



College of  
**Speech and Hearing**  
Health Professionals of BC

---

Regulator of Audiologists, Hearing Instrument  
Practitioners and Speech-Language Pathologists

# GUIDELINE HEARING INSTRUMENT DISPENSING

*ENTERING THE PROFESSION*

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide information and options to assist you in your path to entering the profession and becoming a Registered Hearing Instrument Practitioner (RHIP) in British Columbia. If you are currently practicing as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner in another jurisdiction, please refer to the College [Bylaws](#) section 71.

This profession is regulated under the provisions of the [Health Professions Act](#) and the [Regulation](#) for Audiologists, Hearing Instrument Practitioners, and Speech-Language Pathologists. You are urged to become familiar with this Act, Regulation, and the [Bylaws](#) of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC (the “College”).

## 1. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

You must have successfully completed **EITHER**:

- a. One of the following two-year diploma courses in hearing instrument dispensing recognized by the College:

**Conestoga College**  
Kitchener, ON  
[Hearing Instrument Specialist Program](#)

**Collège Rosemont**  
Montreal, QC  
[Audioprothèse](#)

**Douglas College<sup>1</sup> (pending approval)**  
Coquitlam, BC  
[Hearing Instrument Practitioner Program](#)  
*\*By distance education*

**Grant MacEwan University**  
Edmonton, AB  
[Hearing Aid Practitioner Program](#)  
*\*By distance education*

**George Brown College**  
Toronto, ON  
[Hearing Instrument Specialist Program](#)

---

<sup>1</sup> Please be advised, the Douglas College program (first intake: Fall 2017) has not yet been recognized or approved by the

[OR]

- b. An accredited master’s degree in audiology such as the UBC Masters Degree program in [Audiology & Speech Sciences](#) (see also graduate programs offered by University of Western Ontario, University of Ottawa, University of Montreal, and Dalhousie University);

[OR]

- c. Another diploma or graduate program that meets the approval of the College’s Registration Committee. Please contact the College to enquire about whether a particular program meets the College’s registration requirements @ [registration@cshhpbcc.org](mailto:registration@cshhpbcc.org).

## 2. STUDENT-HIP PRACTICUM SUPERVISION

You must **first** secure a practicum supervisor to submit your application as a Student-HIP to the College. Application forms are available on our website: [Student-HIP Application Form](#).

As a Student-HIPs, you must own or have access to the minimum equipment for the practice of the profession as required by the Registration Committee.

To qualify as your supervisor, the individual must be an Active registrant with the College as a Registered Hearing Instrument Practitioner (RHIP), and in active practice in British Columbia for a minimum of two years.

Your supervisor must provide the necessary clinical setting to the Student-HIPs s/he supervises if they are to sign-off on Student Declarations and Work Plan objectives, and may supervise a maximum of two Student-HIPs concurrently. Supervisors and Student-HIPs must be located at the same place of business, with the exception noted under ‘general supervision’ (see below).

College. This is expected to be finalized before the Fall 2018 intake.

As a Student-HIP, you must inform the Registrar in advance of any proposed change in supervisor or work location during your practicum period.

You **must** complete 660 supervised hours within 12 consecutive months from the date of Student-HIP application acceptance. Practicum hours commence once you have been approved as a Student-HIP.

- **Close Supervision**

During the first 330 practicum hours, you may provide clinical services, but always under direct, onsite supervision. During this phase, you must practice under close supervision, with the supervisor on site 100% of the time. The supervisor must co-sign your written reports, audiograms, and verification measures. As a Student-HIP, you may **not** provide services to clients in the supervisor's absence from the clinic.

- **General Supervision**

During the final 330 practicum hours, your supervisor will provide general supervision; that is, the supervisor monitors the actions performed by you, co-signs your written reports, audiograms, and verification measures. The supervisor must also be available for case discussions and will review case files at least weekly. You may provide services to clients on occasions when the supervisor is not in the clinic, provided the supervisor is available for consultation via telephone or electronic means, provided the supervisor is present in the clinic at least 60% of the time you are providing clinical services.

Upon completion of your practicum hours requirement, you and your supervisor must complete the [Work Plan – Declaration form](#), attesting to the completion of your practicum hours, and submit it to the College at: [enquiries@cshhpbcc.org](mailto:enquiries@cshhpbcc.org)

### 3. EXAMINATIONS

- **IHS Written Examination**

Although a majority of Student-HIPs choose to sit for the IHS written examination upon completion of their practicum hours requirement, you may

write the written examination at any time after you have been approved as a Student-HIP.

The written examination was developed by the International Hearing Society (IHS). It is an objective, multiple choice examination comprised of 5 scales which are based on the 5 core areas of competency.

Please advise the College when you decide to sit for the written examination. At that time, your name and email address will be provided to IHS who will then contact you to arrange for the web-based examination. You must pay them directly for the cost of the written exam which is currently \$225 US. You will be notified of your results within 7-10 days of the examination date. You must pass the written examination to be eligible to take the College practical exam. If you do not pass the written examination on your first attempt, you may be granted up to a maximum number of three attempts to pass.

- *There are 9 testing centers in British Columbia to take the IHS written examination:*

**Academy of Learning Career College (Nanaimo)**  
1551 Estevan Road, Suite 7  
Nanaimo, BC

**Academy of Learning Career College (Victoria)**  
204 - 1111 Blanshard Street  
Victoria, BC

**Academy of Learning Career College (Kamloops)**  
699 Victoria Street  
Kamloops, BC

**Academy of Learning Career College (Kelowna)**  
1740 Gordon Drive, Suite 101  
Kelowna, BC

**Ashton College Testing Centre**  
1190 Melville Street, Suite 410  
Vancouver, BC

### **British Columbia Institute of Technology (Burnaby)**

3700 Willingdon Avenue  
NE1, Room 292  
Burnaby, BC

### **British Columbia Institute of Technology (Richmond)**

3800 Cessna Drive, ATC Campus Room 334A  
Richmond, BC

### **Vancouver Island University**

900 Fifth Street  
Building 180, Room 248  
Nanaimo, BC

### **Winston College**

1176 Eighth Avenue  
New Westminster, BC

#### ▪ **CSHHPBC Practical Examination**

The College's practical exam is scheduled in the Spring and Fall and takes place in the Lower Mainland (Langley, BC).

You must make your own travel arrangements and arrange to bring a volunteer to act as your test subject. The fee for the practical exam is \$350 payable to the College two weeks prior to the date of the examination. If you pass, you are entitled to register with the College as an Active Registrant.

#### **4. FEES**

*Summary of fees (Canadian dollars except where noted) as per the schedule of fees on the Student-HIP Application Form:*

- Application Fee: **\$225**
- Written Examination Fee: **\$225 (USD)**
- Practical Examination Fee: **\$350**
- Registration Fee: **\$600\***
- Criminal Record Check Fee: **\$28**

***\*Pro-rated quarterly based on the registration year:  
April 1 ~ March 31.***

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia**

630 – 999 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 1K5  
Tel: 604.568.1568  
Fax: 604.568.1566  
[www.cshhpbcc.org](http://www.cshhpbcc.org)  
[enquiries@csbhpbcc.org](mailto:enquiries@csbhpbcc.org)