

## **Call for Training Participants in Special Education Clinical Professions**

The Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre through the Special Education and Training Institute is inviting applications for the following training programs in Special Education Clinical Professions in the areas of:

- 1. Speech Language Pathology (SLP)** , a course-based master's program of training which is designed to develop competencies in the prevention, evaluation, treatment and management of articulation, language, fluency, voice and resonance disorders. The program will also focus on the fundamental practices of audiology which is concerned with the identification, assessment, and rehabilitation of individuals with hearing disorders. However, this program does not qualify students to work as audiologists. The program is designed to provide students with the academic and clinical education required for SLP certification by provincial and national professional associations. Graduates from the program will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of learning principles; normal processes of speech, hearing and language; factors and conditions which cause and perpetuate disorders of speech, hearing, and language; and theoretical and methodological issues in the rehabilitation of communicative disorders in children and adults.

*University Entrance Requirements for the Master's Degree in SLP:*

- Four year Undergraduate degree with a minimum 3.3 GPA in last 60 credit hours
- Graduate Record Examination (G.R.E.)
- Pre-requisite courses

**Note: this program will be delivered on a full time basis.**

- 2. Occupational Therapist (OT)** is a dynamic and growing profession that promotes the health and well-being of individuals, groups, and communities. Fundamental to the profession of Occupational Therapy is the concept of occupation. Occupation is everything people do to occupy themselves, such as caring for oneself or others, being productive at home, work or school, and enjoying life. Occupational Therapists are Education professionals who enable individuals, groups, or communities to lead more productive, satisfying and independent lives. Occupational Therapists have the skills to overcome the barriers that interfere with a person's ability to do the activities that are important to them. These problems may be a result of injury, disease, social disadvantage, or the environment.

*University Entrance Requirements for the Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy:*

- Three or Four year Undergraduate degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA in last 60 credit hours
- Pre-requisite courses

**Note: this program will be delivered on a full time basis.**

3. Please note that the Reading Clinician Training Program has been broadened to encompass a:

**Masters of Inclusive Education in Language and Literacy**

**Program Information:** The majority of referrals to First Nations special education programs arise from remedial literacy related learning challenges amongst First Nations students. The Special Education Literacy Coach works with and designs interventions to assist remedial and special needs learners in school and home settings.

This innovative program, which will accept 20 students, will require prospective students to register with the faculty of graduate studies by January 8, 2017. The program, which will begin May 2017, is part time graduate program of study using blended delivery methods. This program is designed to:

- build First Nations capacity at the community level regarding remedial and special education related literacy development,
- using innovative design and course content, address the remedial and multi leveled learning needs in First Nations schools,
- train special education literacy coaches who will assist schools and educators to facilitate language and literacy development of First Nations remedial and special education learners,
- be inclusive of building on the development of oral and land based literacies within First Nations learners,
- be respectful of the Truth and Reconciliation Plan of Action,
- provide strategies for addressing gaps in family and community remedial and special education literacy needs within First Nations schools,
- build skills to enable coaching of classroom teachers to address the diverse learning needs pertaining to remedial and special education literacy within the classroom,
- build upon strengths within First Nations such as oral literacy skills, storytelling, land based literacy skills,
- focus on first language literacy skills to support immersion and fluency programming as it relates to remedial learning intervention,
- recognize the unique issues for First Nations students who are learning English as an additional language,
- provide effective diagnostic and remedial techniques for language arts development from a First Nations perspective.

Goals of the program:

1. To prepare First Nations educators with the skills and competencies to become special education/remedial literacy coaches.
2. To assist First Nations schools in addressing the high remedial literacy issues within special education within First Nations schools.
3. To build linkages, partnerships and cross curricular approaches and solutions to literacy challenges within First Nations education in Manitoba.

The Special Education Training Initiatives is pleased to be working with the Faculty of Education Departments of Inclusive Special Education, Language and Literacy, and Teaching English as an Additional Language in the development and delivery of this unique and innovative Masters of Education Degree in Inclusion, Language and Literacy.

Additional Information on this program:

1. 30 credit hours of graduate work which allows for thesis or course based practicum route.
2. Supports addressing Indigenous language loss, the unique issues related to language and literacy acquisition for First Nations learners.
3. Promotes First Nations language revitalization.
4. Creates literacy coaches within Special Education.
5. Creates opportunities for research and critical analysis in this field of practice within First Nations education.

Entrance requirements:

1. Bachelor of Education Degree
2. Minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 credit hours
3. Admission to Faculty of Graduate Studies
4. 2 years of related teaching experience within a First Nation context
5. 2 letters of reference
6. Evidence of work experience

**Note: this program will be delivered on a part time basis.**

#### **4. School Psychologist**

A School Psychologist practices assessment, intervention, and consultation to help improve the educational and overall life experiences of children who struggle with learning, social or emotional difficulties including trouble with attention, self-awareness, and other areas of difficulty. School Psychologists work in schools, private practice settings, and educational support organizations and provide direct services to students along with consultative services to teachers and families to support children.

*University of Manitoba (Full Time Program) Entrance Requirements:*

- All students applying for a Master's degree program must have attained a minimum GPA of 3.0 (B or equivalent) in the last two full years (60 credit hours) of study
- Four-year Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree (or equivalent)
- CV/Resume
- Statement of Intent
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- 2 Letters of Recommendation

**Note: this program will be delivered on a full time basis.**

*University of Calgary (Part Time Program) Entrance Requirements:*

- All students applying for a Master's degree program must have attained a minimum GPA of 3.0 (B or equivalent) in the last two full years (60 credit hours) of study

- *Four-year Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree (or equivalent)*
- *CV/Resume*
- *Statement of Intent*
- *2 Letters of Recommendation*
- *10 Pre-requisite courses at the upper-level undergraduate psychology or educational psychology.*

**Note: this program will be delivered on a part time basis.**

**Final Selection of candidates will be determined through an interview process. The interview committee will be comprised of the Special Education Working Group. The SEWG is comprised of 2 Education Directors from the north and 2 Education Directors from the south and representatives from MFNERC.**

**Chosen candidates for the training programs will:**

- Sign a service agreement to provide clinical services to Manitoba First Nations communities through the MFNERC,
- Be a Manitoba First Nations citizen (documentation may be required),
- Be willing to relocate, and
- Be able to begin taking prerequisites starting January 2017; some students will be required to complete the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) by December 15, 2017.

**Supports Offered to Selected Candidates**

- Living allowance for full-time students
- Costs for tuition and books and materials
- Relocation costs
- Supplemental costs will be available upon request
- Financial support for completion of the pre-requisite component.

**Start Date: January 1, 2017**  
**Deadline for Applications: November 10, 2016**

Selected applicants must complete all prerequisite courses to the program of selection and satisfy the entry requirements of the graduate studies program.

Prerequisite courses will begin January 2017 and must be completed by December 2017.

Please include in your application:

- Letter of interest
- Resume
- A minimum of two letters of recommendation
- Most recent post-secondary transcript

Applications must specify the program of interest.

**For more information please contact**  
**Derek Courchene at 1-866-319-4857; 204-594-1290, extension 2047**  
**email [derekc@mfnerc.com](mailto:derekc@mfnerc.com)**