

Clinical Practica:

A minimum grade of B- must be achieved for all clinical practica. If a matriculated graduate student receives a grade below B- in a clinical practicum which is part of his/her planned program of graduate studies, the course/practicum must be repeated the next time it is offered. This regulation holds regardless of overall grade point average. If the grade earned in the second attempt is again below a B-, procedures will be initiated for student removal from the program *regardless of overall grade point average.*

On-Campus Practica:

All requirements and responsibilities for on-campus practica are presented in:

1. CMD 461 - The Clinical Practice of Speech-Language Pathology. This course serves as an introduction to clinical work and provides an opportunity to complete, and have authorized, required observation hours. Students must have completed 25 observation hours in order to receive a grade for this course.
 - a. [Observation guidelines](#)
 - b. [Observation form](#)
2. CMD 560 - Speech-Language Practicum A, the first clinical practicum experience in the Department;
3. The Center for Communication Disorders (CCD) Manual of Operations. The [CCD Clinic Manual](#) of Operations is available for review online.
4. Orientation sessions for each clinical practicum conducted by the Director of the Center for Communication Disorders and/or coordinators or supervisors of practica;
5. Clinical seminar meetings;
6. Staffings: Clinicians and supervisors meet individually and in groups during the practicum semester.

Students whose names appear on the Department practicum preregistration list will be requested to complete a [student schedule form](#) for use in scheduling clinical appointments for the semester. **THIS FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY AND ACCURATELY AND RETURNED ON OR BEFORE THE INDICATED DEADLINE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN CLINICAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE SEMESTER!!!** When completing the form, students should be sure to include ample times of availability to see clients. Non-available times should be class meeting times only. Students who have limited time availability will be asked to participate in practica when they have more time available.

Clinical observations: All students must accumulate a total of 25 hours of clinical observation prior to graduation, however typically students complete these hours prior to beginning CMD 560.

Please note that practica taken during the summer run through both A and B sessions (10 weeks).

Off-Campus Practica:

After successful completion of all on-campus practica, required course work, and achievement of a "B" or better GPA, students progress to placement in an off-campus practicum.

Students must complete two practica external to the Department in a minimum of two different practica sites. One practicum is completed in a public/private school setting and one in a hospital/rehabilitation or other appropriate setting. State of Connecticut Teacher Certification for a school SLP requires a minimum of 100 practicum hours in a school setting. Off-campus practica provide the opportunity to complete this requirement.

The two SLP off-campus practica are CMD 562 - Schools Practicum, and CMD 569 - Neuropathologies Practicum (hospital/rehabilitation placement). These two courses are each accompanied by a seminar class which meets three or more times per semester. Each of these off-campus practica is worth 6 academic credits.

The student's name must appear on the practicum preregistration placement list in order to enroll in an off-campus practicum. The student's name will automatically appear on the list in conjunction with the student's course sequence list. There is a coordinator and a placement list for each off-campus practicum. During the semester prior to placement, students will be contacted by the practicum coordinator and will be requested to complete an information form.

Students are expected to participate in all clinical activities at the practicum site. They are considered as members of the professional staff of the facility and should participate accordingly and follow the facility's schedule. Time-off from practicum responsibilities for any reason other than medical or family emergency should not be requested. Clinical clock hours include only time spent in direct management of a client.

The on-site practicum supervisor(s) will evaluate the student's emerging clinical competence and provide written comments to the CMD faculty off-campus practicum coordinator. The coordinator assigns the final grade for the practicum based on the written performance indicators as well as other factors.

The off-campus supervisor may engage the Department Clinical Support Panel for assistance in dealing with difficulties a student may experience in the off-campus practicum. An explanation of the Clinical Support Panel may be found under, [Clinical Support Panel](#), in the [Department Academic Standards Committee](#) section of this handbook.

Students are expected to begin the school practicum at the start of the school term, follow the school schedule, and continue in the practicum until the University semester ends. Further, students are expected, on a daily basis, to begin the practicum when the school opens in the morning and continue until the school closes in the afternoon, 5 days per week or at any adjusted day schedule arranged by the Department. The Department reserves the right to make final decisions regarding off-campus practicum placements. **Please be advised: students may not complete a school practicum at a site where they are employed or at a school in which an immediate family member is employed.**

Time and day requirements for the neuropathology practicum are arranged by the practicum coordinator and the practicum supervisor. The practicum coordinator's decision prevails. The student is expected to spend a minimum of 25 hours per week at the practicum and follow the facility's schedule.

Students enrolled in an off-campus practicum during the semester in which they plan to graduate, must complete and record clinical hours before a grade will be assigned for the practicum. A grade of "I" or "Q" will be assigned for off-campus practicum courses in which hours have not been recorded which will delay graduation until the grade is rectified. Clinical hours for off-campus practica must be reviewed and signed by the off-campus supervisor and then transmitted to the Department for recording.

Equipment, supplies, tests, forms, etc. may be not taken from the Center for Communication Disorders for use at an off-campus site.

Please note: Students enrolled in **any** of the CMD on- or off-campus practica may be required to engage in both diagnostic and therapy activities with clients of all ages who present with a wide range of communication disorders.

Practicum Grading:

The Department has developed assessment tools for evaluating student practicum outcomes based on expected Department student clinical competencies. These competencies may be reviewed utilizing the link below:

[Speech-Language Pathology Practica Grading Sheets](#)