Overview of Clinical Education at the University of Florida

Per ASHA guidelines, students must have diverse clinical experience in order to gain knowledge and skills in a wide variety of disorders across the lifespan. All of our students have their first clinical experience in the UF Speech & Hearing Clinic while they are taking an applied course. Students complete a second applied course in the UFSHC during the course of their program. All students are supervised 100% of the time for the first 10 hours of clinical experience. Students complete 25 clock hours before being assigned to an off-campus site.

Students generally begin their off-campus assignments in their second or third semester. Assignments for clinical practica are made by the Director of Clinical Education. These assignments are based on student interest, clinical strengths and weaknesses, educational needs, and accumulated clock hours. **Students participate in practicum assignments 15 to 20 hours a week.** We make an effort to leave blocks of time in the class schedule to allow for this. However, the schedule does not fit every site perfectly. We appreciate your flexibility from semester to semester as the schedule varies.

Students participate in clinical practica for four semesters as they complete their coursework. During the fifth semester they participate in a clinical externship. This externship is set up by the student with an outside facility. **The externship is for one semester and is full-time (36-40 hours/week). Students completing a master’s thesis do not complete an externship. Instead, they complete an additional practicum, usually near Gainesville.**

**Please note:** Students are not to make arrangements for practicum with individual sites. Arrangements are to be made by the Director of Clinical Education. Students **are** allowed to contact and interview for their full-time externships with facilities. However, the externship must be verified by the Program Director before it is considered to have final approval. If you have questions about this, please call Judy Wingate at 352-273-3737 to clarify.