



## Montana OPI Special Education: SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY TRAINEESHIP

**To apply, a potential candidate must meet the following basic criteria:**

- a. Must be a legal Montana resident.
- b. Must be admitted to the Master of Science Speech Language Pathology Degree at the University of Montana.

**Potential candidates to the Speech Language Pathology Traineeship:**

1. A potential candidate will engage in an intake call with the Project Director to discuss the project in depth. OPI SLP Traineeship application are only available from the Project Director post-intake conversation with the candidate sign off indicating understanding of the program parameters.
2. A completed OPI SLP Traineeship application must be submitted at the beginning of Year 1 in a potential candidate's educational program. Applications are NOT accepted in Year 2 of a potential candidate's educational program.
3. Upon acceptance to the SLP Traineeship, a stipend candidate is eligible for **tuition assistance of up to \$4,500** per fiscal year of the 2-year program (\$9,000 maximum in total) for allowable expenses. Allowable expenses only include tuition and/or books. The funds are awarded annually (maximum of \$4,500 per year) on a 'use it or lose it basis.' No left-over funds can be transferred to the next year.
4. Upon admittance to the SLP Traineeship, the stipend is paid at the end of each academic semester after submitting the required reimbursement paperwork.
5. SLP Traineeship candidate must maintain all standards of academics expected of them from the University and the program.
6. A candidate admitted to the SLP Traineeship stipend program is under legal contract with the Montana Office of Public Instruction for a period of 5 years.
7. Upon completion of the University program, stipend candidates are expected to provide two years of service payback to any public Montana K-12 system or Special Education Cooperative as a Speech Language Pathologist. After successful completion of the Montana OPI contract requirements over the 5 years, the candidate is released from their contract with the Montana OPI.
7. The stipend dollars are taxable income on both the state and federal levels. All successful stipend candidates will receive a 1099 statement for tax filing purposes. Tax debt is not a reimbursable expense for the SLP Traineeship. Successful stipend candidates are solely responsible for any personal income tax debt they may incur because of this stipend program.
8. Failure to successfully complete the OPI contract requirements results in default status on said contract. The stipend candidate will be required to pay the Montana OPI back the total amount spent on their behalf in a non-interest-bearing loan.

For further information, contact Annette Vicedo Young at [ayoung3@mt.gov](mailto:ayoung3@mt.gov) or 406-444-0299.