

Appendix C-1

Assessment of Clinical Competence (ACC) – Speech-Language Pathology

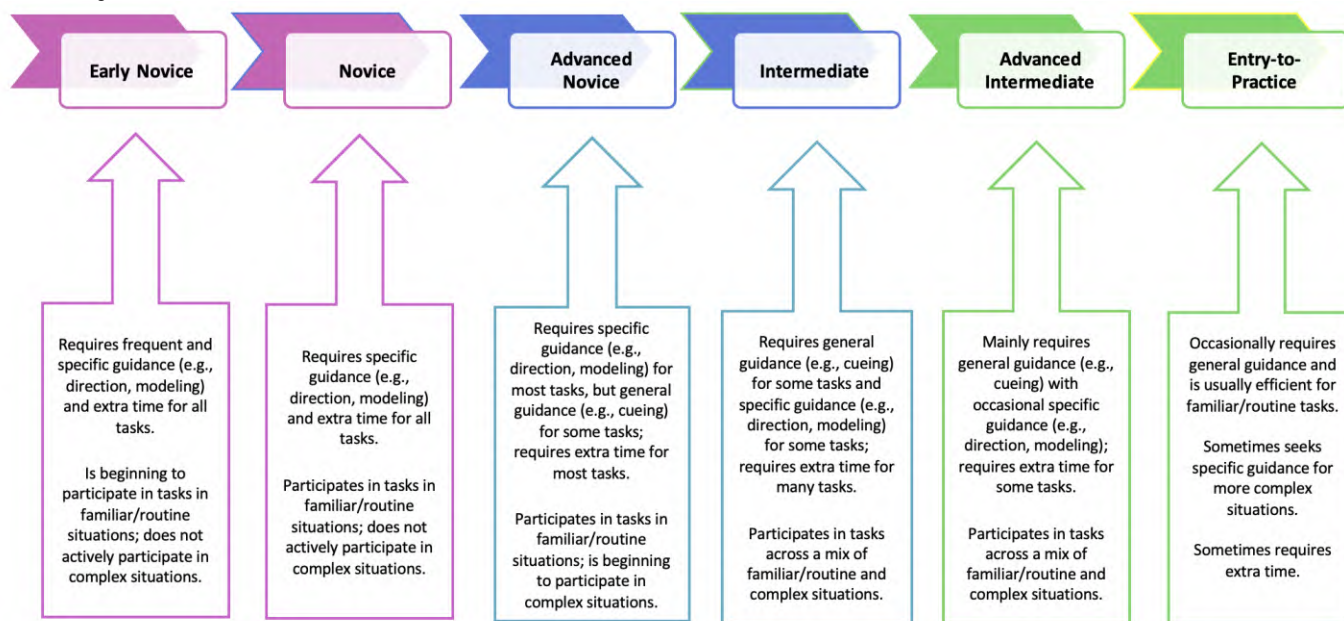
School of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Faculty of Health

Dalhousie University

Student Name				
Clinical Education Name(s)				
Dates of Practicum				
Practicum Site				
City/Town & Province				
Practicum Level	Fall Practicum	Winter Practicum	Internship	Externship
Population(s)	☐ Infant/toddler ☐ Adult	☐ Preschool-age ☐ Geriatric	☐ School-age ☐ Other:	☐ Adolescent
Setting(s)	☐ Hospital ☐ Clinic	☐ School ☐ Private practice	☐ Childcare centres ☐ Other:	☐ Client homes
Service(s)	☐ Inpatients ☐ Individual therapy	☐ Outpatients ☐ Group therapy	☐ Consultation ☐ Other:	☐ Parent/caregiver coaching
Clinical Area(s)	☐ Language ☐ Dysphagia	☐ Speech ☐ Fluency	☐ Voice/resonance ☐ Other:	☐ Social communication

ACC Rating Scale



A rating of **UNSATISFACTORY** is available for the rare students experiencing significant difficulty even for familiar/routine cases and with specific direction. These are students who demonstrate little to no evidence of self-reflection or insight into strengths and weaknesses, seeking knowledge or support, basic reasoning, and/or applying prior learning.

*Note for Clinical Educators: Please review the ACC Instructions and professional development materials before completing the ACC tool.

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- 1. ROLE OF EXPERT:** Speech-language pathologists apply their knowledge of the development and disorders of communication, as well as feeding and swallowing, together with their assessment and intervention skills to provide professional, client-centred care to individuals across the lifespan. This role is central to the function of speech-language pathologists.

1.1 KNOWLEDGE EXPERT

	By the end of Fall Practicum	By the end of Winter Practicum	By the end of Internship	By the end of Externship
ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE EXPERT Rating Expectations	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Entry to Practice

1.1.a. Applies profession-specific knowledge to prevent, identify and manage communication disorders and feeding and swallowing disorders.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

1.1.b. Applies basic knowledge from relevant fields (e.g., audiology, physiology, psychology) to guide decisions in regards to communication and feeding and swallowing.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

1.1.c. Uses evidence and clinical reasoning to guide professional decisions.

- Critically appraises research and other available evidence to inform clinical practice.
- Applies clinical reasoning skills to clinical practice.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Role of Knowledge Expert Midterm Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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Role of Knowledge Expert Final Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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1.2 CLINICAL EXPERT: ASSESSMENT

	By the end of Fall Practicum	By the end of Winter Practicum	By the end of Internship	By the end of Externship
ROLE OF CLINICAL EXPERT: ASSESSMENT Rating Expectations	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Entry to Practice

1.2.a. Identifies individuals requiring speech-language pathology services.

- Collects and reviews information from relevant sources (e.g., referrals, reports, consultation) to determine an individual's need for a speech-language pathology assessment.
- Engages in screening programs (e.g., infant, school-aged, feeding and swallowing) to identify individuals requiring speech-language pathology services.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

1.2.b. Plans an assessment.

- Collects and analyzes pertinent information prior to the assessment, including intake information and previous reports.
- Formulates hypotheses regarding the nature of the client's communication and/or feeding and swallowing abilities and needs.
- Selects appropriate tools, strategies and resources that will address the unique needs of the client (e.g., multilingualism, hearing impairment, attention).

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

1.2.c. Conducts an assessment.

- Organizes the environment for optimal interaction.
- Conducts a clinical interview with the client and other relevant individuals.
- Administers valid, accurate and reliable assessment measures and/or procedures (quantitative and/or qualitative), as appropriate.
- Demonstrates flexibility and creativity in adapting to unexpected circumstances.
- Actively listens to, observes and documents all components of communication and/or feeding and swallowing.
- Manages behaviours within the assessment session.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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1.2.d. Analyzes and interprets assessment results.

- Scores and interprets standardized tests according to test protocols.
- Analyzes formal, informal, quantitative and qualitative assessment results.
- Formulates conclusions regarding the client's diagnosis, prognosis, abilities, resources and needs.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

1.2.e. Develops and shares recommendations based on assessment results.

- Develops evidence-informed recommendations, including potential referrals to other professionals, based on the assessment findings.
- Discusses the assessment results, recommendations and implications with the client and other relevant individuals.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Role of Clinical Expert – Assessment Midterm Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

Role of Clinical Expert – Assessment Final Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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1.3 CLINICAL EXPERT: INTERVENTION

	By the end of Fall Practicum	By the end of Winter Practicum	By the end of Internship	By the end of Externship
ROLE OF CLINICAL EXPERT: INTERVENTION Rating Expectations	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Entry to Practice

1.3.a. Develops a realistic, evidence-informed and measurable intervention plan.

- Establishes and prioritizes long-term intervention goals that reflect the client's strengths, needs, values, expectations and constraints.
- Develops specific, measurable, realistic, time-limited, short-term goals to reach the functional long-term intervention goals.
- Selects direct and/or indirect service delivery model(s), as appropriate.
- Determines the resources and timelines required for the intervention.
- Develops activities and outcome measures that align with the client's goals.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

1.3.b. Implements an intervention plan.

- Organizes the environment for optional interaction.
- Conducts the intervention using the appropriate modalities, materials and technologies, modifying as appropriate.
- Demonstrates flexibility and creativity in adapting to unexpected circumstances.
- Measures and records the client's response to intervention.
- Manages behaviours within the intervention session.
- Provides appropriate feedback and modelling to the client.
- Provides the client, family and/or significant others with education, support, training and counselling, relating to communication, feeding and/or swallowing.
- Refers to other healthcare or educational professionals, as required.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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1.3.c. Monitors, adapts and/or redesigns an intervention plan based on the client's responses and needs.

- Evaluates the outcomes of the intervention on an ongoing basis.
- Modifies the goals and/or intervention approach, as appropriate and in consultation with the client.
- Discontinues the intervention, as appropriate, and plans for transition to other services, as needed.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

1.3.d. Provides training, tasks and feedback to support personnel to meet the clinical objectives, as appropriate to the jurisdiction, clinical activity and individual competencies.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Role of Clinical Expert – Intervention Midterm Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

Role of Clinical Expert – Intervention Final Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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2. ROLE OF COMMUNICATOR: Speech-language pathologists facilitate the therapeutic relationship and exchanges that occur before, during, and after each encounter. The competencies of this role are essential for establishing rapport and trust, sharing information, developing a mutual understanding and facilitating a shared plan of client-centred care.

	By the end of Fall Practicum	By the end of Winter Practicum	By the end of Internship	By the end of Externship
ROLE OF COMMUNICATOR Rating Expectations	Novice	Advanced Novice	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice

2.a. Communicates respectfully and effectively using appropriate modalities.

- Uses language appropriate to the client and context, taking into account all aspects of diversity (e.g., age, culture, gender identification, linguistic abilities, education level, cognitive abilities, emotional state).
- Demonstrates active listening skills.
- Relates comfortably and in a socially appropriate manner with others.
- Adapts communication in response to verbal and nonverbal cues from communication partners.
- Communicates in all professional contexts in a positive, clear, concise and grammatically acceptable manner.
- Communicates in a respectful manner, demonstrating empathy and openness.
- Employs environmental and communication strategies to minimize barriers to successful communication, including the use of appropriate modes of communication (e.g., oral, non-verbal, written, sign, electronic) and by using translators/interpreters, as required.
- Participates respectfully in challenging conversations.
- Effectively receives and provides feedback (e.g., clinical educators, peers, clients, team members).

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2.b. Completes documentation thoroughly and accurately, in a timely manner.

- Accurately documents informed consent, services provided and outcomes.
- Ensures reports clearly integrate results, client input, analysis, recommendations, goals and outcomes, in a manner understandable to the target audience(s).
- Documents in all professional contexts in a clear, concise, organized and grammatically acceptable manner.
- Completes and disseminates documentation in a timely manner.
- Complies with regulatory, legislative and facility requirements related to documentation.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Role of Communicator Midterm Comments:

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Strengths	Areas for Development

Role of Communicator Final Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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3. ROLE OF COLLABORATOR: Speech-language pathologists seek out and develop opportunities to work effectively with other professionals, the client and their family, caregiver, significant others and/or the community to achieve optimal client-centred care, as well as continuity of care when clients change providers and/or caregivers.

	By the end of Fall Practicum	By the end of Winter Practicum	By the end of Internship	By the end of Externship
ROLE OF COLLABORATOR Rating Expectations	Novice	Advanced Novice	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice

3.a. Establishes and maintains effective team collaborations to optimize client outcomes.

- Interacts effectively and positively with all team members, including clinical educator.
- Communicates own professional roles, responsibilities and scope of practice in collaborative interactions.
- Recognizes and respects the roles and perspectives of other professionals.
- Participates actively and respectfully in shared responsibilities and decision-making.
- Manages misunderstandings, limitations and conflicts to enhance collaborative practice.
- Facilitates transfer of care within and across professions

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3.b. Demonstrates client-centred practice.

- Engages and supports the client in identifying concerns, priorities, values, beliefs, assumptions, expectations and desires in order to inform assessment and intervention.
- Demonstrates respect for the client's rights, dignity, uniqueness and equal opportunity.
- Considers the client's personal, social, educational and vocational contexts.
- Promotes and supports the client's (or substitute decision maker's) participation in decision-making.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Role of Collaborator Midterm Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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Role of Collaborator Final Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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4. ROLE OF ADVOCATE: Speech-language pathologists use their expertise to advance the health and well-being of a client by assisting them to navigate the healthcare or educational system and access support and resources in a timely manner. Speech-language pathologists also use their expertise to advance the profession and educate others about communication and feeding and swallowing.

	By the end of Fall Practicum	By the end of Winter Practicum	By the end of Internship	By the end of Externship
ROLE OF ADVOCATE Rating Expectations	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Entry to Practice

4.a. Enables the client to identify and address the barriers that impede or prevent access to services and resources, according to the client's goals.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

4.b. Shares professional knowledge with others.

- Promotes the value of the profession.
- Identifies the need for education related to speech-language pathology services.
- Plans and delivers prevention, promotion and education programs and activities related to communication and/or feeding and swallowing disorders.

	Not Applicable	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Role of Advocate Midterm Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

Role of Advocate Final Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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5. ROLE OF SCHOLAR: Speech-language pathologists demonstrate a lifelong commitment to professional learning and self-reflection, as well as to the creation, dissemination, application and translation of current evidence-informed knowledge related to the profession of speech-language pathology.

	By the end of Fall Practicum	By the end of Winter Practicum	By the end of Internship	By the end of Externship
ROLE OF SCHOLAR Rating Expectations	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Entry to Practice	Entry to Practice

5.a. Maintains currency of professional knowledge and performance in order to provide optimal care.

- Identifies own professional strengths and areas for development.
- Determines own goals for competency development.
- Develops a plan and implements strategies for continued development in all seven competency roles.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Role of Scholar Midterm Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

Role of Scholar Final Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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6. ROLE OF MANAGER: Speech-language pathologists are integral participants in decisions relating to the service provided to clients in the healthcare or educational system. The decision process may involve co-workers, resources and organizational tasks.

	By the end of Fall Practicum	By the end of Winter Practicum	By the end of Internship	By the end of Externship
ROLE OF MANAGER Rating Expectations	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Entry to Practice

6.a. Manages the clinical setting.

- Balances competing demands to manage time, caseload, resources and priorities.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the structure, funding and function of speech-language pathology services within the organization and broader health and education system.
- Applies appropriate precautions, risk management and infection control measures, as required.
- Ensures equipment, materials, instruments and devices are regularly calibrated, up to date and in good working condition, according to the required standards.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Role of Manager Midterm Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

Role of Manager Final Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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7. ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL: Speech-language pathologists are guided by a code of ethics, professional standards, regulatory requirements and a commitment to clinical competence in the service they provide to their clients.

	By the end of Fall Practicum	By the end of Winter Practicum	By the end of Internship	By the end of Externship
ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL Rating Expectations	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Entry to Practice	Entry to Practice

7.a. Maintains professional demeanour in all clinical interactions and settings.

- Maintains confidentiality (e.g., follows consent procedures to share information with other parties).
- Demonstrates professionalism in managing conflict.
- Maintains personal and professional boundaries in relationships with clients, colleagues and other professionals.
- Displays a positive, professional image (e.g., follows dress code).
- Demonstrates professionalism in all communications, including those involving electronic platforms.
- Demonstrates responsible, reliable behaviour and accountability for actions and decisions.
- Recognizes and responds appropriately to the inherent power differential in the relationship between the client and the student-clinician.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

7.b. Practices ethically.

- Adheres to professional code of ethics, as defined within the jurisdiction.
- Obtains informed consent.
- Recognizes and uses critical judgment to respond to ethical issues encountered in practice.
- Recognizes and uses critical judgment to respond to actual or perceived conflicts of interest.
- Demonstrates honesty and integrity and acts in the best interests of the client.
- Identifies and mitigates own biases, as they relate to the care of a client.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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7.c. Adheres to professional standards and regulatory requirements.

- Stays informed of and complies with professional standards and regulatory and legislative requirements within one's jurisdiction.
- Practices within the profession's scope of practice and own personal capabilities.
- Adheres to site and university standards and requirements.

	Unsatisfactory	Early Novice	Novice	Advanced Novice	Intermediate	Advanced Intermediate	Entry to Practice
Midterm	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Final	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Role of Professional Midterm Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

Role of Professional Final Comments:

Strengths	Areas for Development

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Strengths:

Areas for Improvement/Skills to Work On:

Objectives/Goals for Next Practicum:

Clinical Educator(s) Signature:

Student Signature:

Date: