and submit a request for document release and the summary form will be forwarded, as requested, by the graduating student to the appropriate agency(ies) upon program completion. Students will also download and keep a copy of this final report in their personal records. Students may opt to fill in and save copies of the program form linked below as a back-up to the InPlace hours logs, however, this is optional.

[Appendix D1.2 For Reference Program Summary of Clinical Hours Form](#)

Embedded Placement Activities

Clinical learning experiences that are embedded into many of the clinical placements include Teaching Clinics and Interprofessional Education learning activities.

Teaching Clinics

Typically, students participate in two or three Teaching Clinics in SLP1500, SLP1508 and SLP2500 and once during SLP1507. These university-led in-person and/or virtual clinical activities are designed to support the development of clinical reasoning and self-assessment skills pertaining to their placement experience.

For half of the day, groups of students are assigned to a facilitator (SLPs from the clinical community). The students each present a clinical scenario for group discussion using a video recording of themselves in clinical practice or a reenactment of same and prepare learning questions focused on clinical skills needing development. They will consider and discuss confirming and developmental aspects of the experience with their peers and the facilitator. Structured guidelines for these groups are provided in the appendices, as below.

Teaching Clinic Agenda

Morning Small Group Reflective Teaching Clinic (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.): Individual student (clinical skills) presentations with discussion and feedback.

Afternoon Education Session: The afternoon educational content is tailored to each clinical course.

Alternative Assignments

Teaching Clinics are requisite. Students who are unable to attend Teaching Clinics due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g., illness) are required to complete an alternative assignment, which can be found on the Quercus course website.

[Appendix E1.1 Teaching Clinic Format](#)

[Appendix E1.2 Release of Video or Audio Recordings for Teaching Purposes](#)

[Appendix E1.3 Instructions for Preparation of Video Recordings](#)

Interprofessional Education

What is Interprofessional Education (IPE)?

The World Health Organization (2010) states that “Interprofessional education occurs when two or more professions learn **about, from** and **with** each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.”

What is an interprofessional education learning activity?

1. Are two or more professions involved?
2. Does significant interactivity between/among participants occur?
3. Are there opportunities to learn about, from and with one another?
4. Are interprofessional teaching/learning moments addressed? (e.g., is learning about how team members work together discussed?)

What does the University of Toronto IPE Curriculum Mean for Students in Clinical Settings?

The IPE Curriculum is a component of SLP 1509 – Integrating Client, Practitioner and Research in Practice. As part of the University of Toronto IPE curriculum, students are expected to achieve competencies for IPE (see page 6 in the M.H.Sc Student Handbook) through participating in specific learning activities. When these learning activities occur in clinical courses, they are included as Minimum Expectations in the corresponding course outlines. For example, The *IPE Component in a Clinical Placement* foundational learning activity is integrated with Unit 7: SLP1508Y – Advanced Clinical Laboratory in Speech-Language Pathology. Students participate in either a structured or flexible model.

The following documents describe the flexible IPE learning activities required in Unit 7: SLP 1508:

[Appendix E2.1 Flexible Activity 1: Shadowing, Interviewing Team Members](#)

[Appendix E2.2 Flexible Activity 2: Analyzing Interprofessional Interactions of Team Members](#)

[Appendix E2.3 Flexible Activity 3: Collaborating with Team Members](#)

Supplemental Placements

What is a Supplemental Placement?

A Supplemental Placement is a placement experience of short duration, usually no more than the equivalent of three days. Typically, these occur during placement units. A Supplemental Placement may be required to assist a student in obtaining clinical hours in a particular area, such as hearing disorders or to make up missed placement days. A student may be withdrawn

from the assigned full-time placement for a period in order to attend an additional site for the Supplemental Placement.

How are Supplemental Placements arranged?

Supplemental Placements are arranged on a per student basis and are typically targeted and individually assigned by an ACCE. Where there exists an opportunity for a preference-based lottery for a group of students, this approach will be used.

What are the Supplemental Placement Requirements?

The learning expectations will be outlined in the confirmation e-mail letter sent by the department. Usually, the focus is on learning activities required to meet clinical hour needs (e.g., child assessment, treatment with adults, minimum expectations for hearing disorders course,).

How is the Supplemental Placement Graded?

Due to the shortened length of the placement, students will prepare for the CE a Supplemental Clinical Assessment Form instead of the traditional assessment of student performance.

This assessment will not be included in the student's overall mark. It is intended to provide feedback to inform the university about the student's performance. If concerns arise from this assessment, the CI will be in contact with the CE and the student to review it.

Evidence may be collected from the Supplemental Placement to address Minimum Expectations for the SLP 1532H Clinical Laboratory in Hearing Disorders course.

Students are also required to track and submit clinical hours obtained on the InPlace system (described below) with the CE's verification, as in full-time placements.

What Paperwork Is Submitted and When?

The completed Supplemental Placement Assessment Form is submitted on-line with verification from the CE. Students will indicate the number of clinical hours accrued in this placement experience on the form and the CE will sign it to verify. Students are required to also submit their hours in InPlace.

The assessment and submission of hours are due two business days after completion.

[Appendix E3.1 Supplemental Assessment Form](#)

Placement Policies

Health Requirements and Proof of Immunization

Students entering the M.H.Sc program are expected to be in a state of mental and physical health that allows them to participate fully in academic and clinical programs and pose no risk to themselves or others. Students are to submit the required medical certification regarding immunizations and health status within the first academic unit. In year 1, this form is submitted on Synergy Gateway and will be independently reviewed to ensure compliance. Submission instructions and deadlines will be shared with students at the time of orientation. In year 2, an updated health form is submitted. For 2024-25 the year 2 form goes to the Student Affairs office. Forms are available on the [departmental website](#).

The Health Form is collected to establish that each student has fulfilled the university's requirements, as well as the standards set forward by the Public Hospitals Act, Section 4.2, Ontario Regulation. The forms are not collected for the purposes of storing for student use. Students must make a copy of the completed health form and supporting documentation BEFORE submitting them, as students will be required to provide the health form to placement sites multiple times throughout the program. There is an administrative fee for obtaining a copy of the record once it has been submitted.

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long -Term Care strongly recommends an annual influenza and COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, many clinical facilities require all staff and students to receive the these. If there is an outbreak and a student is not vaccinated, they may be: redeployed by the site or, when appropriate, dismissed from the clinical site for the safety of the student and patients/clients. It is the policy of some sites to require students who have not had the influenza vaccine to wear a mask while on placement, regardless of an outbreak.

Typically, it is the responsibility of each clinical placement site to ensure that a student's immunization status meets site-specific requirements. Students are responsible for following directions particular to the placement site.

Failure to fulfill any of the immunization requirements as set out by the placement site could result in the student being suspended from participating in clinical placements and thus delay their progress through the program.

<https://slp.utoronto.ca/current-students/master-of-health-science-students/mhsc-student-forms/immunization-forms/>

Minimum In-Person Clinical Hours Policy

In-Person Clinical Hours Policy

Guiding Principle:

All students must achieve both the eight curriculum objectives and the national SLP competencies across all clinical contexts (in-person and virtual).

Minimum In-Person Clinical Hours Requirements

All students may complete no more than the equivalent of one full-time virtual clinical placement in the program.

Attendance and Absences During Clinical Placements

Attendance obligations are considered equivalent to obligations to an employer:

- Students are expected to be present for the hours indicated on the clinical placement offer (e.g., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).
- The total number of scheduled hours per day at clinical placements is considered to be a vital component of the M.H.Sc. program and represents the minimum number of supervised hours/days needed for students to achieve competencies in the profession.
- Accumulation of hours in and of itself is not representative of learning or achievement of competencies
- The required number of days at the expected level of challenge, as specified in each clinical course, is essential
- The number of hours and days on placement for each clinical course is a requirement for the MHSc program accreditation and must be followed exactly.

In some circumstances (e.g., illness, bereavement, religious holidays, urgent medical appointments) a student must reasonably be absent from placement.

In these cases:

Students are responsible for informing BOTH the CE and the CI of their absence and the reason for absence by 9:00 a.m. that day, or as soon as is practically possible.

After informing the CI, students must submit a proposed plan in writing to the CI for making up the missed hours from placement for any absence, in advance of doing the make-up time and not later than two business days after returning to placement. This plan and missed placement days can be tracked on InPlace following directions in the InPlace Student User Guide.

Absence from placement to attend a continuing education event is not normally acceptable, unless it is directly related to the clinical learning goals of the placement. Students must apply to the CI for approval in advance.

Every effort must be made to make up all missed placement time without exception.

“How can the student make up missed time?”

If countable clinical (client or client-related) time was scheduled on a day the student was absent, the equivalent amount of this clinical experience is expected to be recouped. Each of the following options must be considered:

- adding additional placement time with similar client or client-related experiences (including weekend service)
- intensifying direct clinical hours during remaining placement days, with the student’s related planning and preparation to be completed after business hours
- simulated clinical practice (e.g., Simucase, re-enactment)
- adding an equivalent number of days to the end of the placement in clinical courses where the academic schedule permits.

In the event that the CE and CI acknowledge that missed placement time can not be made up during or immediately after the placement (as per the options above), then the student will be required to complete a supplemental placement for all absences that exceed 5%* of the total number of placement days. The supplemental placement will be arranged by the CI. The duration of the Supplemental Placement will normally be equivalent the total number of missed days, regardless of whether a student has completed the required hours and/or course minimum expectations.

*Five percent of an 8-week placement is considered to be 2 days and of a 10-week placement is considered to 3 days.

Inclement Weather

While on placement, students are asked to adhere to the policies of the site and their CEs regarding absence due to inclement weather. In the event of unexpected site closures, students must contact the CI as soon as possible to discuss make-up requirements. Whenever possible, students may use this time for clinical paperwork and session planning and/or engage in virtual care.

CPR Certification

Department of Speech-Language Pathology students are not required to provide a copy of a valid certificate in CPR at the Basic Rescuer (C) level. This level includes one-person and two-person CPR with infants, children and adults. However, some placement sites may require certification. The student is responsible for the expense of these courses.

Placement sites accept CPR certification from most agencies in Canada. In the past, students have taken courses provided by agencies such as the following:

- [The Canadian Red Cross](#)
- [Heart and Stroke Foundation](#)
- [Lifesaving Society](#)
- [St. John's Ambulance](#)

Mask-Fit Testing

Health care providers adopt infection control procedures including the wearing of personal protective equipment. One of the key pieces of personal protective equipment is a properly fit-tested mask. The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has developed directives for health care professionals to wear an approved respirator/mask when droplet protection is required. In order to protect the health and safety of health care learners, the use of respirators/masks may be required if there is evidence of potential exposure to airborne infectious agents.

Fit test data must be updated every 18 months – 2 years or when facial characteristics change due to weight gain/loss or facial trauma. For an adequate mask-to-face seal, learners must be clean shaven at the time of the mask-fitting. Accommodation requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Mask-Fit clinics are arranged by the department during the first term of the program. Space is provided in the building and students will be sent notification to reserve a time with the service provider. The cost of the test is paid directly to the service provider by the student.

On-Line Learning Modules

The following On-Line Learning Modules are completed by students prior to the first clinical placement unit and uploaded to Synergy for verification.

Toronto Academic Health Science Network Education Committee (TAHSNe)

Hand Hygiene Module

- The Hand Hygiene Module teaches students how to perform proper hand hygiene in order to decrease the spread of infections in a healthcare/school environment.

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)

- WHMIS is a comprehensive national system for safe management of hazardous chemicals that is legislated by both federal and provincial jurisdictions. The ultimate goal is to create a safer workplace by providing workers with the knowledge and tools to enable them to work safely. Students will be introduced to WHMIS prior to the first clinical placement in addition to being oriented to site-specific WHMIS procedures and resources while on a placement.

Workplace Violence and Harassment Module

- Workplace Violence and Harassment Module defines workplace violence and harassment in a healthcare environment, and outlines ways to identify and manage such incidences.

Privacy E - Learning Module

- This module teaches students about the importance of maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of patients'/clients' health information (PHI) and ways to do so. It is completed in Year 1.

Ontario Ministry of Labour

Basic Occupational Health & Safety Awareness Training

- All students must take the *Basic Occupational Health and Safety Awareness Training* program prior to attending their first placement. Once the student completes the tutorial, they receive a confirmation that they bring to the first day of placement, along with other documentation (e.g., health forms, mask fit, flu), as required. To meet the requirements of this regulation, the Office of Environmental Health & Safety has developed a *Basic Health & Safety Awareness Training* program.

NOTE: Please refer to the Pre-Placement section in this guide and the SLP1500 Quercus Course for further information.

Ontario Human Rights Commission

Working Together: The Code and the AODA

- This five-part eLearning series (20 minutes) is for public, private and not-for-profit sectors and completes the training requirements for Section 7 of the Integrated Accessibility Standards of the AODA.

Police Record Check (PRC) and Vulnerable Sector Screen (VSS)

Many speech-language pathology students will work directly with or in close proximity to children or vulnerable persons during their placements or clinical training. To protect these groups and maintain their safety, clinical sites frequently require M.H.Sc students to obtain a Level 3 Police Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check (also referred to as a Background Check).

Vulnerable Sector Screen

A vulnerable sector screen includes:

- The same type of information that is disclosed in a criminal record and judicial matters check and
- Applicable findings of:

- not criminally responsible due to mental disorder,
- record suspensions (pardons) related to sexually-based offences and
- in certain circumstances, non-conviction charges related information, when a strict test is met.

In cases where a student is unable to attend or to continue with a practicum/clinical experience because of issues related to her/his/their PRC-VSS:

- a) The academic program will make reasonable attempts to assist the student in securing another practicum/clinical experience to fulfill these degree requirements, but may not be able to do so and is not required to do so;
- b) Neither the academic program nor the University of Toronto is required to accept an alternative practicum/clinical experience proposed by the student.

All Year 1 M.H.Sc. students are strongly encouraged to undergo a PRC - VSS **prior to the winter break**. Students are cautioned that most clinical sites in Year 1 will require PRC - VSS for clinical placements (e.g., at school boards and in pre-school settings).

Year 2 M.H.Sc students must also have an up- to-date VSS for placements (typically within six months of the start of placement). Students need to apply for a VSS in the fall prior to the placement assignment.

Not having an up-to-date PRC/VSS required by the site may prevent or delay the start of placement and could impact the student’s progression through the program.

Note: The need for a PRC is requested by the practicum/clinical placement site, not the university. Students, therefore, DO NOT hand in PRC results of any level to the department. Students are asked to upload a copy of the PRC/VSS to Synergy Gateway and to keep the original to share with clinical sites, as required.

Students Who Live in the Metro Toronto Area (M Postal Code)

In accordance with the [Police Record Checks Reform Act \(PRCRA\)](#), the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police \(RCMP\) Ministerial Directives](#) and the [RCMP’s Dissemination of Criminal Record Information policy](#), the Toronto Police Service (TPS) provides three types of Police Record Checks:

1. Criminal Record Check (Level 1)
2. Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check (Level 2)
3. Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) (Level 3)

When applying for a Vulnerable Sector Screening and the postal code of the student’s residence begins with "M", "she/he/they will need the department code that has been posted to the applicable clinical practicum Quercus course. Students will review the information about obtaining record checks here [Metro Toronto Police Website](#). Students can then either

obtain a check by completing the Vulnerable Sector Check Application or they can apply on-line. Students who opt to apply on-line must first choose "Register for an Adult Police Record Check Account" from this same page or by using this direct link:

<https://www2.policerelutions.ca/checks/services/toronto/register.php>

Note: A fee plus applicable taxes apply either way.

Residents in Other Areas

Residents in other areas will consult their local police department in September to determine what is involved in obtaining a VSS Level 3 check. If a student is unable to complete this on their own, they are to let the ACCE and CEA know as soon as possible of any supporting documentation requirements.

Use of Social Insurance Number

Some students may have placements where videofluoroscopic swallow studies are performed. In order to monitor potential radiation exposure, the placement site will provide dosimeters to students for the duration of the placement. In this case, students will be asked to provide their Social Insurance Numbers at the placement site to register with the National Dose Registry (NDR) and obtain dosimeters.

Student Identification Badges

Students are issued identification badges with their pictures in the first year of the program. They are required to wear the identification badge issued by the university at all times while at a placement site. In the event that a badge is lost, the student is to contact the Business Officer in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology for a replacement.

Privacy Policies

Guidelines for Sharing Clinical Information and Recordings in Academic and Clinical Courses.

Students become custodians of personal health information (PHI) in both academic and clinical courses. Throughout their time in this program, there are numerous opportunities for clinical observations and placements where they will be exposed to confidential client information. It is expected that this information will only be shared with those in the client's immediate circle of care and/or with express written consent.

Any disclosure of PHI without appropriate consent, even accidentally, may result in academic penalty or even dismissal from the program. It is, therefore, essential that students carefully adhere to the following guidelines to ensure PHI is protected at all times.

Note: These are minimum standards and when at a clinical site students must also comply with the site's policies for protection of PHI.

Ensuring Client Confidentiality with Documents, Video and Audio Recordings and Information Related to Clinical Placements, Clinical Observations, Academic Courses and Research Subjects

This guideline refers to client information shared for teaching purposes in academic courses, guided observations (Appendices E4.1 and E4.2), Minimum Expectations documentation for placements, Integrative Learning Experiences (ILEs) and Teaching Clinics and clinical labs or any other circumstance where hard copy and/or digital information is generated and/or shared. All written materials (hard copy and digital) must be redacted to ensure all identifying information has been removed. If documents containing PHI are to be stored on any device (e.g., laptop, cell phone, tablet), the device **MUST** be encrypted. Information that is stored on a computer or other device must be fully deleted immediately after it is used for its intended purpose or as per instructions on the consent (e.g., Teaching Clinic notes). Deleted files must also be cleared from the trash folder and any cloud back-ups. The student is to keep all handwritten notes and hard copies of written documentation in their immediate personal possession or in a secure (locked) location accessible only by the student, such as a locked filing cabinet.

Express consent must be obtained **before** any form of recording and/or before sharing any PHI outside of the client's circle of care. Whenever possible, consent should be written. If it is not possible to obtain written consent, verbal informed consent that is documented in the health record is acceptable. Students are required to obtain informed consent using the departmental consent form [Clinical Education Guide, Appendix E1.2 prior to ANY form of recording (e.g., computers, tablets, phones)]. Students may also need to obtain a site consent. Consents are kept in the student's possession and stored in a secure, locked location as noted above. In some instances, the site may also want to keep a copy of the consent. This should be stored as per the policy guidelines of the site. Any documents containing PHI that are shared with other students, professors or clinical teaching staff (e.g., during Teaching Clinics), must be returned to the student presenter immediately after the presentation/activity. The student presenter is responsible for shredding or otherwise disposing of these **IMMEDIATELY**. Do not discuss site visits, clients or other PHI in public locations or with any individual who is not in the client's circle of care.

Ensuring Privacy with Digital Recordings

All devices used to record **MUST** be encrypted. When in use for recording and while recordings are stored on the device, all media uploads to the Cloud **MUST** be disabled.

Recordings can be uploaded to the secure, U of T server for video recordings, MyMedia, and then deleted and cleared from the device.

Several departmental tablets are available for loan from the Department of SLP. These are password protected to ensure maximum privacy. To arrange for the loan of a tablet, students are to contact the Resource Rep.

While recording, students should take appropriate measures to minimize client identification (e.g., avoiding using the client's name and giving identifying information, such as age, school, or other identifiers, if possible). As soon as possible after obtaining the recording, the file is to be uploaded to MY MEDIA at the University of Toronto, checked to ensure it is functioning properly (i.e., it plays correctly) and the original recording deleted from the recording device.

Note: Recordings stored to My Media are stored on University of Toronto servers. Upload speed is impacted by the capacity of the local Wi-Fi service. If the video is taking too long to upload, consider using editing options to shorten the video to under 10 minutes.

The student is not to share a link to the recording under any circumstances unless instructed to do so (e.g., by a CI for an assignment) and this is permitted on the consent. Videos on My Media are only accessible by those individuals who have a direct link provided by the student and a UTORid. If sharing the My Media link, the student must do so ONLY from the students University of Toronto e-mail account. If it is not possible to upload to My Media, instead save the recording to an encrypted USB stick and store in a secure, locked location.

Students must ensure to delete all files from the device and clear from the device's trash folder before reactivating media sharing. For an extra level of protection, the CE can audit this process. Document the time/date of deletion from the device. Files can only be shared as consent permits and must be deleted from My Media or storage device as per consent. Students will be asked to keep and submit a record of deleted materials that may be randomly audited by the department to ensure compliance. If the student has any questions or is unclear on how to manage PHI at any time, an ACCE should be contacted for assistance.

Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) and Private Insurance

Placement sites are asked to sign a declaration of understanding, a University of Toronto form, that describes insurance coverage relating to student placements and which only needs to be filled in once.

At the beginning of the academic year, all students are asked to sign a similar form. No further insurance forms are required. Students may be asked to present a copy of the declaration to their placement site.

In the Event of an Accident or Injury

In the event of an accident or injury, ensure that first aid is given immediately, and that transportation is provided to a hospital, doctor's office or the student's home, if necessary. Sites complete the University of Toronto Accident Report and return it to the university within 48 hours of the incident.

If a Student Must Make a Claim:

The MCU ensures that students on placements receive WSIB coverage for placement employers who have WSIB coverage and private insurance for employers who are not covered by WSIB. This covers injuries or disease incurred while fulfilling the requirements of their placement. Contact the ACCE for further instruction.

Learner Mistreatment

For information on Learner Mistreatment, including a guideline, how to discuss, disclose and/or report and who to contact, please see the Temerty FoM website at: [Learner Mistreatment Information for University of Toronto Students | Medical Education \(utoronto.ca\)](https://www.utoronto.ca/learning/mistreatment)

International Placement Opportunities

Criteria and Planning Steps for International Placements

Process and Timeline

The following process and timelines will be utilized for determining a student's eligibility for international clinical placements.

Late September/Early October – Initial Meeting

ICDR and the ACCE will meet with all rehabilitation sciences students interested in doing an international clinical placement to discuss opportunities, student criteria and process, and to answer any questions.

Late October / Early November – Application Deadline

M.H.Sc students will send an e-mail to notify the ACCE of their wish to be considered for an international placement.

Required Supporting Documentation:

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Statement - to include information on why they are interested in having the placement, where they would prefer to go, their life and travel experiences that are relevant and their expectations for the placement (maximum of two pages, double-spaced).

Late November – Interviews

Students will be interviewed by a committee consisting of representatives from ICDR and the Department of SLP.

The interview will be approximately 20 minutes long and consist of questions relevant to international placements. Candidates will be assessed using a seven-point Likert scale.

Criteria:

- At least B+ performance on previous clinical placements
- At least B+ performance on previous academic coursework
- High level of maturity, as assessed by interview and observed throughout the professional degree program
- Appropriate personal characteristics, including assertiveness, confidence, cultural sensitivity, preparedness, etc.
- Previous experience with international travel in a service context is an asset, but not essential
- Dedicated attendance/involvement in ICDR activities such as the Speaker Series, biannual symposium and working groups
- Mental and physical health that will allow the student to successfully participate in all aspects of this clinical placement experience

December – Notification

Students will be notified of their recommendation for a potential international clinical placement. It should be noted that even though a student is recommended, this is not a guarantee that an international placement will be available.

December – June

Students will be notified of their placement match as soon as possible.

International Placement Preparation

Students will participate in the Safety Abroad program in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine see (M.H.Sc Student Handbook for more information).

Students will have one group and one individual meeting with the ACCE and/or an ICDR representative to discuss cultural and travel issues and questions and/or attend ICDR Country/Group meetings.

Students will participate in the IPE Elective Learning Activity: Critical Perspectives in Global Health (four evenings, January - March).

During the Placement

- Students will communicate via e-mail with the ACCE on a routine basis (frequency to be determined prior to departure).
- Where possible, web-based technology will be utilized to permit the student to participate in Teaching Clinics (procedures to be determined prior to departure).
- For those portions of Teaching Clinics, the student is unable to participate in, alternate assignments will be completed (to be determined prior to departure).

Post-Placement

Students who complete an international placement will be required to fulfill the following additional minimum expectations:

1. A project, as determined jointly by the ACCE, student(s) and/or CEs, to focus on giving a useful resource to the site and staff;
2. A written report of their experience – maximum three pages double-spaced.;
3. Recommendations for future clinical placements at that site and
4. Students may also be asked to make a verbal presentation regarding their experience to a group of students and/or faculty, and/or to be involved in the process of selecting future students for potential international clinical placements.

It is the intention of this process to ensure that student candidates have the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours, along with the appropriate supports necessary to participate and be successful in an international clinical placement.

Clinical Placements - Requests from Other Programs

The department receives many requests for placements in the Toronto area from programs across Canada and from other countries.

As a service to the community, the ACCE may arrange placements for students enrolled in speech-language pathology programs that offer recognized degrees for CASLPO registration and/or SAC membership. These placements are arranged in accordance with the agreed upon Canadian ACCE Inter-University Placement Planning Policy.

Additional Resources

Clinical Placement Expense Reimbursement

Students are expected to have reserved \$3000.00 over the course of the program for expenses related to clinical placements. However, in circumstances where students will incur excessive costs associated with a given clinical placement, they are eligible to apply for partial or full reimbursement.

- 1) **Centre for International Experience:** This needs-based funding opportunity for international placements through the University of Toronto Learning and Safety Abroad, can be applied for here: https://learningabroad.utoronto.ca/learning-abroad/prepare_plan/funding/centre-for-international-experience/. Students travelling abroad are expected to apply for this grant at the same time as the Department of Speech-Language Pathology McGeachy Bursary.
- 2) **McGeachy Bursary:** This bursary is available for partial or full funding of costs incurred by students who must travel out of region for placement or who will incur excessive costs during placement. Students must obtain written approval of eligibility and of an estimated budget from the course instructor PRIOR to the placement for all expenses submitted for reimbursement through the bursary funding.

Eligible expenses:

- For **out-of-region** placements, eligible expenses include the following:
 - Travel to/from the placement location from/to Toronto
 - Reasonable accommodation costs, with prior approval from the ACCE, for the duration of the placement
 - Note: Travel between the placement site and the placement residence is not included.
- For **in-region** placements:
 - Most expenses associated with in-region placements are not eligible for this bursary.
 - In rare circumstances, where there is significant travel between clinical sites during the workday as part of the placement, students may be eligible for partial reimbursement of these costs such as mileage/taxi/public transit.
- If the student is using their own car for travel, reimbursement for travel will follow the mileage allowance set by the U of T. Similarly, if a rental car is required for travel during a placement, with prior approval, the student may be eligible for reimbursement of rental costs.
- Travel between the placement site and the placement residence is not included.
- Out-of-region placements requested by students (i.e., returning home for a placement) will not be considered for out-of-region reimbursement unless the in-region policy for significant travel between sites during the workday applies.
- Students who move from their primary residence into the U of T region to participate in placements will not be considered for out-of-region reimbursement but may be considered for in-region expense reimbursement, if applicable as above.

Obtaining Expense Coverage

- To be eligible for this bursary, students must first complete an Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Fund (OSOTF) needs assessment, including applying for Ontario

Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and a line of credit, ***but do not necessarily need to receive or use either towards placement expenses.***

- Students submit a preliminary estimated budget to the course instructor prior to the placement. Students MUST have written approval of this budget to be eligible.
- If, during the placement, there is a substantive change in the estimated budget, students must notify the course instructor and obtain updated approval immediately.
- Post-placement, students must submit original receipts using [the departmental expense reimbursement form](#) no later than two weeks post-placement unit.
- A mandatory minimum deductible of \$500 will apply to all clinical placement expenses submitted.
- In a circumstance where a student perceives a need to receive funds prior to participating in placement, students are directed to discuss this with the Business Manager and course instructor.

NOTE: U of T SLP Placement Region

- For the purposes of expense reimbursement, placements that fall within the following counties area are considered to be within the U of T SLP placement region.
 - Peel
 - Toronto
 - York
 - South Simcoe including Barrie
 - Durham

Application Instructions:

See above for eligible expenses and expense coverage and then follow these instructions: Students must complete and submit to slp.clinicalaffairs@utoronto.ca *no later than 1-month post placement.*

- OSOTF Application – for will be updated in the fall
- the departmental expense reimbursement form
- Supporting receipts and/or the Travel Log (see detailed instructions below)
- copy of the estimated budget approval from the CI or an updated approval if expenses are substantially higher than estimated.

Please note that, as this is a bursary application, it may take several weeks for review, approval and processing. Also, please ensure to update your ACORN account to include your banking information so that the funds can be electronically transferred to you. You can find directions to add your banking information at: <https://studentaccount.utoronto.ca/acorn-billing-student-information/direct-deposit-information/>

Accommodation

Students requesting accommodation reimbursement complete G1.1 and G1.3 and submit with rental receipts.

Travel

Students requesting travel expense reimbursement of airfare must complete G1.1, G1.3 and submit with their boarding pass. Students requesting travel expense involving train fare, bus fare or car rental must complete Appendix G1.1, G1.3 and submit with receipts. Students requesting travel expense for kilometrage must complete Appendix G1.1, G1.3 and submit with Appendix G1.2.

[Appendix G1.1 Clinical Placement Expense Fund Expense Report](#)

[Appendix G1.2 Travel Journal](#)

[Appendix G1.3 Application for Departmental OSOTF Award](#)

M.H.Sc Student Handbook

See the “Student” section of the University of Toronto SLP Website (www.slp.utoronto.ca).

Clinical Resource and Teaching Laboratory

The Clinic Resource Teaching Laboratory is located in Room 414 and is a group work / departmental study room.

Clinical Resources

Clinical resources are available for students to use for teaching and learning purposes. For information on available resources and how to access and/or return these materials students must contact the student representative assigned to their year.

Case Study Rooms

Case study rooms are located on the second floor, including 222, 224, 238, 240, 251 and 255. The primary purpose for these rooms is for academic and clinical teaching, however, students may use these rooms for quiet study when they are not being used for teaching purposes.

Clinical Education Class Representative(s)

Each class in the M.H.Sc. program will have a maximum of two representatives. They act as the liaison between the ACCEs and the students. Regular meetings between the ACCEs and the Clinical Education Reps are scheduled throughout the year.