

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
MUNICIPAL
REGULATIONS
for
AUDIOLOGY**

CHAPTER 78 AUDIOLOGY

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7800 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 7800.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a license to practice audiology.
- 7800.2 Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules), 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures), and 101 (Audiology Assistants) of this title shall supplement this chapter.

7801 TERM OF LICENSE

- 7801.1 Subject to subsection 7801.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at midnight of December 31 of each even-numbered year.
- 7801.2 The Director may change the renewal system and the expiration dates of licenses issued pursuant to this chapter pursuant to subsection 4006.3.

7802 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

- 7802.1 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an applicant for a license to practice audiology shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:
- (a) Graduated with a Master's degree or a Doctoral degree (Ph.D. or Au.D.) in audiology from a recognized educational institution whose audiology program is accredited by the Council on Academic

Accreditation in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology, an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education, or an equivalent accrediting body as determined by the Board;

- (b) Passed a qualifying examination that meets the requirements set forth in section 7806; and
- (c) Completed a period of supervised experience that meets the requirements set forth in section 7803.

7803 SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

7803.1 In order to satisfy the supervised experience requirement of subsection 7802.1(c) a person must meet one (1) of the following standards:

- (a) The person shall have completed the equivalent of a clinical fellowship with a minimum of one thousand eight hundred twenty (1820) hours of clinical practice under general supervision while a candidate for an Au.D. degree; or
- (b) Each of the following:
 - (1) The person shall have graduated with a Master's degree or Ph.D. degree meeting the requirements set forth in section 7802.1(a) before the start of the supervised experience; and
 - (2) The person shall have commenced a clinical fellowship, meeting the time period/works hours and supervised activities standards set forth in subsections 7803.2 and 7803.3, within two (2) years after the date of conferral of the Master's or Ph.D. degree and shall have completed the clinical fellowship within three and a half (3½) years after the date of the conferral of the degree; provided, the Board may extend the period required for completion of the clinical fellowship for good cause shown.

7803.2 To meet the clinical fellowship time period and work hours requirement referenced in subsection 7803.1(b)(2), the applicant shall be employed, with or without direct compensation, as a professional in the field of audiology under general supervision for any of the following time periods and hours:

- (a) Thirty (30) hours of work per week for a period of nine (9) months;
- (b) Twenty five (25) to twenty-nine (29) hours of work per week for a period of twelve (12) months;

- (c) Twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) hours of work per week for a period of fifteen (15) months; or
- (d) Fifteen (15) to nineteen (19) hours of work per week for a period of eighteen (18) months.

7803.3 To meet the clinical fellowship supervised activities requirement referenced in subsection 7803.1(b)(2):

- (a) At least eighty percent (80%) of the supervisee's supervised experience shall be in direct client contact, which includes the following:
 - (1) Assessment, diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment;
 - (2) Screening;
 - (3) Habilitation and rehabilitation; and
 - (4) Activities related to case management.
- (b) The remaining percentage of the supervisee's supervised experience shall be comprised of supervised activities such as writing, research, or planning.
- (c) The activities during the supervised experience shall consist of the following:
 - (1) Conducting evaluations and treatment procedures;
 - (2) Interpreting test results;
 - (3) Determining case selections;
 - (4) Designing treatment programs;
 - (5) Collecting data and documenting performance;
 - (6) Maintaining clinical records;
 - (7) Providing written or oral reports (progress notes, diagnostic reports) regarding clients' statuses;
 - (8) Making referrals; and

- (9) Participating in case conferences.

- 7803.4 An individual serving as a supervisor for the supervised experience requirement shall:
- (a) Hold either a District of Columbia license in audiology, a license issued by another jurisdiction with requirements substantially similar to the licensure requirements in the District, or, for states that do not require licensure, a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association in audiology or a board certification from the American Board of Audiology;
 - (b) Have been in practice for a minimum of two (2) years after his or her licensure or certification;
 - (c) Not supervise more than three (3) individuals at one (1) time;
 - (d) Not have been disciplined by a board within the previous five (5) years; and
 - (e) Provide a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours of supervisory activities during the supervised experience, including a minimum of two (2) hours of monitoring activities, each month.
- 7803.5 An individual serving as a supervisor in the District shall be legally responsible for services provided by the supervisee.
- 7803.6 An applicant shall demonstrate that he or she has met the requirements of subsections 7803.2-7803.3 by submitting with his or her application a signed statement from each supervisor who supervised the applicant during the required period of experience. Each statement shall set forth the following:
- (a) The number of hours per week of the applicant's practice of audiology;
 - (b) The number of hours of general supervision of the applicant;
 - (c) The specific nature of, and responsibilities included in, the applicant's practice;
 - (d) A rating of the applicant's performance;
 - (e) The location at which, and period(s) of time during which, the supervision took place; and
 - (f) The license number and jurisdiction in which the supervisor was licensed during the supervised period or proof that the supervisor has a

Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association or board certification from the American Board of Audiology if the supervised experience took place in a state that does not require licensure of audiologists.

7803.7 The Board may accept successful completion of the clinical fellowship required for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Certificate of Clinical Competence or American Board of Audiology certification as meeting the requirements for supervised experience.

7804 WAIVER OF SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

7804.1 The Board may waive the supervised experience requirements for an applicant who:

- (a) Provides proof that he or she has been employed in the practice of audiology for at least ten (10) of the fifteen (15) years immediately preceding the effective date of this chapter;
- (b) Meets all other applicable requirements of this chapter; and
- (c) Applies within six (6) months of the effective date of these regulations.

7805 APPLICANTS EDUCATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

7805.1 The Board may grant a license to practice audiology to an applicant who completed an educational program in a college or university in a foreign country which was not accredited in accordance with section 7802 if the applicant:

- (a) Meets all requirements of this chapter except for § 7802.1(a); and
- (b) Demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant's education and training are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter and the Act by submitting the documentation required by § 7805.2 of this section and, if applicable, by submitting to an interview pursuant to § 7805.3.

7805.2 An applicant under this section shall, in lieu of meeting the requirements of subsection 7802.1(a), submit one (1) of the following:

- (a) Proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has received a Master's degree or higher from a foreign institution which was accredited, at the time the degree was conferred, by an accrediting

body recognized by the national government of the country in which the institution is located; or

- (b) A certification from a private education evaluation service approved by the Board that the applicant's foreign education is substantially equivalent to the education provided in an audiology program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology or an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Board.

7805.3 The Board may interview an applicant under this section to determine whether the applicant's education or training meets the requirements of the Act and this chapter.

7805.4 If a document required by this chapter is in a language other than English, an applicant shall arrange for its translation into English by a translation service acceptable to the Board and shall submit a translation signed by the translator attesting to its accuracy.

7806 LICENSE BY EXAMINATION

7806.1 To qualify for a license by examination, an applicant for a license to practice audiology shall submit proof of having obtained a passing score on the National Examination in Audiology (PRAXIS II: Subject Assessment in Audiology) as determined by the Education Testing Service (ETS), and shall meet one (1) of the following requirements:

- (a) The score was obtained within the five (5) years before the date of the application for licensure; or
- (b) Each of the following:
 - (1) The score was obtained more than five (5) years before the date of the application for licensure;
 - (2) The applicant submits proof that he or she has practiced audiology for at least three (3) years of the five (5) years before the date of the application for licensure; and
 - (3) The applicant submits proof that he or she is certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or the American Board of Audiology or proof that the applicant obtained a passing score on the National Examination in Audiology.

7807 LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

7807.1 The Board may issue a license by endorsement to an audiologist who has a valid, unrestricted license in good standing from another jurisdiction of the United States with standards which are, as determined by the Board, substantially equivalent to the District of Columbia standards for licensure.

7808 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

7808.1 This section shall apply to applicants for a renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation of a license and shall not apply to applicants for an initial license or applicants seeking the renewal of a license for the first time after the initial grant of the license.

7808.2 To qualify for the renewal of a license, an applicant shall have completed, during the two (2)-year period preceding the date the license expires, twenty (20) hours of approved continuing education, which shall include the following:

- (a) One (1) hour of ethics;
- (b) Two (2) hours of LGBTQ continuing education; and
- (c) Ten percent (10%) of the total required continuing education shall be in the subjects determined by the Director as public health priorities of the District, which shall be duly published every five (5) years or as deemed appropriate.

7808.3 Notwithstanding the requirement of §§ 7808.2 and 7906.2 of chapter 79 of this title, an applicant for dual licensure renewal may qualify for the renewal of both licenses by completing thirty (30) hours of approved continuing education during the two (2) year-period preceding the date the licenses expire, which shall include:

- (a) One (1) hour of ethics;
- (b) Two (2) hours of LGBTQ continuing education;
- (c) Five (5) hours of each of the audiology and speech-language pathology disciplines; and
- (d) Ten percent (10%) of the total required continuing education shall be in the subjects determined by the Director as public health priorities

of the District, which shall be duly published every five (5) years or as deemed appropriate.

7808.4 To qualify for the reinstatement of a license, an applicant shall have completed twenty (20) hours of continuing education described in § 7808.2 during the two (2) years preceding the submission of the reinstatement application.

7808.5 To be eligible for the reactivation of a license in accordance with D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11(c), the following applicants shall be deemed to meet the requirement of D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11(c)(2):

- (a) An applicant who has been actively and lawfully practicing audiology in another jurisdiction or territory of the United States;
- (b) An applicant who has not been actively and lawfully practicing audiology in another jurisdiction or territory of the United States, seeks the reactivation of the license five (5) years or less after the last expiration of the license, and has completed twenty (20) hours of continuing education described in § 7808.2 during the two (2) years preceding the submission of the reactivation application; or
- (c) An applicant who has not been actively and lawfully practicing audiology in another jurisdiction or territory of the United States and seeks the reactivation of the license more than five (5) years after the last expiration of the license who can demonstrate his or her current competency to the Board's satisfaction.

7808.6 The Board may periodically conduct a random audit of at least ten percent (10%) of its active licensees to determine continuing education compliance. Any licensee selected for the audit shall provide proof of his or her continuing education compliance to the Board within thirty (30) days of receiving notification of the audit.

7809 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

7809.1 A continuing education hour shall be valid and granted credit only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board as a program or activity that contributes to the growth of professional competence in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, is current in its subject matter, and is developed and taught or conducted by qualified individual(s).

7809.2 Subject to § 7809.1, the Board may grant continuing education credit for programs or activities offered or sponsored by the following organizations:

- (a) The Speech-Language Hearing Association of the District of Columbia or similar speech-language hearing association of another state;
- (b) The American Academy of Audiology;
- (c) The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and its approved continuing education providers;
- (d) An accredited provider of The Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education of the American Medical Association offering Category I continuing medical education;
- (e) The International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) and its authorized providers;
- (f) A health care organization accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); or
- (g) The International Hearing Society.

7809.3 Subject to § 7809.1, the Board may grant continuing education credit for the following activities:

- (a) Attendance and completion of:
 - (1) A course given at an accredited college or university;
 - (2) A seminar or workshop;
 - (3) An educational program given at a conference; or
 - (4) An in-service training;
- (b) Serving as a presenter or speaker at a conference, seminar, workshop, or in-service training; or
- (c) Publishing an article related to audiology or speech-language pathology in a professional journal or authoring or co-authoring a book, a chapter in a book or a book review related to audiology or speech-language pathology.

7809.4 The Board shall not grant credit for work done in the course of a requestor's normal occupation or incident to the performance of his or her regular duties, such as teaching courses, research, or course preparation in the case of a teacher or professor.

- 7809.5 A requestor shall have the burden of verifying whether a program or activity is approved by the Board.
- 7809.6 Satisfactory proof of completion of a seminar, a workshop, or an educational program given at a conference or an in-service training shall include:
- (a) The name and address of the provider of the program;
 - (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;
 - (c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;
 - (d) The hours of credit claimed; and
 - (e) Verification by the course provider or accreditor of completion, which for a course provider shall be by signature or stamp, and for an accreditor shall be by an official transcript.

7810 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

- 7810.1 For the purposes of this chapter, one (1) continuing education hour shall mean sixty (60) minutes of learning time.
- 7810.2 The Board may grant ten (10) continuing education hours for completion of each credit hour of an academic course offered at an accredited college or university provided that the continuing education credit may only be granted for courses completed during the licensure cycle for which credit is claimed.
- 7810.3 The Board may grant two (2) continuing education hours for the audit of a three (3)-credit-hour academic course offered at an accredited college or university.
- 7810.4 A requestor may receive a maximum of six (6) continuing education hours for attendance and completion of in-service training programs.
- 7810.5 The Board may grant credit for serving as a presenter or speaker at a conference, seminar, workshop, or in- service training, subject to the following restrictions:
- (a) Hours granted pursuant to this section shall not exceed six (6) hours per licensure cycle;
 - (b) If a requestor has previously received credit in connection with a particular presentation, the Board shall not grant credit for a subsequent presentation unless it involves either a different subject or substantial additional research concerning the same subject;

- (c) The presentation was completed during the licensure cycle for which credit is claimed; and
- (d) The maximum amount of credit which may be granted for preparation time is twice the amount of the associated presentation time or twice the amount of contact hours awarded to the participants.

7810.6 The Board may grant credit for publication of an article related to audiology or speech-language pathology in a professional journal or publication of a book, a chapter in a book, or a book review related to audiology or speech-language pathology, subject to the following restrictions as relevant:

- (a) The Board may grant up to eight (8) continuing education hours per licensure cycle to the author or sole editor of a published book if the book was published or accepted for publication during the period for which credit is claimed;
- (b) The Board may grant four (4) continuing education hours per licensure cycle to the sole author or a co-author of a peer-reviewed, published original paper; or
- (c) The Board may grant one (1) continuing education hour per licensure cycle to the sole author of a published book review.

7811 SUPERVISION OF AUDIOLOGY ASSISTANTS

7811.1 An audiologist licensed under this chapter may qualify to supervise an audiology assistant only if he or she meets the requirements of § 10105.2.

7811.2 A supervising audiologist shall supervise audiology assistants in accordance with §§ 10105 and 10106.

7811.3 A supervising audiologist shall retain full professional and ethical responsibility for the professional conduct and performance of the audiology assistant and shall delegate duties only as commensurate with the training, experience, and ability of the audiology assistant and within the scope of lawful practice pursuant to chapter 101 of this title.

7811.4 A supervising audiologist shall ensure that an audiology assistant under his or her supervision is duly registered and authorized to practice.

7812 PRACTICE OF AUDIOLOGY BY GRADUATE STUDENTS

7812.1 A graduate student in audiology may practice audiology in the District if:

- (a) The practice is part of an audiology educational program; and
 - (b) The graduate student practices only under the direct supervision of an audiologist licensed in the District of Columbia.
- 7812.2 This section shall not apply to an Au.D. student who is completing his or her one thousand eight hundred and twenty (1820) hours of supervised experience.
- 7812.3 A graduate student practicing audiology pursuant to this section shall identify himself or herself as a graduate student practicing under supervision at all times when practicing audiology.
- 7812.4 An individual serving as a supervisor for a graduate student in the District:
- (a) Shall hold a valid District of Columbia license in audiology; and
 - (b) May not have been disciplined by a board within the previous five (5) years.
- 7812.5 Both the supervisor and the graduate student shall sign reports with their full name and credentials.
- 7812.6 A student may sign only with the highest degree earned.
- 7812.7 The title or designation of “graduate student” shall be placed after the student’s name in the report.
- 7812.8 If electronic records only accept one (1) signature, the supervisor shall sign the electronic record.
- 7812.9 A supervisor shall not supervise more than two (2) full-time students per day in off-site placements from a university.
- 7812.10 A supervisor shall be personally responsible for each client the student evaluates and treats during the period of supervision and shall be subject to disciplinary action for any violation of the Act or this chapter by the student.

7813 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- 7813.1 A licensee or graduate student practicing audiology shall adhere to the standards set forth in either the then-current Code of Ethics of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or the then-current Code of Ethics for the American Academy of Audiology.

7899 DEFINITIONS

7899.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed:

Approved continuing education – A continuing education program or activity that meets the requirements of § 7809.

Au.D. – Doctor of Audiology.

Board – the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, established by section 841 of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Amendment Act of 2006, effective March 6, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-219; D.C. Official Code § 3-1208.41 (2016 Repl.)).

Direct supervision – supervision in which the supervisor is immediately available on the premises to the supervisee and within vocal communication of the supervisee either directly or by a communication device.

Director - the Director of the Department of Health, or the Director’s designee.

Dual licensure renewal – renewal of both an audiology and a speech-language pathology license in the District of Columbia, within the same renewal period.

General supervision – supervision in which the supervisor is available to the person supervised, either in person or by a communication device.

Good cause – serious illness of the applicant, the death or serious illness of a member of the applicant’s immediate family, or other cause sufficient to the Board.

LGBTQ continuing education – continuing education on cultural competency or specialized clinical training focusing on patients or clients who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, queer, or question their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression (“LGBTQ”) meeting the requirements of section 510(b)(5) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.10 (b)(5) (2016 Repl.)).

Licensure cycle – a two-year period between the January 1 of each odd-numbered year and December 31 of each even-numbered year during which a license issued pursuant to this chapter is valid in accordance

with § 7801.1.

Ph.D. – Doctor of Philosophy in Audiology.

Practice of audiology – means the planning, directing, supervising, and conducting of habilitative or rehabilitative counseling programs for individuals or groups of individuals who have, or are suspected of having, disorders of hearing; any service in audiology, including prevention, identification, evaluation, consultation, habilitation or rehabilitation, instruction, or research; participating in hearing conservation or hearing aid and assistive listening device evaluation, selection, preparation, dispensing, and orientation; fabricating ear molds; providing auditory training and speech reading; or administering tests of vestibular function and tests for tinnitus. The practice of audiology includes speech and language screening limited to a pass-or-fail determination for the purpose of identification of individuals with disorders of communication. The practice of audiology does not include the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or the performance of a task in the normal practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine by a person to whom the task is delegated by a licensed physician.

Reinstatement – The reinstatement of a license in accordance with section 512 of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.12 (2016 Repl.)).

Requestor – a person seeking continuing education credits.

Supervised experience – the clinical fellowship year required for applicants for licensure with a Master’s degree or Ph.D. degree, or the period of supervised practice during an Au.D. program.

Supervisor – an audiologist who is qualified under § 7803.7 and who is providing general supervision to an individual completing the supervised experience requirements in § 7803, or an audiologist qualified under § 7812.9 who is providing direct supervision to a graduate student under § 7812.

Supervisee – an individual who is completing the supervised experience requirements.

Valid continuing education – continuing education approved and granted continuing education credit by the Board in accordance with §§ 7909 and 7910.

7899.2 The definitions in § 4099 of chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference into and are applicable to this chapter.

