



GUIDELINES

ENTERING THE PROFESSION AS A REGISTERED HEARING INSTRUMENT PRACTITIONER

WELCOME TO THE PROFESSION OF HEARING INSTRUMENT DISPENSING

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 (HIP) in British Columbia. If you are currently practicing as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner in another Canadian jurisdiction, please refer to the College [Bylaws](#), section 71.

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

I Educational Requirements

You must have successfully completed a recognized diploma program approved by the Registration Committee of the College. These include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. A diploma from one of the 2- or 3-year Canadian diploma programs in hearing aid dispensing:
 - a. **Grant MacEwan University, Edmonton, AB**
Hearing Aid Practitioner Diploma Program
www.macewan.ca/hearingaid. (2-3 year diploma course/distance education program);

- b. **George Brown College, Toronto, ON**
Hearing Instrument Specialist Program
www.gbrownc.on.ca;

- c. **Conestoga College, Kitchener, ON**
Hearing Instrument Specialist Program
www.conestogac.on.ca;

- d. **Rosemont College, Montreal, QC**

2. An accredited master’s degree in audiology such as the UBC Graduate Degree program in Audiology and Speech Sciences www.ubc.ca (BSc prerequisite). Other graduate programs are offered by: Western University, University of Ottawa, University of Montreal, and Dalhousie University.
3. Other diploma or graduate programs must first meet the approval of the Registration Committee. Please contact the College to first determine if such a course meets the requirements: info@cshhpb.org

II Practicum Supervision

You must **first** secure a practicum supervisor in order to submit your application as a HIP student to the College. Application forms are available on our website:

<http://www.cshhpb.org/applicationprocess.htm>

Your supervisor must be a licensed/registered HIP in good standing in British Columbia for at least two years and may not supervise more than two students at any one time. You must be in the same location as your supervisor during your practicum training.

The number of supervised practicum hours is 660, consisting of 330 hours of close supervision and 330 hours of general supervision. Once these hours have been attained, you must complete a [Student Declaration](#) form with your supervisor and submit this to the College: info@cshhpbcc.org. You will then be entitled to register for the **written exam**. Upon successful completion of the written exam, you will then be entitled to take the **practical exam**. You must continue to practice under general supervision until you pass the practical exam, at which time you will be granted an Active certificate of registration.

Note: You cannot write either of the exams until you have completed your practicum hours and the College has received the Student Declaration form signed by both you and your supervisor.

III Character Reference Letters

To submit your application, arrange to have two character reference letters sent directly to the College from the author. Your character referee should have known you for at least two years, not be family-related, not stand to benefit from your application, and be someone who can attest to your values, morals, and conduct.

IV Written and Practical Exams

Written exams are web-based and available throughout the year; practical exams are offered at least twice a year (Spring and Fall). The proposed dates for the practical exams are posted on the website.

The written exam is developed by the *International Institute for Hearing Instrument Studies* (IIHIS). It is an objective, multiple choice exam comprised of five scales which are based on the 5 core areas of competency. When you have completed your practicum hours, you may then submit the [Student Declaration](#) signed by you and your supervisor to the College. At that time your name and email address will be provided to IIHIS who will then contact you to arrange for the web-based exam. 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 from sitting the exam. You must pass the written exam

to be eligible to take the practical exam. If you do not pass the written exam, 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 written exam:

Lower Mainland

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

British Columbia Institute of Technology
3700 Willingdon Avenue,
NE1, Room 292
Burnaby, BC

British Columbia Institute of Technology
3800 Cessna Drive,
ATC Campus Room 334A
Richmond, BC

Winston College
1176 Eighth Avenue
New Westminster, BC

Vancouver Island

Academy of Learning College
1551 Estevan Road, Suite 7
Nanaimo, BC

Academy of Learning College
#204-1111 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC

Vancouver Island University
900 Fifth Street,
Building 180, Room 248
Nanaimo, BC

Interior

Academy of Learning

699 Victoria Street
Kamloops, BC

Academy of Learning

1740 Gordon Drive, Suite 101
Kelowna, BC

The practical exam is scheduled in the Spring and Fall and takes place in the Lower Mainland. 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 exam. Upon successful completion of the practical exam and payment of the registration fee, you will be granted an Active certification of registration and thus can practice independently.

V Fees

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

<i>Application Fee:</i>	\$225
<i>Written Exam Fee:</i>	\$225 (USD)
<i>Practical Exam Fee:</i>	\$350
<i>Registration Fee:</i>	\$600 (pro-rated*)
<i>Criminal Check Fee:</i>	\$28

**NOTE: Pro-rated quarterly based on the registration year, April 1st to March 31st.*