



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

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

### **About This Policy:**

Faculty Approval: 06/29/2020

Effective Date: 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.

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. Students do have the right to decline a placement, however, requests to decline a placement must be submitted in writing and students who decline a placement do so with the understanding that their action may impact their accrual of hours and ultimately delay their graduation.