

**Western University
School of Communication Sciences & Disorders
CSD 9504 Clinical Practicum
Winter 2021**

1. Course Instructor and Information:

Instructor on record:

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In-house Clinical Preceptors:

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Office hours are not scheduled for this course. Meetings with an instructor or preceptor are arranged by appointment.

Location(s) and Time(s):

Locations and times will vary according to the clinical activities.

Start date: week of January 11, 2021

Completion date: week of April 12, 2021

The Clinical Education Coordinator, Chris Allan, will make arrangements for students participating in an external clinical placement.

2. Course Description:

In this course, second-year students will participate in a number of varied clinical activities. The students will be able to select from and/or be assigned to a number of clinical activity options to develop specific clinical skills and/or accrue required clinical hours for application to a regulatory organization.

Students may be involved in any number of activities, occurring in-house or in the community, including but not limited to:

- hearing assessment
- auditory processing assessments
- electrophysiologic evaluations
- paediatric assessments/screenings
- amplification assessments/fittings/follow-ups
- assistive technology assessments/fittings/follow-ups
- aural (re)habilitation sessions
- hearing preservation educational programs
- one or two full day per week winter practicum in a community clinic
- tinnitus assessments/intervention
- vestibular assessments/intervention

Improvement in technique and continued growth in clinical skills and knowledge will be expected. During this winter practicum, second-year students should be working more independently and functioning in a more autonomous capacity with minimal supervision. This placement will provide faculty and clinical supervisors the opportunity to work more closely with those students who have interests in specific areas of practice, must accrue specific clinical hours, and/or need additional training or support.

Students are expected to demonstrate the highest degree of professional integrity when working in their clinical placement with patients, educators, clinical educators and colleagues. Failure to behave in a professional manner has severe consequences and has the potential to result in course failure. Students are referred to the H.A. Leeper Speech and Hearing Clinic Policies & Procedures Clinical Manual - Audiology, the CASLPO website, and to clinical educators if ethical and professional conduct expectations are unfamiliar. A lack of knowledge or understanding of professional and ethical behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

3. Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course students will have gained additional experience and improved efficiency in any number of areas that will lead to their ability to:

- Demonstrate professional and ethical qualities required for an entry to practice level clinician
- Demonstrate professional interaction with clients, families, supervisors, staff and other health professionals

- Demonstrate clinical skills and decision making moving toward the independence required for an entry to practice level clinician
- Recognize and acknowledge diversity within the client population
- Demonstrate client and family centred care
- Engage with community partners to support clients and promote hearing health care
- Conduct interviews and obtain case history with minimal support
- Provide counselling and education
- Perform comprehensive audiological evaluations for different age groups with minimal support
- Prepare and facilitate an aural rehabilitation program
- Take an active role in the prescription, fitting and validation of hearing assistive technologies.
- Complete comprehensive audiological reports, chart notes, support letters and documentation.
- Accurately perform, score, interpret and report on outcome measures
- Maintain and calibrate clinical equipment
- Perform infection control procedures consistent with professional and H.A. Leeper Speech and Hearing Clinic guidelines

4. Course Questions and Office Hours

- a. In-Person Office Hours: In-person office hours are arranged by appointment. Please contact the course instructor or clinical educator by email to schedule an appointment. Should you need to discuss something privately, need to request special accommodations, or need to inform us of a clinic absence please schedule an appointment or use email.
- b. Forums is available on the CSD 9504 course website for general discussion, sharing information (research) gained through the clinical experience, and for sharing clinical tips and tricks learned in clinic.

5. Course Materials

There is no required text for the course. All students must read the HA Leeper Speech and Hearing Clinic Policy and Procedures Clinic Manual Audiology 2020-2021. The manual and all clinic forms can be accessed at the HA Leeper Speech and Hearing Clinic OWL site.

Recommended and Supplemental Readings: Students are encouraged to review the CASLPO Code of Ethics and additional documents that relate to professional behaviour and clinical practice. These documents can be found on the CASLPO website: <http://www.caslpo.com/members/resources/practice-standards>

Clinical evaluation forms can be found in the Placement Forms tab in the CSD 9504 OWL website.

6. Course Website

Please check the course website regularly. The course syllabus, suggested readings, and other clinical resources are posted on the course website (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>). The course website will also host the Forum for discussions and asking questions. All reports and reflections will be submitted to the OWL site drop box for review. Course announcements will also be posted via the course website.

7. Requirements for Course Completion

- a. Completion of any clinical activity, especially the full day per week winter practicum in a community clinic, is necessary for the consolidation of clinical skills. Absences for any reason, will be monitored and repeated absences will be addressed by the clinical preceptor. Absenteeism could lead to termination of the activity/placement and failure of the course.
- b. Achieve a passing grade as outlined in the performance evaluation and/or grading summary.
- c. Submission of the signed clinical hours form no later than April 24, 2021. The clinical hours form must be submitted through the Assignments tab on the CSD 9504 OWL course website.
- d. Completion and submission of all documents required by the clinical preceptor.

8. Grading Summary:

Students may be involved in a variety of clinical activities and with a number of clinical preceptors. Evaluation of performance and the tool used for evaluating performance will reflect the nature and extent of involvement in any given clinical activity. At the end of this course students are expected to demonstrate the skill levels of a clinician approaching the entrance into clinical practice. For this reason the student must:

- Obtain an overall passing grade AND a passing grade in each skill area included in the Clinical Evaluation tool used by the preceptor.

- **A grade below 73% in any skill area will result in failure of the clinical placement course (assigned grade of FAI) regardless of the weighting assigned to the skill area.**
 - **A performance level below *Intermediate* in any skill area will result in a failure of the clinical placement course (assigned a grade of FAI).**
- Should a host clinic site terminate a clinical placement based on student performance at any point in the placement, that placement grade will be recorded as a course failure (assigned grade of FAI).
 - **Note that clinical hours accumulated during a failed placement cannot be counted towards the hours required for College/provincial registration or for CAASPR exam application.**

Grading will be conducted using one of the following:

- UWO Evaluation of Clinical Skills tool
- Short Placement (Winter Term) Clinical Performance Evaluation tool
- a personal written/verbal performance review

The two formal evaluation forms can be found in the Clinic Forms tab in the CSD 9504 OWL course website. The personal written/verbal performance review will be employed whenever the clinical activities are sufficiently unique that an accurate assessment of performance cannot be captured through the formal evaluation tools.

9. Course Policies & Procedures:

COVID-related measures:

For the health and safety of all, students must comply with all infection prevention and control measures communicated by the clinical educator/preceptor, the external placement host clinic, instructor, the School of CSD, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and Western University. In particular, please study and adhere to the procedures specified in the 'CSD Return to Clinical Training Spaces' document and associated OWL site. We are all depending upon each other to minimize the likelihood of any student, preceptor, faculty, or staff member becoming ill, which may jeopardize the delivery of our programs.

Conduct:

No cell phone, or internet/email access is permitted in clinic. You are expected to attend all clinic sessions and to follow all clinic policies and procedures. You must inform the clinician in advance if you are unable to attend a scheduled day in clinic. You are also expected to inform the clinical education coordinator of any absences. The University Of Western Ontario Student Code Of Conduct applies to the clinic, classroom setting, lab, all community settings, and use of the course website as described in:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>.

Students must comply with the following reasonable expectations for clinic conduct:

- Students are expected to maintain the same high standards of conduct and moral judgment in the clinic as those that they are expected to maintain when they become clinical audiologists.
- Students and the clinical educator will behave in a manner that is welcoming, supportive, and respectful of cultural and individual differences at all times.
- Students are expected to engage in active learning and to support scholarly exploration of the topics covered in the clinic by asking questions and contributing comments during discussion with the clinical educator.
- Conduct that could distract or interfere with client care including but not limited to talking when others are speaking, passing notes, sleeping, and overt inattention, among other distracting actions is not acceptable.
- Arrive with enough time to be fully prepared for the client and activity.
- Students are required to follow the **School of Communication Sciences and Disorders Attendance Policy for MCISc students**
- **No food or drinks are allowed in the HA Leeper Speech and Hearing Clinic or in any community clinic. Note that this may also apply to other community settings.**

Attendance Policy:

Please refer to the Student Handbook for our Program's absence policy. If you are unable to participate in any scheduled clinical activity for any reason (including a positive COVID screening result), please contact all relevant instructors (preceptors; clinical education coordinator) as soon as possible. If you require academic relief due to an absence, you must request it through the Student Support Committee, and documentation may be required.

10. Scholastic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

11. Accommodations:

The University of Western Ontario is committed to providing accommodations and/or services to students with documented disabilities. Students who are seeking support for a disability or a suspected disability should meet with the clinical coordinator, and must follow established procedures as outlined in:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/disabled.pdf>

Health & Wellness:

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca> and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca> Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca>

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/mentalhealth/resources>

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: <http://www.health.uwo.ca/mentalhealth/module.html>. This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.