



Practicum Information Packet

This packet contains the following documents:

- Practicum Application
- Practicum Agreement
- Permission Form for Practicum Students
- Teaching/Tutoring Record
- Guidelines for Video Observation Submission



Practicum Application

As part of The Blosser Center's mission, we provide training for individuals interested and dedicated to becoming qualified in the Orton-Gillingham tutoring approach. Acceptance to the Blosser Center's practicum is based on a recommendation from the Fellow who conducted your coursework. If you wish to complete your practicum with the Blosser Center, please complete the form below. Your completed form can be submitted to the Blosser Center via email: info@theblossercenter.org.

Name () Phone

Address

City/State/Zip E-mail

Training Fellow's Name () Phone

Email

Please confirm the following:

- I understand that the Blosser Center will reach out to the Fellow who provided the coursework training to request a recommendation as to practicum placement.
- I have read all assigned course readings and prepared all assigned reading summaries.
- I have attached a copy of the course syllabus and my Certificate of Completion to this application.
- I have read and understand the Blosser Center's Best Practices for Abuse/Molestation Avoidance.
- I understand that placement in the practicum is contingent upon successful completion of a Background Check.

Trainee's signature Date



Practicum Agreement

Your practicum gives you an opportunity to put into practice all that you have learned during your training. A practicum supervised under the guidance of Academy of Orton-Gillingham certified members is essential to becoming a member of the Academy, and to develop your skills as a tutor. As you work with your students, you will learn and grow along with them.

Specific details outlining what is involved in fulfilling your practicum can be found on the Academy's website: www.ortonacademy.org. In order to attain membership to the Academy, you will need to closely follow these guidelines. One of the most important considerations is selecting appropriate students to work with. There can be many factors that contribute to reading difficulties. To maximize the benefit of your practicum, your students should be primarily dyslexic. Our Fellow and our Clinical Supervisor can consult with you to determine which students would be the best candidates for your practicum.

Classroom Educator Practicum:

- The Classroom Educator practicum is based on small group or classroom instruction, as approved by the Fellow.
- Your practicum is required to extend over a period of at least eight consecutive months, for a minimum of 50 hours.
- You will be expected to teach a minimum of two complete lessons a week. A complete lesson should get through all lesson components, and be 40 to 60 minutes in length. Under approval of a Fellow, two 30-minute sessions may be substituted for one regular session.
- You are required to have five observations of a complete lesson (or ten 30-minute lessons).
 - Two complete lessons (or four 30-minute lessons) must be observed by our Fellow and submitted by video.
 - The remaining observations may be done by our Clinical Supervisor, who can observe you by video and may be available to observe you in-person*, in the greater Portland area. **Due to COVID-19 all in-person observations are suspended at this time.*
 - Constructive feedback of each observation is both oral and written. It is best to allow 30 minutes after your observation to meet and discuss the lesson. Video observation consultations will be done via phone by appointment.



Associate Practicum:

- The Associate practicum is typically based on one-on-one instruction, but can also include small group instruction, as outlined below.
- To get the most out of your practicum it's best to work with two practicum students at a time, at different skill levels.
- The Associate practicum extends over a period of at least eight consecutive months, for a minimum of 100 hours.
- During your practicum, you will be expected to teach a minimum of two complete lessons a week. A complete lesson is expected to cover all lesson components, and be 40 to 60 minutes in length.
- There are two options for the Associate level practicum.
 - Option A requires 100 hours of teaching, in a one-on-one student to teacher situation.
 - Option B requires 50 hours of one-on-one instruction, and 50 hours of small group or classroom instruction, as approved by the Fellow.
- A minimum of ten observations of complete lessons will be required to apply to the Academy.
 - A minimum of three observations must be done by our Fellow and submitted by video.
 - The remaining observations may be done by our Clinical Supervisor, who can observe you by video and may be available to observe you in-person*, in the greater Portland area. **Due to COVID-19 all in-person observations are suspended at this time.*
 - Constructive feedback of each observation is both oral and written. It is best to allow 30 minutes after your observation to meet and discuss the lesson. Video observation consultations will be done via phone, by appointment.

There is a fee of \$175 to be paid for each of your observations, which must be submitted to the Blosser Center **before** your observation occurs. A copy of the lesson plan, student work and readings must accompany your video observation submission. A separate copy of your lesson plan and student readings also need to be available when your observer comes in-person.

You will need to have passed the Blosser Center's criminal background check prior to beginning your practicum.



Please consult the AOGPE Practicum Guidelines for additional information, sign and date this form, and send a copy to the Blosser Center, at: info@theblossercenter.org. Please feel free to contact us with any questions that you have.

We are here to support you! We look forward to working with you as you fulfill your practicum and complete the requirements to become a Classroom Educator or Associate member of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators.

I would like to participate in the following practicum (select one):

- Classroom Educator
- Associate, Option A
- Associate, Option B

I, _____ (print name), have read this Practicum Agreement and agree to the terms as stated.

Trainee's signature

Date



Permission Form for Training Practicum

Date: _____

To the Parents of: _____
Student's Name

Tutor Trainee's Name

Your student has been selected to participate in a tutor and educator training program supervised by The Blosser Center for Dyslexia Resources. A skilled intern trainee will teach your student one-to-one or in small groups, under the supervision of a Certified Training Fellow, using strict guidelines set forth by the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators (AOGPE).

The practicum is an important part of training for tutors and other educators hoping to become fully certified by the AOGPE. It permits trainees to refine and perfect their practical techniques in instructing reading, writing, and spelling skills after their extensive classroom work. The practicum is closely supervised by an experienced Training Fellow and her assistants.

The Training Fellow, Fellows-In-Training, and Clinical Supervisors are required to periodically observe and guide each intern during the practicum, and to review lesson plans, assessments, reports and conferences. We require your permission to test your child, review and discuss your child's sessions, files, testing and reports, and to observe your child periodically via video or in person during actual literacy tutoring sessions.

Videos of your child's sessions with the teacher/tutor trainee are used to evaluate the trainee's performance and to ensure that the trainee's application of the Orton-Gillingham approach meets the standards set forth by the AOGPE. They do not reflect on your child's performance, just that of the trainee, and will be viewed only by the training staff. Some video recordings may be selected for inclusion in a library of example lessons, for educator training and professional development purposes. These videos would be retained and viewed by tutor/educator trainees during their classroom work.

If you grant permission for your child to participate in this program, you will receive further information from our office. **If you have any additional questions you may contact the Blosser Center at (503) 234-4060 or <mailto:info@theblossercenter.org>.**

We look forward to helping your child achieve success!

I give my permission for my child to participate in the Orton-Gillingham Training Practicum Program. I give permission to the tutor/educator trainee to discuss and review my child's sessions, files, testing and reports with the Training Fellow and Training Staff. I give permission for my child to be observed via video or in person periodically during practicum sessions.

My child's video recorded observations may be retained and used for the purpose of professional development and educational planning.

Student Name: _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Legal Guardian Name (Please Print) Relationship to Child

Legal Guardian Signature Legal Guardian Phone

Please return this completed form to The Blosser Center for Dyslexia Resources.

Mail: PO Box 18082, Portland, OR 97218

Email: info@theblossercenter.org

VIDEO OBSERVATION SUBMISSIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- For the Associate training practicum, a minimum of three observations will need to be video recorded and uploaded to our video server.
- For the Classroom Educator training practicum, a minimum of two observations will need to be video recorded and uploaded to our video server.
- If you are in the Portland metropolitan area, the remaining observations (seven for Associate practicum, three for Classroom Educator practicum) may be able to be done in person with one of our training examiners. Outside of the metro area, all of your observations will need to be recorded and uploaded.
 - Please note: Due to COVID-19 in-person observations are **not possible** at this time.
- A video of an **individual 1-on-1 lesson** must be a minimum of 40 minutes, covering all Review sections of a lesson and a New Concept/Focus Review. Try not to exceed 60 minutes.
- A video of a **group or classroom lesson** may be EITHER a single 40 to 60-minute lesson, covering all Review sections of a lesson and a New Concept/Focus Review, OR two consecutive 30 minute lessons where one lesson is a Review and the other is teaching a New Concept/Focus Review.

SUBMISSION LINK:

[Blosser Center Observations Multiple File Upload](#)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Before you upload, please name the video with a filename that includes:

- Observation number
- Your name
- Date of observation
 - Example: Observation 1, Name, 2-13-19.mov

You **MUST** name the video file **BEFORE** uploading – you cannot rename a file once you have uploaded it.

VIDEO REQUIREMENTS:

1. Videos must be unedited, start-to-finish recordings of the lesson. **WARNING:** Many phone cameras do **NOT** have enough memory for a continuous recording of the entire lesson. If in doubt, use a different camera. Segmented videos **WILL NOT** be accepted.

2. If your recorder or recording software allows, display the time and date stamp on the recording during the entire lesson.
3. If the recorder or recording software has file size/resolution/quality options, please pick a setting in the middle of the range, neither too low nor too high definition. LP resolution or 480p quality is usually sufficient. File upload sizes around 500 megabytes to 1 gigabyte for a 60-minute lesson are most desirable. Files of 2 gigabytes or larger should be discussed with The Blosser Center before uploading.
4. Choose a camera angle that allows the reviewer to see the student's face, the tutor's face, the pencil grip, and the words the student is reading and writing. If the student is right-handed, the camera should be on the student's left, and vice versa.
5. At the start of the recording, state the date, student's first name (with last initial, if necessary), and lesson number.
6. You must also submit a **copy** of your lesson plan with diagnostic notes and all student work, labeled with their first name and date of lesson – see guidelines below.

LESSON DOCUMENTS REQUIREMENTS:

1. Include the full lesson plan for the recorded lesson:
 - image or scan *before* diagnostic notes and image or scan *after* diagnostic notes.
2. Lesson Plan **MUST INCLUDE** Tutor Name, Student Name (First Name with/without Last Initial **only**), Date, Lesson Number and Observation Number.
3. Photo or scan of the student's UPDATED Tutoring Record.
4. Photos or scans of student worksheets should be included.
 - Each worksheet should be labeled with student (first) name and date.
 - Lesson number and/or Observation number should be written on each sheet.
5. Best practice is to sequentially number the worksheets so it is easy for the reviewer to follow while watching the lesson.
6. Document files should be clearly named (see examples below) and uploaded in corresponding observation folder. Please use the same upload location as the videos (link given above).
7. Before you upload, please name the document(s) with a filename that includes:
 - Observation number
 - Your name
 - Date of observation
 - Type of document
 1. Example: Observation 1, Name, 2-13-19, Type.pdf