

**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 Chapter 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules) and 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures) 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 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an applicant for a license shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board, in accordance with § 841 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1208.41, of the following:

(a) That the applicant has graduated with a Master's degree or a 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, an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education, or an equivalent accrediting body as determined by the Board.

(b) That the applicant met the requirements set forth in section 7905 of these regulations; and

(c) That the applicant has completed a period of clinical fellowship as required by these regulations.

7903 CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP REQUIREMENTS

7903.1 A person completing the clinical fellowship requirements shall have a Master's or Doctoral degree and shall commence a clinical fellowship within 2 years from the date of conferral of the degree, and shall complete the clinical fellowship within three and a half (3.5) years from the date of conferral of the degree.

7903.2 The Board may extend the period of clinical fellowship for good cause shown.

7903.3 The Board may accept completion of the clinical fellowship required for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Certificate of Clinical Competence as meeting the requirements for clinical fellowship in this chapter.

7903.4 To complete a clinical fellowship the applicant shall be employed, with or without direct compensation, as a professional in the field of speech-language pathology under general supervision for a period of not less than nine (9) months with a minimum of thirty (30) hours of work per week. This requirement may also be met with part-time employment as follows:

(a) Fifteen (15) to nineteen (19) hours a week for a period of eighteen (18) months;

(b) Twenty (20) to twenty four (24) hours a week for a period of fifteen (15) months; or

(c) Twenty five (25) to twenty nine (29) hours a week for a period of twelve months.

7903.5 At least eighty percent (80%) of the supervisee's clinical fellowship shall be in direct client contact which includes the following:

- (a) Assessment, diagnosis, evaluation and treatment;
- (b) Screening;
- (c) Habilitation and rehabilitation; and
- (d) Activities related to case management.

7903.6 The remaining twenty percent (20%) shall be comprised of supervised activities such as writing, research or planning.

7903.7 The activities included in a clinical fellowship shall consist of the following:

- (a) Conducting evaluations and treatment procedures;
- (b) Interpreting test results;
- (c) Determining case selections;
- (d) Designing treatment programs;
- (e) Collecting data and documenting performance;
- (f) Maintaining clinical records;
- (g) Providing written or oral reports (progress notes, diagnostic reports) regarding patients' or clients' status;
- (h) Making referrals; and
- (i) Participating in case conferences.

7903.8 An individual serving as a supervisor for the clinical fellowship requirement:

- (a) Shall hold a valid District of Columbia license in speech language pathology, a license in another jurisdiction with requirements substantially similar to the licensure requirements in the District, or if in a state that does not require licensure, a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association in speech-language pathology;

- (b) Shall have been in practice for a minimum of two (2) years after licensure or certification;
- (c) May not supervise more than three (3) individuals at one time;
- (d) May not have been disciplined by a board within the previous five (5) years; and
- (e) Shall provide a minimum of thirty six (36) hours of supervisory activities during the clinical fellowship including a minimum of two (2) hours of monitoring activities each month.

7903.9 An individual serving as a supervisor in the District shall be legally responsible for services provided by the supervisee.

7903.10 An applicant for a license shall demonstrate qualifications required by §§ 7903.3-7903.6 by submitting with the application a signed statement from each supervisor who supervised the applicant during the required fellowship period which sets forth the following:

- (a) The number of hours of the applicant's practice of speech-language pathology;
- (b) The number of hours of general supervision of the applicant;
- (c) The specific nature of 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 if the clinical fellowship is in a state that does not require licensure.

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 [RESERVED]

7907 APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES [RESERVED]

7908 [RESERVED]

7909 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

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.

7913 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

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

7999 DEFINITIONS

7999.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed:

Applicant – a person applying for a license to practice speech-language pathology under this chapter.

Board – the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, established by § 841, D.C. Official Code § 3-1208.41 (2006).

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

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

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.

Clinical fellowship- the experience required by section 7903 of these regulations.

Supervisor – a speech-language pathologist who is qualified pursuant to section 7903.7 and who is providing general supervision to an individual completing the clinical fellowship requirements, or a speech language pathologist who is qualified pursuant to 7912.9 and who is providing direct supervision to a graduate student under 7912.

Supervisee- an individual who is completing the clinical fellowship requirements.

7999.2 - The definitions in § 4099 of chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference into and are applicable to this chapter.