

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 clinical fellow 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 (12) months.

7903.5 At least eighty percent (80%) of the clinical fellow's clinical fellowship shall involve 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 Clinical fellow supervisor shall:

- (a) 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 in speech-language pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association;
- (b) Have been in practice for a minimum of two (2) years after licensure or certification;
- (c) Not supervise more than three (3) clinical fellows at one (1) time;
- (d) Not have been disciplined by a board or regulating body within the previous five (5) years; and

- (e) 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 A clinical fellow supervisor in the District of Columbia shall be responsible for the services and care provided by the clinical fellow, and shall also be subject to disciplinary action for any violation of federal or District of Columbia laws or regulations by the clinical fellow.

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 clinical fellow supervisor who supervised the applicant during the required clinical fellowship period, which sets forth the following:

- (a) The number of hours of the applicant’s supervised 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) The rating of the applicant’s performance;
- (e) Where and when the supervision occurred; and
- (f) The license number and jurisdiction in which the clinical fellow supervisor was licensed during the supervised period, or proof that the clinical fellow supervisor has a Certificate of Clinical Competence if the clinical fellowship was in a state that does not require licensure.

7903.11 A clinical fellow supervisor in the District of Columbia shall:

- (a) Submit a notification of supervision to the Board at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the clinical fellowship;
- (b) Notify the Board, in writing, if the clinical fellow leaves the clinical fellowship prior to completing training and specify the reason for leaving. Notification shall be provided to the Board no later than ten (10) business days after the date the clinical fellow leaves the clinical fellowship; and
- (c) Notify the Board, in writing, if the clinical fellow changes his or her clinical fellow supervisor and specify the reason for the change. Notification shall be provided to the Board no later than ten (10) business days after the change of the clinical fellow supervisor.

- 7903.12 A clinical fellow may participate in patient care activities under the general supervision of a speech-language pathologist who is licensed in the District of Columbia, if clinical fellow's supervisor properly submitted notification to the Board in accordance with § 7903.11(a),.
- 7903.13 A clinical fellow in speech-language pathology shall identify himself or herself as a clinical fellow at all times when providing speech-language pathology services.
- 7903.14 A clinical fellow in speech-language pathology may practice in the District of Columbia, pursuant to this Section, for a maximum of eighteen (18) months, unless the Board extends the period for good cause shown.

#### **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 renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license.

7906.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination, reciprocity, or endorsement, nor shall it apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.

7906.3 An applicant for renewal of a license, who is not subject to subsection 7906.4, shall submit proof of having completed twenty (20) hours of approved continuing education hours during the two (2) year period preceding the date the license expires, including one (1) hour of ethics. The hours must be related to speech-language pathology.

7906.4 An applicant for dual licensure renewal shall submit proof of having completed thirty (30) hours of approved continuing education hours during the two year period preceding the date the license expires, including one (1) hour in ethics. Of the thirty (30) hours, the applicant shall have completed at least five (5) hours in both the audiology and speech-language pathology disciplines. The intent of this paragraph is likewise shared by, and may be cross-referenced with, subsection 7808.4 of chapter 78 of title 17 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, which govern the continuing education requirements of audiologists.

- 7906.5 An applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof of having completed ten (10) hours of continuing education for each year during which the license was not valid, provided that:
- (a) If an applicant seeks to be licensed more than five (5) years after the date that the applicant's license expires, the applicant shall meet the requirements for obtaining an initial license; and
  - (b) In order to reinstate a license, an applicant for reinstatement must have met all continuing education requirements for the licensure period immediately prior to the expiration of the license in addition to ten (10) hours for each year the applicant was unlicensed.
- 7906.6 An applicant for reactivation of a license shall submit proof of having completed twenty (20) hours of continuing education per renewal period.
- 7906.7 A license is not valid until it is renewed or reinstated.
- 7906.8 A holder of an expired or sanctioned license shall only be eligible to apply for renewal or reinstatement of the sanctioned or expired license by meeting any legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the expired license in addition to the requirements set forth in any applicable order of the Board.
- 7906.9 The Board shall 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 return the completed continuing education compliance audit form and all supporting documentation to the Board within thirty (30) days of receiving notification of the audit. Failure to comply with the continuing education requirements may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the Board.

## **7907 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

- 7907.1 A continuing education hour shall be valid only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board.
- 7907.2 The Board may approve a continuing education program if it meets the following criteria:
- (a) It is current in its subject matter;
  - (b) It has been developed and will be taught by qualified individuals; and
  - (c) The program provider submits for the Board's review, no less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the presentation, the following documentation:
    - (1) A copy of the official program or syllabus;



- (2) The presentation title;
- (3) The date of the presentation;
- (4) The contact hours or credits awarded for the presentation; and
- (5) The type of audience for which the program is intended.

7907.3 The Board shall accept for credit, programs or activities conducted by the following organizations (provided that the applicant submits verification of attendance):

- (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.

7907.4 The Board may accept for credit the following activities:

- (a) A course given at an accredited college or university;
- (b) A seminar or workshop;
- (c) An educational program given at a conference;
- (d) In-service training;
- (e) Serving as a presenter or speaker at a conference, seminar, workshop, or in-service training; or

- (f) Publishing an article in a professional journal or publication of a book or a chapter in a book or publication of a book review in a professional journal related to audiology or speech-language pathology.

7907.5 The Board may, in its discretion, approve additional continuing education programs and activities that contribute to the growth of professional competence in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology and meet the other requirements of this section.

7907.6 The Board shall not grant credit for work done in the course of a renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation applicant'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.

7907.7 A renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation applicant shall have the burden of verifying whether a program is approved by the Board.

7907.8 A renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation applicant shall prove completion of required continuing education hours by submitting upon request the following information with respect to each program:

- (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) credit hour shall mean sixty (60) minutes of learning time.

7908.2 The Board may grant credit for Board-approved activities as specified below:

- (a) The Board shall grant credit for a course given at an accredited college or university provided that:
  - (1) Each three (3)-credit-hour academic course constitutes thirty (30) hours of continuing education; and

(2) For each approved three (3)-credit-hour academic course that is audited, two (2) continuing education hours shall be granted.

(b) The Board may grant a maximum of six (6) continuing education hours per renewal period to an applicant who attends a pre-approved in-service education program.

7908.3 The Board may grant credit for serving as a presenter or speaker at a conference, seminar, workshop, or in- service training, or electronic or web-based course subject to the following restrictions:

(a) Hours granted pursuant to this section shall not exceed six (6) hours per renewal period;

(b) If a licensee or a renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation applicant 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 period 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 for participants.

7908.4 The Board may grant credit for publication of an article in a professional journal or publication of a book or a chapter in a book or publication of a book review in a professional journal related to audiology or speech-language pathology, subject to the following:

(a) The Board may grant eight (8) hours of continuing education credit per renewal period to an 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 and the applicant submits proof of this fact in the application;

(b) The Board may grant four (4) hours of continuing education per renewal period to the sole author or co-author of a peer-reviewed published original paper; and

(c) The Board may grant one (1) continuing education hour of credit per renewal period 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.

**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.

**Clinical fellow** – a person who is completing the clinical fellowship requirements set forth under 17 DCMR § 7903.

**Clinical fellow supervisor** – a person who is the supervisor of a clinical fellow.

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

**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 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.

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

**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.