



# The Fellow Journal

Winter 2015

Vol. 4

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2015 is here and this year we are celebrating the Academy's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday! In 20 years, we have grown to over 1,000 members. Much has changed in the fields of neuroscience and reading to inform and validate our work. Remaining true to our heritage and our mission, we continue to establish and maintain professional and ethical standards for educators and practitioners of the Orton-Gillingham Approach to the treatment of dyslexia. The purpose of the Journal is to disseminate information from our Board of Trustees and committees (especially Certifying, Standards, and Accreditation committees) to you, our Fellows. We want to hear from you: your concerns, your questions, and your suggestions. Our Editors will always keep your identity confidential. We will answer your email as soon as possible, and if we are unable to publish your email, we will contact you with accurate information from the appropriate chairperson or board member. Please email the Editors at [FellowJournal@OrtonAcademy.org](mailto:FellowJournal@OrtonAcademy.org). We look forward to hearing from you and working together to continue providing professional excellence in our field.



*The purpose of the Academy is to establish and maintain the highest professional standards for practice of the Orton-Gillingham Approach. We certify practitioners and accredit practitioner training programs and student instructional programs that use the Approach to address the language-based learning difficulties associated with dyslexia. The Academy is also active in professional development and public awareness.*



# Changes & Clarifications from the Standards & Accreditation Committees

## The Curriculum Handbook & Clinical Supervisor Guidelines

- **Classroom Educator Teaching Requirement for the Practicum**
  - *NEW:* In situations, where the Classroom Educator trainee must work in thirty-minute time blocks, s/he may conduct instruction in four thirty-minute sessions rather than three forty-minute sessions.
- **Associate Member Supervision**
  - In the “promotional/advertising contexts” section of the Warranty Associate Member form it states, “I will describe myself as ‘Orton-Gillingham-trained at the Academy Associate Level, continuing to work under the supervision of a Fellow.’”
  - *NEW:* The wording will be changed from “under the supervision of a Fellow...” to “under the mentorship of a Fellow...”
- **Clinical Supervisor**
  - Clinical Supervisor Guidelines 4/2014 (posted on the Academy’s website, Member section)
    - The Clinical Supervisor (CS) assists a Fellow with training by helping in the supervision of trainees’ practice teaching sessions. In carrying out her/his functions, a CS is directly responsible to the Fellow and is expected to follow the instructional protocol set by the Fellow. A CS serves at the will of the Fellow.
    - Requirements: A person may qualify as CS if she/he is 1) currently a member of the Academy at the Certified Level and has been for at least 2 years, and 2) is judged by the Fellow as having the professional knowledge and practice experience required to carry out the functions of a CS.
    - Practicum Observations: Subject to the direction of the Fellow, the CS may be assigned as many as 7 of the 10 practice teachings sessions required of trainees pursuing the Associate or Certified tracks. Trainees in the Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator track are to be observed only by a Fellow or Fellow-in-Training.

- The requirements state that the Clinical Supervisor must have a minimum of 2 years experience as a Certified level practitioner.
    - **NEW:** However, a Fellow may appeal the 2-year requirement to the Certifying Committee, if an individual's experience and competence are exceptional.
  - Note: The Clinical Supervisor may not conduct observations of the Classroom Educator trainees.
  - Remember to register your Clinical Supervisor with our office, by completing and sending in the application form found in the Member section of our website.
- **Fellow-in-Training** (Curriculum Handbook)
    - Observations
      - “Up to eight of ... [10] observations may be performed by a Fellow-in-Training or a Clinical Supervisor who is working under the direction of the Supervising Fellow. (p. 25)
      - **NEW:** The Fellow-in-Training may conduct 7 of the required 10 observations of trainees at the Certified (p. 25)
      - **NEW:** They may also do 3 of the 5 observations for the Classroom Educator.
    - Clarification of the meaning of Fellow-In-Training Supervision
      - Fellow-in-Training Curriculum Guidelines (p. 38) state, “The Fellow-in-Training is not yet accredited to perform training independently, and must teach under the direct supervision of the Fellow throughout all training.”
      - **NEW:** Direct supervision means close monitoring of the Fellow-in-Training in all components of the process *until* the Fellow-in-Training has reached competency as determined by the Supervising Fellow. This clarification will be added to the Curriculum Handbook and included in the Handbook glossary.
  - **Principal Training Fellow and Supervising Training Fellow**
    - The distinction between the terms Principal Training Fellow and Supervising Training Fellow as defined on page 5 of the Curriculum Handbook was considered.
      - **NEW:** The result was that the two terms remain unchanged, and after each definition, there will be an asterisk. Below the definitions will be the sentence, “In some cases the Principal Trainer and the Supervising Fellow are the same individual.”



- **Accredited Training Fellow**

- *NEW:* The Principal Training Fellow at an Accredited Academy training site will now qualify for the status of Accredited Training Fellow upon leaving their training position.

*All of the above changes and updates will be made to the Handbook Curriculum and Clinical Supervisor Guideline documents on our website over the next 2 months.*



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## News from the Board of Trustees

**The Academy Website:** <http://ortonacademy.org/>

- Coming soon: The names of the Board of Trustees will be posted on our website
- Our Electronic Winter 2015 Newsletter is out. If you didn't receive it, you can download it and any other previous editions from our website.
- Doing any training? List your training course free on our website. Contact our office with all the pertinent information about your course and they will post it on our website.
- Have You Logged into the Member Section on the AOGPE Website Yet?
  - Your username is your certificate number, and your password is your last name in lower case letters. Your certificate number begins with the letter of your certification, followed by a zero, and then the rest of your number.
  - Email the Academy office: [info@ortonacademy.org](mailto:info@ortonacademy.org) if you are having trouble logging in.
  - This password-protected area will allow you to access the following information: past copies of the Newsletter and Fellow Journal, The Curriculum Handbook with update highlights, Accredited Training Fellow description and application, and the Clinical Supervisor description and application. You will also be able to verify your own contact information and find other Academy members' contact information when searching by

name, membership level, or state.

- Coming soon to the Member Section Fellow page:
  - The Academy's Bylaws
  - The Academy's Committee Roster

*Join us for the Fellow Luncheon on April 24<sup>th</sup> at our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in White Plains, NY. There will also be a Fellow session strand and workshop.*

## Our 1<sup>st</sup> Fellow Webinar

- The first Fellow's Webinar occurred on October 23, 2014 on the Classroom Educator. The panel included: Peggy Price, Deb Foster Morris, Dawn Nieman, and Norma Jean McHugh. There were over seventy attendees from many states viewing the webinar: Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Vermont, as well as Canada.
- If you missed it, you can view the Fellow Webinar in the Member section of our website.

## AOGPE is on Facebook

- Visit us at the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. Remember to click the Like button.
- Friends of AOGPE



- This page is now open to the any one who would like to stay in touch with the Academy and share current information regarding dyslexia.
- All posts must be related to the AOGPE's interests and not to other organizations or other affiliations.

## We are on TWITTER!

- Tweet us @AOGPE



## Amazon SMILE!

- The Academy is registered as an eligible charity organization with Amazon Smile. The next time you buy anything from Amazon.com use Amazon Smile, and Amazon will donate .5% of the price of your purchases to the Academy.
- Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and choose the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators as your charity. Thank you for your support!



## Fellow Survey

- Our various committees want to hear from you about Training, Certified Training, Technology, Tutoring, Accreditation, Communication & Networking, and the Fellow Seminar. When the Survey is emailed to you, please complete it by February 28, 2015.
  - The results will be shared at the Fellow Workshop on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, session 3-H, 3-4:30pm, at our Spring Conference in White Plains, NY on April 24-25<sup>th</sup>. See you there!