

OGA Associate Level Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Is there homework during the training?

- Yes. Trainees can expect to complete 1-2 hours of nightly homework. This is a graduate-level course.

What are the requirements for the practicum student?

- The Practicum Student does not need a dyslexia diagnosis, but a diagnosis is preferred.
- The Practicum Student should not have multiple co-occurring diagnoses such as language impairment, Autism Spectrum Disorder, severe ADHD, or primary emotional/behavioral issues. Dyslexia or reading/spelling/writing concerns should be the primary diagnosis/concern.
- The Practicum Student cannot be younger than 1st grade.
 - A minimum age of 7 at the start of the practicum
- The Practicum Student needs to be a beginning reader. The student should not enter the practicum reading age-appropriate text accurately or fluently.
- The Practicum Student is ideally between 1st-4th grade; older students often (but not always) require more advanced training than the Associate level course provides.

Do all my practicum hours have to be with the same student?

- While it is strongly encouraged that all hours are with the same student, from time to time, students leave. If this is the case, another student may be selected to work with. A minimum of 33 hours is required to be with the Practicum Student.

Do I have to complete the practicum within the year after coursework?

- No. The minimum consecutive time of the Practicum work must be 8 months. The trainee must begin the Practicum within 2-4 months of completing training. Otherwise, they will need significant review and may need to audit the course when it is next offered.
- The trainee may take more than a year to complete the Practicum. If the Practicum exceeds 2 years, the trainee will need to include reasons for the delay in their application to the Academy.

What does the Practicum entail?

- 100+ hours working with a 1:1 student
- 1 practicum hour = 1 lesson with a student at a **minimum** of 40 minutes in length, ideally 45-60 minutes
- A minimum of 10 observations with the same Practicum Student (See above)

- Completing the Associate level readings and writing short summaries for each ($\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ page double-spaced per reading)
- Completing two written assignments outlined further during the course
 - 1. The Student Profile - a document that explains the Practicum Student's educational history, summary of formal and informal testing, strengths, and challenges, as well as a summary of lessons with the student and a description of the Student's learning needs given their profile and lessons with the trainee
 - 2. The Annotated Lesson - a document the trainee writes after delivering a lesson that explains the particular lesson's procedures, error correction processes, justification for words chosen, demonstration of diagnostic/prescriptive planning based on the previous lesson, and plans for the following lesson - this happens after the trainee knows the Student well and has had 40+ lessons with the student
- When does the practicum start? Can I begin working with my student during training and count those hours?
 - The trainee's first practicum hour logged is their first lesson with their approved practicum student. A trainee may already be working with a student during training, but the hours will not count towards practicum until the training is fully completed.

How do observations work?

- The trainee video records a lesson with their student and then sends the recording to the Fellow or assigned Fellow-in-Training for review. The trainee also sends associated lesson materials, including all student work, so the Fellow/FIT can see what the student worked on during the lesson.
- Once the Fellow/FIT has reviewed the lesson (within 10 work days of having received it), the Fellow/FIT will send written feedback and schedule a follow-up meeting with the trainee.