

ORPAS: Activity Submissions

Speech Language Pathology, Audiology, and Western PT programs require activity submissions as well. Let's discuss how to make the most of the space you have to include activities and experiences relevant to the professions.

The Volunteer experience section is similar to a resume. Use the "Add Volunteer Experience" button to make entries. A maximum of 8 entries (per category) is allowed. The two categories are: "Volunteer experience in SLP or AUD" and "Other volunteer Experiences". This screen will display your entries and provide links to "Change" or "Delete" for each entry. Entries will be automatically sorted chronologically (most recent first) within each category.

Note, it does not specifically state how recent your experiences should be; however, use common sense. Only include something from high school if it is extremely relevant.

For the "Volunteer Experience in SLP/AUD" category, these experiences must be under the supervision of a registered SLP/AUD; applicants can include paid experiences (not just volunteer) if they were supervised by a registered SLP or Audiologist.

For the "Other Volunteer Experiences" category, these experiences could include summer camp, working with special needs kids, etc., Anything where transferable communication, problem solving, and interpersonal skills were used with a diverse population - but not experiences with a registered SLP or Audiologist.

For the Experiences, Awards and Scholarships for Western PT there is a maximum of 4 activities you can enter for each category. You can include paid work, job shadowing, patient experiences, volunteer research and co-op. For non-PT experiences there is also a maximum of 4 activities in this category. You can show evidence of involvement and leadership in increasing the wellbeing of individuals, groups and society with these activity submissions.

You are provided with 150 characters, including spaces, to describe your actions in the role. This is also true for the Awards and Accomplishments category, so provide some context for the award (for example: awarded for cGPA >80%).

This is what the Volunteer Experiences screen looks like. There are 49 characters under "Volunteer Experience Description" for you to write your role title and the organization. You can write more detail when you add the experience, or by clicking "change".

Under "activities" you can add details about your experience. Similar to writing a concise bullet point on your resume, you can use the same formula to write a few short bullet points. Each point can be separated by a semi-colon for this section of your application.

The only differences for the PT volunteer experiences are: instead of "Site Population" it states: "Type of patient/client population", and instead of "Activities" it states: "Type of duties/responsibilities/roles".

In the activities text box, you only have 150 characters, including spaces. Use the space wisely.

Action verbs are the first step to concisely writing your bullet points. You don't have much space to write and admissions committees will not assume what you have done, or what you have to offer. It is important to provide clear concise points, and you don't need to use articles like "a", "an", or "the", so

save the space! You will be evaluated on all parts of your submission so use present tense if you are still completing an activity and past tense if it is done.

Use a strong verb that demonstrates the skill you were using (for example: Prepared, Observed, or Created). Verbs like “helped” “assisted” or saying “responsible for” don’t say very much and certainly don’t prove that you were using any type of skill. You can find more examples of strong action verbs in the Self-Marketing: Resume writing section.

After you have selected a strong action verb – include the details of what you did, and HOW you did it!

Here are a couple of examples:

“Observed treatment between SLP & children with oral motor disorders; Identified & played games with children to increase social emotional development”. This used 149/150 characters.

“Supervised preschool students w/ disabilities; Collaborated w/ teacher/OT/SLP regarding learning objectives; Responded to individual student needs ”. This used 146/150 characters.

So to recap, note that we started each new bullet point with a capital letter. We separated each point with a semicolon and we didn’t use articles such as “the” or “a”. We also used the symbol for “and” which is called an ampersand.

It will be important to have volunteer and extracurricular activities in your application to show your maturity, reliability, and how you can use your transferable skills.

Some volunteer opportunities in the Kitchener-Waterloo area include Kidsability: there are a couple of locations in the regions of Waterloo, Kitchener, Guelph, Fergus, and Cambridge.

In addition, Morneau Shepell Children Support Solutions in the Toronto and Aurora area have many opportunities to volunteer with diverse populations.

The KW Volunteer Action Centre is also a great resource to find volunteer opportunities relative to the experience you need.

Speak Your Mind is a private pediatric therapy clinic that provides speech and language services in Kitchener. This is a great place for any prospective SLP applicants.

Strong Start has programming opportunities for children to help them acquire literacy skills.