

Volunteer or Paid Work Outside of Clinical Practicum with Clienteles within the S-LP Scope of Practice

According to Quebec law, only registered 'regular' members of the OOAQ can use the title Speech-Language Pathologist (S-LP)/Orthophoniste and perform the reserved activities* associated with this title. Student members can only perform the reserved activities while on practicum and under the supervision of an accredited S-LP, regular member of the OOAQ. Outside of mandatory practicum associated to a specific course within the MScA program, reserved activities cannot be performed at all even if an accredited S-LP, member of the OOAQ, offers to 'supervise' the volunteer or paid employee.

The School of Communication Sciences and Disorders has no objection to students engaging in volunteer or paid work with clients potentially presenting with communication, learning, or swallowing disorders while they are registered as trainees in degree programs in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. However, students are legally prohibited from performing reserved activities associated with the title Speech-Language Pathologist when they are not on practicum. Students must also be cognizant of the fact that, while engaging in volunteer or paid work, their title is not 'S-LP student', but may be 'volunteer' or 'employee'. Students cannot promise better results than another person from the general population would get. Students who would engage in reserved activities outside of practicum may forfeit their ability to obtain a license to work as a Speech-Language Pathologist later on, should any complaints be filed against them.

For further information, please refer to the OOAQ and SAC's Code of Ethics:

- OOAQ: <http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cr/C-26,%20r.%20184>;
- SAC: https://www.sac-oac.ca/sites/default/files/resources/2016_sac_Code_of_Ethics_en.pdf.

***RESERVED ACTIVITIES UNDER THE QUEBEC LEGISLATION:**

C-26 PROFESSIONAL CODE (<http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/C-26>)

37.1. Every member of one of the following professional orders may engage in the following professional activities, which are reserved to such members within the scope of the activities they may engage in under section 37:

- (2) the Ordre professionnel des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec:
- (c) make a functional assessment of a person where required under an Act;
 - (d) assess language, speech and voice disorders in order to determine an orthophonic treatment and intervention plan;
 - (e) assess a handicapped student or a student with a social maladjustment with a view to formulating an individualized education plan in accordance with the Education Act; and
 - (f) assess a child not yet admissible to preschool education who shows signs of developmental delay, in order to determine the adjustment and rehabilitation services required;

In summary, only regular members of the OOAQ are considered Speech-Language Pathologists in Quebec and can assess language, speech and voice disorders with the intent of coming up with goals for the client. While, legally, anybody can apply a treatment plan and perform intervention activities, only an S-LP can decide on the goals following an assessment and readjust the plan as the client evolves.