

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
MUNICIPAL
REGULATIONS
for
SPEECH-
LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY**

CHAPTER 79 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

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7900 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 7900.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a license to practice speech-language pathology.
- 7900.2 Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules), 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures), 84 (Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellows), and 102 (Speech-Language Pathology Assistants) of this title shall supplement this chapter.

7901 TERM OF LICENSE

- 7901.1 Subject to § 7901.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of December 31st of each even-numbered year.
- 7901.2 If the Director changes the renewal system pursuant to § 4006.3 of chapter 40 of this title, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight on the last day of the month of the birth of the holder of the license, or other date established by the Director.

7902 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 7902.1 To qualify for a license under this chapter, an applicant shall have graduated with a Master's or Doctoral Degree in speech-language pathology from a recognized educational institution whose speech-language pathology program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology or an equivalent accrediting body as determined by the Board.

7903 CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP REQUIREMENTS

7903.1 To qualify for a license under this chapter, an applicant shall have completed a clinical fellowship meeting the requirements of chapter 84 of this title.

7903.2 The Board may accept completion of the clinical fellowship required for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Certificate of Clinical Competence as meeting the requirements for clinical fellowship in this chapter under § 7903.1.

7904 APPLICANTS EDUCATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

7904.1 The Board may grant a license to practice speech-language pathology to an applicant who completed an educational program in a college or university in a foreign country which was not accredited in accordance with § 7902 if the applicant meets the following requirements:

- (a) Meets all requirements of this chapter except for § 7902.1; 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 that the applicant is qualified to practice speech-language pathology by submitting documentation required by § 7904.2 of this section.

7904.2 An applicant under this section shall, in lieu of meeting the requirements of § 7902.1, submit one 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 accredited program.

7904.3 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.

7904.4 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.

7905 NATIONAL EXAMINATION

7905.1 To qualify for a license by examination, an applicant shall submit proof of having obtained a score of 600 on the National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology (PRAXIS II: Subject Assessment in Speech- Language Pathology) within the five (5) years before applying for licensure.

7905.2 If an applicant for licensure took the National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology more than 5 years ago, the applicant shall submit the following:

- (a) Proof that the applicant has practiced speech-language pathology for a total of three (3) years of the five (5) years before applying for licensure, and
- (b) Proof of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association certification or that the applicant obtained a score of 600 on the National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology.

7906 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

7906.1 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.

7906.2 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.

7906.3 Notwithstanding the requirement of §§ 7906.2 and 7808.2 of chapter 78 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.

7906.4 To qualify for the reinstatement of a license, an applicant shall have completed twenty (20) hours of continuing education described in § 7906.2 during the two (2) years preceding the submission of the reinstatement application.

7906.5 To qualify 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 speech-language pathology in another jurisdiction or territory of the United States;
- (b) An applicant who has not been actively and lawfully practicing speech-language pathology 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 § 7906.2 during the two (2) years preceding the submission of the reactivation application; or
- (c) An applicant who has not been actively and lawfully practicing speech-language pathology 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.

7906.6 The Board may 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 continuing education compliance to the Board within thirty (30) days of receiving notification of the audit.

7907 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

7907.1 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 up to date in its subject matter, and is developed and taught or conducted by qualified individual(s).

7907.2 Subject to § 7907.1, 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.

7907.3 Subject to § 7907.1, 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.

7907.4 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.

7907.5 A person seeking continuing education credits shall have the burden of verifying whether a program is approved by the Board.

7907.6 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, by signature, stamp, or official transcript in the case of accreditors.

7908 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

7908.1 For the purposes of this chapter, one (1) continuing education hour shall mean sixty (60) minutes of learning time.

7908.2 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.

7908.3 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 provided that the continuing education credit may only be granted for courses audited during the licensure cycle for which credit is claimed.

7908.4 A requestor may receive a maximum of six (6) continuing education hours for attendance and completion of in-service training programs.

7908.5 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.

7908.6 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.

7909 [RESERVED]

7910 LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

7910.1 The Board may issue a license by endorsement to a speech-language pathologist 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

laws and regulations.

7910.2 To apply for licensure by endorsement, an applicant shall:

- (a) Submit a completed application to the Board on the required forms and include:
 - i) The applicant's social security number, or, if the applicant does not have a social security number, a sworn affidavit, under penalty of perjury, that the applicant does not have a social security number; and
 - ii) Two (2) recent passport-type photos.
- (b) Submit a copy of his or her current license with the application;
- (c) Obtain licensure verification from the original state or territory of licensure that the license is current and in good standing. The licensure verification form must be sent directly to the Board by the verifying jurisdiction;
- (d) Meet any other requirements set by the Board; and
- (e) Pay all required fees.

7911 WAIVER OF CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP REQUIREMENTS

7911.1 The Board may waive the clinical fellowship requirements for applicants who:

- (1) Provide proof of employment in the practice of speech language pathology for at least ten (10) of the last fifteen (15) years immediately preceding the effective date of these regulations;
- (2) Meet all other requirements of these regulations; and
- (3) Apply by December 31, 2009.

7912 PRACTICE OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY BY GRADUATE STUDENTS

7912.1 A graduate student whose practice fulfills education requirements under §841 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1208.41, may practice speech-language pathology in accordance with this section 7912 only under the direct supervision of a speech-language pathologist licensed in the District of Columbia.

- 7912.2 A graduate student under supervision shall identify himself or herself as such at all times when practicing speech-language pathology.
- 7912.3 Both the supervisor and the graduate student shall sign reports with their full name and credentials.
- 7912.4 A student may sign only with the highest degree earned.
- 7912.5 The title or designation of “graduate student” shall be placed after the student’s name in the report statement.
- 7912.6 If electronic records only accept one (1) signature, the supervisor shall sign.
- 7912.7 A supervisor shall not supervise more than two (2) full-time students per day in off-site placements from a university.
- 7912.8 A supervisor shall be personally responsible for each patient the student evaluates and treats during the period of supervision and is subject to disciplinary action for any violation of the Act or this chapter by the student.
- 7912.9 An individual serving as a supervisor for a graduate student in the District:
- a) Shall hold a valid District of Columbia license in speech language pathology; and
 - b) May not have been disciplined by a board within the previous five (5) years.
- 7912.10 Practice of speech-language pathology by graduate students in the District of Columbia shall comply with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s current Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

7913 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- 7913.1 A licensee, graduate student, or clinical fellow shall adhere to the standards set forth in the most current publication of the “Code of Ethics” as published by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, as it may be republished from time to time.

7914 SUPERVISION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY CLINICAL FELLOWS

7914.1 A speech-language pathologist may qualify to supervise a speech-language pathology clinical fellow if he or she meets the requirement of § 8404.2 of this title.

7914.2 A speech-language pathologist supervising a clinical fellow shall comply with the requirements set forth in chapter 84 of this title.

7915 SUPERVISION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS

7915.1 A speech-language pathologist supervising a speech-language pathology assistant shall retain full professional and ethical responsibility for the professional conduct and performance of the speech-language pathology assistant and shall delegate duties only as consistent with the training, experience, and ability of the speech-language pathology assistant.

7915.2 A speech-language pathologist supervising a speech-language pathology assistant shall comply with the requirements set forth in chapter 102 of this title.

7999 DEFINITIONS

7999.1 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 § 7907.

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.)).

Clinical fellow – a person who is completing the clinical fellowship requirements set forth under § 7903 and chapter 84 of this title.

Clinical fellowship- the experience required by section 7903 and regulated under chapter 84 of this title.

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.

Graduate student – a person enrolled in a Master’s or Doctoral degree program in speech-language pathology.

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 § 7901.1.

Practice of speech-language pathology – means the application of principles, methods, or procedures related to the development and disorders of human communication, including any condition, whether of organic or non-organic origin, that impedes the normal process of human communication including disorders and related disorders of speech, articulation, fluency, voice, oral, or written language; auditory comprehension and processing; oral, pharyngeal or laryngeal sensorimotor competencies; swallowing; auditory or visual processing; auditory or visual memory or cognition; communication; and assisted augmentative communication treatment and devices. The term “practice of speech language pathology” also includes the planning, directing, supervising, and conducting of a habilitative and rehabilitative counseling program for individuals or groups of individuals who have, or are suspected of having, disorders of communication, and any service in speech-language pathology including prevention, identification, evaluation, consultation, habilitation or rehabilitation, instruction or research. The practice of speech-language pathology may include pure-tone air conduction hearing screening, screening of tympanometry, and acoustic reflex screening, limited to a pass-or-fail determination for the identification of individuals with other disorders of communication and may also include aural habilitation or rehabilitation, which means the provision of services and procedures for facilitating adequate auditory, speech, and language skills in individuals with hearing impairment. The practice of speech-language pathology 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 D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.12.

Requestor – a person seeking continuing education credits.

7999.2 The definitions in § 4099 of chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference

into and are applicable to this chapter.