



VERA Z. DWYER
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
School of Rehabilitation Sciences

MS-SLP Process of Determining Clinical Placements Policy # SLP-CL-12-B

About This Policy:

Faculty Approval: 06/20/2023

Effective Date: 06/20/2023 (Original version 06/29/2020)

Scope

This policy is for all students enrolled in the MS-SLP program within the Vera Z. Dwyer College of Health Sciences.

Policy Statement

The Clinical Director seeks a balance of experience for all students and follows specified procedures when assigning clinical and diagnostic placements.

Procedure

To the extent it is possible, attempts are made to accommodate each student's needs and preferences while ensuring appropriate breadth and depth of clinical experiences.

For the part-time clinical practicum experiences, sites and experiences may be up to one hour away from The Elkhart Center. The full-time fieldwork sites have the option to be nationwide. Ultimately, the availability of placements depends on a site's ability to accept a student for a given semester. Many sites are approached by multiple graduate SLP programs, and practicum experiences can be competitive.

The following are considered by the Clinical Director when assigning clinical placements and clients:

1. Areas of need in regards to competencies and skills across the lifespan,

2. student's Placement Request Form (and for full-time placements, this includes a student's ability and/or desire to complete an experience in a different geographical region),
3. availability of placements at various community sites,
4. SLP faculty feedback,
5. coursework completed thus far by a student as well as any prior clinical experience.

 program does not intentionally/proactively identify sites that do not require certain vaccinations; this includes the COVID-19 vaccination.

The Clinical Director will match a student to an external placement up to three times per semester if the student is unable to participate in an assigned placement. Reasons for inability to participate in a placement may include but are not limited to not meeting the site's vaccination requirements, inability to meet essential abilities, etc. A student also has the right to decline an assigned placement due to travel time, change in ability to relocate to a requested geographical location, change in preferred geographical location, etc.; students must submit declination in writing, and after this the Clinical Director will make only one additional attempt to secure a placement for that student that semester. After the stated number of attempts by the Clinical Director, the student will be fully responsible for securing their placement, and the program completion time will not be extended for a student if the student is unable to participate in a placement that semester.

Please note, some placements must be earned by a student clinician based on an interview that the sites themselves conduct. The Clinical Director has no control over a site's decision following an interview process.

Students are encouraged to approach all assigned placements with a positive outlook in order to get the most out of each experience.