

GUIDELINES FOR THE MEDICAL SETTING

The University of Florida Speech and Hearing Clinic offers medical practicum settings in 3 hospitals, an ENT's office, and a specialty program:

1. Shands Hospital/J. Hillis Miller Health Center on the UF Campus
2. Shands at AGH
3. Shands Rehabilitation Hospital
4. Shands Magnolia Park
5. ENT Associates
6. Developmental Evaluation and Intervention Program

In addition, we offer internships during the final semester as an option to the thesis. At this time, we have numerous contracts. Most of these sites are in Florida, although we have contracts in several other major cities and states, including Georgia, Illinois, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, California, Virginia, Montana, and Mississippi.

The purpose of the medical practicum is to acquaint the student with the delivery of speech-language pathology and/or audiology services in a medical setting. It is anticipated that, upon completion of a medical setting practicum, the student will demonstrate an understanding of the skills needed to successfully function in a hospital setting.

Specific skills and knowledge which the practicum student should acquire include:

1. knowledge of appropriate referral procedures for patients in need of medical evaluation;
2. case presentations;
3. diagnostic and therapeutic service delivery for outpatients;
4. diagnostic and therapeutic service delivery for inpatients;
5. reading and writing in patient charts;
6. family counseling;
7. interdisciplinary team functioning;
8. billing procedures.

When possible, we would like for students to be exposed to other disciplines such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and various medical departments (for example, neurology, pediatrics, NICU, ENT, dentistry).

We realize that each site is bound by a variety of administrative practices, but we would like to stress that practicum implies "hands on" experience. While it may be necessary for the student to observe initially, it is expected that no later than week 4, the student is conducting therapy and/or diagnostic sessions. We do not believe it is our place to dictate to the sites how to conduct the practicum, but the following schedule is offered as a general guideline:

- Week 1: student observes/reviews program
- Weeks 2-3: student assists clinician (gains hands-on experience but does not plan or direct therapy); is supervised 100%
- Weeks 4-5: student assumes some responsibility for planning and begins to conduct a limited amount of therapy; is supervised 75-100%;
- Weeks 6+: student assumes full responsibility for planning and conducting therapy; is supervised 25-75%.

It is up to the supervisor how much of the caseload is actually turned over to the practicum student.

A student should be on site a minimum of 20 hours per week, and a maximum of 24 hours per week. It is expected that the student accumulate at least 80 clock hours per semester. A minimum of 50 clock hours must be earned for the site to count as one of the required three distinctly different sites.

For the first 10 hours of hands on experience at a new site, the clinician should be observed 75-100% of each session. After the first 10 hours, supervision can range from 25-100% per session, depending on the clinician's demonstrated competence. In addition, ASHA requires that a minimum of 50% of each diagnostic session be observed by the supervisor.

Students participating in practicum are required to purchase liability insurance. It may also be necessary to purchase a lab coat.

If you have any concerns, problems, or comments, please feel free to contact Betsy Vinson at (352)392-2041 (x284).