



Frequently Asked Questions: The Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

1. How many semesters will I be on campus/off campus for clinical practicum?

During your first year here at Buffalo State University, students are assigned clients on campus all 3 semesters (fall, spring, and summer). “On-campus” clinic may include in-person sessions within the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, two area private schools, one area agency, as well as virtual sessions completed via a secure telepractice platform. The goal by the end of year 1 in the program is 175-200 direct clinical hours (including guided observation hours). During your second year, students will be off campus for two semesters, completing 1 placement in a student teaching experience and 1 assignment in a graduate externship. The order of placements in the second year will be determined by your academic roadmap. Full-time, off-campus experiences are typically 8-9 weeks in length. Part-time graduate externships may be for the entire semester. Before venturing off campus, students in their second year may mentor first-year students in clinic.

2. How many hours will I need to earn during my program?

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (i.e., ASHA) mandates a minimum of 400 hours from diverse experiences/disorders/ages/populations. Twenty-five (i.e., 25) of those 400 hours are gained from guided clinical observation with an ASHA certified professional, while 375 hours are earned from direct client contact. Note that 325 hours need to be attained at the graduate level, as some students may have earned undergraduate clinical hours beyond guided observation. Students will also earn evaluation and therapy hours by completing simulated cases online, with a maximum of 75 hours (or 50 hours for Canadian students) of the 375-hour total attained via this method. Simulation subscriptions are paid by the department/program!

3. What age groups are evaluated or treated in the clinic? How many rooms are in the clinic?

You will be working with clients across the life span, typically ranging in age from ~ 2 to 80+ years. Evaluations and therapy can be conducted in any of the clinic’s 9 treatment rooms. Most rooms, which can be adapted to serve children and adults, have adjacent observation decks for families to watch sessions. An audiology suite is also available to complete hearing screenings and/or evaluations. A student room has computers, connection to a printer, and numerous resources to prepare to conduct clinical evaluations and/or therapy.

4. What types of disorders will I be providing therapy for?

Students will evaluate and treat clients with any one or combination of the following ASHA “Big 9” disorders:

- Articulation/Phonology
- Fluency (Stuttering or Cluttering)
- Voice/Resonance
- Swallowing
- Receptive/Expressive Language
- Cognitive Aspects of Communication
- Social Aspects of Communication (i.e., Pragmatics)
- Communication Modalities (i.e., Augmentative and Alternative Communication – AAC)
- Hearing (includes Auditory Processing Disorder – APD)

5. How do I prepare for fall clinic?

Preparation for fall clinic starts as early as summer. Various modules have been created and posted on Brightspace, a classroom and organizational learning management system used here at Buffalo State University, to assist with student preparation for and execution of evidence-based practice (i.e., EBP). In

addition, an extensive, mandatory 3-week clinical orientation program is hosted at the beginning of the fall semester to prepare students to start clinic and work directly with real clients soon afterwards. Fall clinical assignments are given at the end of orientation.

6. How many clients will I be assigned per semester?

Clients are typically scheduled for services twice weekly (Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday); some clients attend only one time per week. Session lengths can vary from 30 to 45 minutes depending on clients and settings to provide breadth and depth of experience. A typical student assignment may include 2 to 3 clients per semester. Assignments change each semester. Depending on how the semester schedule evolves, students may have clinic 2 to 3 days per week or 4 to 5 days per week. Services are also provided at satellite programs in local private schools and an agency which may also afford experience in group and push-in therapy. Summer services are often busier given the shortened semester and execution of various intensive specialty clinics with individual and group activities.

7. How many supervisors will I have per semester?

You typically have 1-2 supervisors each semester, although there may be an instance when you have 3 (note: this situation is infrequent). The student's supervisor assignments change each semester.

8. How many diagnostic teams will I participate on in the first year?

Students are assigned to at least two different diagnostic teams to conduct speech-language-hearing screenings and/or evaluations during their first year. Screenings are conducted within the community and offer great experiences and clinical hours, particularly during your first semester. Speech-language evaluations routinely last ~ 2 hours. Students will also participate in hearing screenings and evaluations.

9. What are the hours for the Buffalo State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic?

During the fall and spring semesters, the clinic is open from ~ 8:30 am – 7:00 pm, Monday – Thursday and 8:30 am – 3:00 pm on Fridays. While most sessions are offered in the afternoon starting at 1:00 or 1:30 pm given the class schedule, changing clinical assignments have resulted in some therapy sessions being hosted in the morning before classes. Speech-language-hearing evaluations are typically performed on days when classes are not hosted. The Buffalo State University Stroke and Hope Aphasia Support Group meets on Fridays from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm during the fall and spring semesters. During the summer semester, the clinic is open from ~ 7:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Thursday, with clients served throughout that time. The clinic is open on Fridays for paperwork or clinical preparation. Students will have a student ID card which will grant swipe access to the clinic during permitted hours.

10. What specialty clinics does the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic offer?

During the summer semester, the clinic offers three (3) intensive specialty programs for Aphasia (for clients following stroke), Stuttering, and Language, Literacy, & Auditory Processing, respectively. Specialty sessions are 2.5 to 3 hours daily, 3 days per week for 4 weeks. New summer clinical experiences continue to evolve.

11. How will my clinical experiences and hours be quantified/cataloged?

Currently, clinical hours and experiences are cataloged using the *Typhon Group* student tracking system. A one-time fee is paid by the student and affords access to this system during the 2-year graduate program and for 3 years after graduation. Note: The student tracking system may change for fall.

12. Do you have a video recording system or other instrumentation within the clinic?

Yes. **Valt** is employed to record all diagnostic evaluations and therapy sessions as authorized by the client or parents. Telepractice sessions are not recorded. Students will receive training in scheduling and using **Valt** effectively, as it is a great learning tool. Our clinic also has Visi-Pitch and Nasometer II devices incorporated to evaluate voice/resonance and to treat varied disorders. An orientation with said instrumentation and lab practicals are offered during fall graduate courses.