

National Guidelines

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has established standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP).

For more information on these important regulations, please see

<http://www.asha.org/Certification/2014-Speech-Language-Pathology-Certification-Standards/>

The 2014 Standards for CCC-SLP are summarized below, and follow the information available on

Standard I: Degree

Applicant for CCC-SLP must have a master's, doctoral, or other recognized post-baccalaureate degree.

Standard II: Education Program

All graduate coursework and graduate clinical experience in speech-language pathology (SLP) must have been initiated and completed in a program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). Individuals educated outside the United States or its territories must submit documentation that course work was completed in an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited or recognized by the appropriate regulatory authority for that country.

Standard III: Program of Study

The applicant for CCC-SLP must have completed a program of study with a minimum of 36 semester credit hours at the graduate level that includes academic course work and supervised clinical experience sufficient in depth and breadth to achieve the specified knowledge and skills outcomes stipulated in Standards IV and V.

Standard IV: Knowledge Outcomes

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of the biological sciences (biology, human anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, human genetics, veterinary science), physical sciences (physics, chemistry), statistics, and the social/behavioral sciences (psychology, sociology, anthropology, public health).

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of basic human communication and swallowing processes, including the appropriate biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural bases. The applicant must have demonstrated the ability to integrate information pertaining to normal and abnormal human development across the lifespan.

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of communication and swallowing disorders and differences, including the appropriate etiologies, characteristics, anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates in the following areas: articulation; fluency; voice and resonance, including respiration and phonation; receptive and expressive language in speaking, listening, reading, writing; hearing, including the impact on speech and language; swallowing; cognitive aspects of communication; social aspects of communication; augmentative and alternative communication modalities. It is expected that course work addressing the professional knowledge specified above will occur primarily at the graduate level.

The applicant must have demonstrated current knowledge of the principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for people with communication and swallowing disorders, including consideration of anatomical/physiological, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates.

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of standards of ethical conduct.

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of processes used in research and of the integration of research principles into evidence-based clinical practice.

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of contemporary professional issues.

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of entry level and advanced certifications, licensure, and other relevant professional credentials, as well as local, state, and national regulations and policies relevant to professional practice.

Standard V: Skills Outcomes

The applicant must have demonstrated skills in oral and written or other forms of communication sufficient for entry into professional practice.

The applicant for certification must have completed a program of study that included experiences sufficient in breadth and depth to achieve the following skills outcomes: evaluation, intervention, and interaction and personal qualities.

The applicant for CCC_SLP must complete a minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised clinical experience in the practice of SLP. Twenty-five hours must be spent in clinical observation, and 375 hours must be spent in direct client/patient contact. Applicants should be assigned practicum only after they have acquired sufficient knowledge bases to qualify for such experience. At least 325 of the 400 clock hours must be completed while the applicant is engaged in graduate study in a program accredited in SLP by CAA.

Supervision must be provided by individuals who hold CCC-SLP. The amount of direct supervision (which must be in real time) must be commensurate with the student's knowledge, skills, and experience; must not be less than 25% of the student's total contact with each client/patient; and must take place periodically throughout the practicum. Supervision must be sufficient to ensure the welfare of the client/patient.

Supervised practicum must include experience with client/patient populations across the life span and from culturally/linguistically diverse backgrounds. Practicum must include experience with client/patient populations with various types and severities of communication and/or related disorders, differences, and disabilities.

Standard VI: Assessment

The applicant must have passed the national examination adopted by ASHA for purposes of certification in SLP. The passing score received at the time of application must not be more than 5 years old.

Standard VII: Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship

The applicant must successfully complete a Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship (CF). The CF experience must be initiated within 24 months of the date the application is received. Once the CF has been initiated, it must be completed within 48 months.

The CF must have consisted of clinical service activities that foster the continued growth and integration of knowledge, skills, and tasks of clinical practice in SLP consistent with ASHA's current Scope of Practice in SLP. The CF must have consisted of no less than 36 weeks of full-time professional experience or its part-time equivalent.

The Clinical Fellow must have received ongoing mentoring and formal evaluations by the CF mentor.

The Clinical fellow must have demonstrated knowledge and skills consistent with the ability to practice independently. In addition, upon completion of the CF, the applicant must have demonstrated the ability to perform clinical activities accurately, consistently, and independently and to seek guidance as necessary.

Standard VIII: Maintenance of Certification

Certificate holders must demonstrate continued professional development for maintenance of the CCC-SLP (30 certification maintenance hours of professional development during every 3-year maintenance interval). Accrual of professional development hours, adherence to the ASHA Code of Ethics, submission of certification maintenance compliance documentation, and payment of annual dues and/or certification fees are required for maintenance of certification.