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) and 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures) 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 renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license.

7808.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination, reciprocity, or endorsement, nor does it apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.

7808.3 An applicant for renewal of a license, who is not subject to subsection 7808.9, 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 in ethics. The hours must be related to audiology.

7808.4 An applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof of having completed ten (10) hours of continuing education for each year, providing that:

(a)If an applicant whose license has expired does not apply for reinstatement of a license within five (5) years of 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 licensure 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 .

7808.5 An applicant for reactivation of a license shall submit proof of having completed twenty (20) hours per renewal.

7808.6 A license is not valid until it is renewed or reinstated.

7808.7 A holder of an expired or sanctioned license under this chapter shall not be granted a new license without first addressing any prior problems with the

expired or sanctioned license. He or she 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.

7808.8 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.

7808.9 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 the discipline of audiology and five (5) hours in the discipline of speech-language pathology. An applicant for dual licensure renewal shall also satisfy all applicable requirements in 79 of title 17 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, which governs the continuing education requirements of speech-language pathologists.

7809 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

7809.1 A continuing education hour shall be valid only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board.

7809.2 To qualify for approval by the Board, a continuing education program shall:

(a) Be current in its subject matter;

(b) Be developed and taught by qualified individuals;

(c) Be submitted by the program provider to the Board for review no less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the presentation and be approved by the Board; and

(d) Have been completed during the period for which credit is claimed and include documentation of the following:

(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.

7809.3 The Board shall accept for credit programs or activities sponsored by the following organizations (provided that the applicant submits verification of attendance):

(a) The District of Columbia Speech-Language-Hearing Association or similar speech-language hearing association of another state;

(b) The American Academy of Audiology;

(c) The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) or 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) or its authorized providers; or

(f) A health care organization accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

7809.4 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, a book or a chapter in a book, or a book review in a professional journal related to audiology or speech-language pathology.

7809.5 The Board may, in its discretion, approve additional continuing education programs and activities that contribute to the growth of an applicant in professional competence in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology and which meet the other requirements of this section.

7809.6 The Board shall not grant credit for work done in the course of an 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.

7809.7 An applicant shall have the burden of verifying whether a program is approved by the Board.

7809.8 An 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.

7810 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

7810.1 For the purposes of this chapter, one (1) credit hour shall mean sixty (60) minutes of learning time.

7810.2 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) hour academic course constitutes thirty (30) hours of continuing education; and

(2) For approved three (3) hour academic courses that are audited, two (2) continuing education credit 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.

7810.3 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) per renewal period;

(b) If an 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 shall have been 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.

7810.4 The Board may grant credit to an applicant 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 an applicant who is an author or sole editor of a published book eight (8) hours of continuing education credit per renewal period, if the book has been 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 an applicant who is the sole author or co-author of a peer-reviewed published original paper four (4) hours of continuing education per renewal period; and

(c) The Board may grant an applicant who is sole author of a published book review one (1) continuing education hour of credit per renewal period.

7811 RESERVED

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.

78l2.10 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 The definitions in section 4099 of this title are incorporated by reference into and are applicable to this chapter.

7899.2 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed:

Applicant – a person applying for a license to practice audiology under this chapter.

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 (2007 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.

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 supervisee, 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.

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.

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

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