



College of Speech and  
Hearing Health Professionals  
of British Columbia

REGISTRATION 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 in Canada, please refer to the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC (the “College”) Bylaws section 71.

This profession is regulated under the provisions of the [Health Professions Act](#) and the [Speech and Hearing Health Professionals Regulation](#). You are urged to become familiar with the Act, Regulation, and College [Bylaws](#).

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

You must have successfully completed **EITHER**:

One of the following 2-year diploma courses in hearing instrument dispensing recognized by the College:

### Conestoga College

Kitchener, ON

[Hearing Instrument Specialist Program](#)

### Douglas College

Coquitlam, BC

[Hearing Instrument Practitioner Program](#)

### George Brown College

Toronto, ON

[Hearing Instrument Specialist Program](#)

### Grant MacEwan University<sup>1</sup>

Edmonton, AB

[Hearing Aid Practitioner Program](#)

### Collège Rosemont

Montreal, QC

[Audioprothèse](#)

### Cégep de La Pocatière

La Pocatière, QC

[Audioprothèse](#)

### Humber College

Toronto, ON

[Hearing Instrument Specialist Program<sup>1</sup>](#)

## OR

An accredited master’s degree in audiology – for example, the UBC graduate degree program in [Audiology & Speech Sciences](#) (see also graduate degree programs offered by Western University, University of Ottawa, University of Montreal, and Dalhousie University);

## OR

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

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<sup>1</sup> By distance education.

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## RHIP (CONDITIONAL) PRACTICUM SUPERVISION

You **must first secure a practicum supervisor** as part of your RHIP (Conditional) application by downloading and completing the [Proposed RHIP \(Conditional\) Practicum Supervisor \(FORM 8\)](#) from the College website.

As a Conditional RHIP, 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, an individual must be a Full registrant with the College as a Registered Hearing Instrument Practitioner (RHIP), and in active practice in British Columbia for a minimum of 2 years.

Your supervisor must provide the necessary clinical setting if they are to sign-off on Student Declarations & Work Plan objectives and **may supervise a maximum of 2 RHIP (Conditional) registrants concurrently**. Supervisors and RHIP (Conditional) registrants must be located at the same place of business, with the exception noted under 'general supervision' (see below).

As a Conditional RHIP, 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 your RHIP (Conditional) application is approved by the College. Practicum hours only commence once you have been approved as a RHIP (Conditional).

### **CONSTANT 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 constant supervision, with the supervisor on site 100% of the time. The supervisor must co-sign your written reports, audiograms, and verification measures. As a RHIP (Conditional), you may not provide services to clients in the supervisor's absence from the clinic.

### **CLOSE & GENERAL Supervision**

**During the final 330 practicum hours**, your supervisor will provide a 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, and provided the supervisor is present in the clinic at least 60% (close supervision, 200 hours) of the time you are providing clinical services.

Upon completion of your practicum hours requirement, you and your supervisor must complete the [Supervised Clinical Practicum Hours \(HIP\)](#), attesting to the completion of your practicum hours, and submit it to the College at: [enquiries@shbc.ca](mailto:enquiries@shbc.ca).

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## EXAMINATIONS

### ***IHS Written Exam***

Although a majority of RHIP (Conditional) registrants choose to sit for the International Hearing Society's (IHS) ILE written examination (the "IHS Written Exam") upon completion of their practicum hours requirement, you may write the written examination at any time after you have been granted registration under the RHIP (Conditional) registration classification.

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

Please notify 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 examination. 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 2 more sittings (i.e., a maximum of 3 attempts to pass).

There are 9 testing centers in British Columbia to take the IHS Written Exam:

**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

### ***CSHBC Practical Exam***

The College's Hearing Instrument Dispensing (HIP) Practical examination (the "CSHBC Practical Exam") is scheduled twice annually (Spring and Fall) and takes place at Douglas College, Coquitlam Campus.



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 \$950 CDN 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 a Full registrant.

## FEES

For information on current fees, refer to [Schedule A – Schedule of Fees](#) or contact the College.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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