

Practicum

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Explicit
Systematic
Structured
Research-validated
Literacy instruction



Orton-Gillingham (O-G)
Dyslexia Specialists

funlearning.ca

Making sense of language

416.433.9580

- **FAQ: What is the supervised practicum?**

The practicum is designed to guide and support trainees as they learn to put into practice what they learned in the training courses. Trainees work with (a) student(s) while being mentored by a Fellow. FUNDAMENTAL LEARNING allows for trainees in various situations and locations to be supported in their learning journey by using a combination of in-person visits and video conferencing.

There are limited practicum spots for each training session. *Please see following sections for minimum requirements.*

- **FAQ: What is the difference between Classroom Educator and Associate Levels?**

- Associate level practitioners are qualified to provide Tier 1, 2 and 3 instruction.

**A teacher who intends to provide remedial support for a student needs to enroll in the Associate training course.*

- The Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator is qualified to apply the principles of the Orton-Gillingham Approach to modify and provide literacy instruction for the classroom or small groups (Tier 1 only*)

The Warranty for Classroom Educator states:

- *"I will not engage in promotional/advertising contexts designating myself as qualified to teach using the Orton-Gillingham Approach outside of my work in a school setting."*

COURSEWORK required: (minimum)

- Foundations, Classroom Educator

PRACTICUM: 50 hours supervised practicum over 8 consecutive months, minimum, which includes 5 observations of the trainee teaching complete lessons in a group (of at least 2 students) or classroom setting.

- **What is the difference between Associate Option A and Associate Option B?**

- **An Associate A member** is qualified to provide 1:1 Orton-Gillingham instruction under the mentorship of an Academy Fellow.

COURSEWORK required: 60 hours (minimum)

- Fundamentals/Foundations, Associate

- **An Associate B member** is qualified to provide 1:1 and small group instruction under the mentorship of an Academy Fellow
COURSEWORK required: 70 hours

- Fundamentals/Foundations, Associate, Classroom Educator

PRACTICUM: 50 hours and 5 observations are done 1:1; 50 hours and 5 observations are done

teaching in a group (of at least 2 students) or classroom setting

- **What does "Certified Level" mean?**

The Certified member is qualified as an independent practitioner in the Orton-Gillingham Approach (Tier 3).

COURSEWORK: 100 hours minimum (in addition to 60 hours at Associate for a total of 160 hours)

PRACTICUM: 200 hours over 2 academic years, minimum, with 10 entire 40-60 minute lesson observations (in addition to the 100 hours at Associate for a total of 300 hours)

The Certified practicum is with two different students: one at the lower level of language instruction and another at a higher level of language instruction. One of the practicum students needs to have a diagnosis of dyslexia (although the term dyslexia may not be used).

- **FAQ: Does my practicum student need to be formally diagnosed with dyslexia?**

At the Associate level, although your student **MUST** have a "dyslexic profile", *they do not need a formal diagnosis*. If the student does not have a formal diagnosis of dyslexia you would benefit from any school testing performed regardless of the dyslexia word, any teacher concerns, or reasons why this student has been flagged for more services, and you would need to do your own informal assessment so you could write a good profile that supports OG as being an appropriate intervention. Testing often avoids the word "dyslexia" but reading disorder, etc., or just testing scores that indicate difficulties with phonemic awareness and decoding can be crafted into a good profile.

At the Certified level, trainees work with two practicum students. One of these students **MUST** have a formal diagnosis.

- **FAQ: Can my student have other challenges?**

Although many students can benefit from an OG approach, a student with additional and/or other challenges (e.g., ADHD, cognitive impairment, receptive or expressive language impairment, behavioural challenges, etc.) **would not be suitable as a practicum student.**

- **FAQ: Do I need to use the same student for the entire practicum?**

Although it is preferable to use the same student, the Academy realizes that certain situations are not always ideal for doing practicum. You do not need the 100 hours of practicum to be with the same student you present in your application, but you should work with the student for a sufficient time to show progress through the scope and sequence. It is recommended that you complete least 40 lessons with the practicum student that you choose to submit.

- **FAQ: At what level should be student be?**

Age is not as important as level. A practicum student at the Associate level should be at the early stages of instruction.

This means that they are working on grapheme-phoneme correspondences, some beginning spelling patterns and perhaps some syllable work.

- **FAQ: Will I be certified after I finish the practicum? or are there additional requirements?**

Upon completion of the practicum and all coursework requirements, trainees are invited to submit their application package to the Academy. Each level has different requirements. Trainees are encouraged to create an account on the Academy website to view the current requirements for applying for certification.

Each submitted application is reviewed by a panel of Academy Fellows to determine if the criteria have been met. If an application is not accepted, the Academy will give the applicant feedback about the reason(s) and invite the trainee to apply again once the requirements have been met.

- **FAQ: I live far away from my Fellow. Can I do a long-distance supervised practicum?**

Long-distance practicums using real-time video conferencing are possible when a trainee lives too far for an in-person visit.

** NOTE: During COVID, all practicum supervision is being done using video conferencing.*

There may be situations where trainees need to work with students remotely.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTANCE SUPERVISION:

The trainee is required to have access to high-speed internet, a camera, monitor, speakers, and a microphone. Most people find a laptop is sufficient. Using the ZOOM platform, the Fellow joins the session and interacts with the trainee and student.

Under certain circumstances, trainees may video and upload the unedited lesson for review.

Trainees must be able to scan and upload documents.

Please go to funlearning.ca for more information or to register for training.