I. Degree

Effective January 1, 2005, the applicant for certification must have a master’s or doctoral or other recognized post-baccalaureate degree. A minimum of 75 semester credit hours must be completed in a course of study addressing the knowledge and skills pertinent to the field of speech-language pathology.

All graduate course work and graduate clinical practicum required in the professional area for which the Certificate is sought must have been initiated and completed at an institution whose program was accredited by the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in the area for which the Certificate is sought.

Automatic Approval: If the graduate program of study is initiated and completed in a CAA-accredited program and if the program director or official designee verifies that all knowledge and skills requirements have been met, approval of the application is automatic, provided that the application for the Certificate of Clinical Competence is received by the National Office no more than 3 years after the degree is awarded.

II. Institution of Higher Education

The graduate degree must be granted by a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

III. Program of Study - Knowledge Outcomes

The applicant for certification must complete a program of study (a minimum of 75 semesters credit hours overall, including at least 36 at the graduate level) that includes academic course work sufficient in depth and breadth to achieve the specified knowledge outcomes.

A. The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of the principles of biological sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, and the social/behavioral sciences.

B. The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of basic human communication and swallowing processes, including their biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural bases.

C. The Applicant must demonstrate knowledge of the nature of speech, language, hearing, and communication disorders and differences and swallowing disorders, including the etiologies, characteristics, anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates. Specific knowledge must be demonstrated in the following areas:
• articulation
• fluency
• voice and resonance, including respiration and phonation
• receptive and expressive language (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics) in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and manual modalities
• swallowing (oral, pharyngeal, esophageal, and related functions, including oral function for feeding; orofacial myofunction)
• cognitive aspects of communication (attention, memory, sequencing, problem-solving, executive functioning)
• social aspects of communication (including challenging behavior, ineffective social skills, lack of communication opportunities)
• communication modalities (including oral, manual, augmentative, and alternative communication techniques and assistive technologies)

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

E. The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of standards of ethical conduct.

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

G. The applicant must demonstrate knowledge of contemporary professional issues.

H. The applicant must demonstrate knowledge about certification, specialty recognition, licensure, and other relevant professional credentials.

IV. Program of Study - Skills Outcomes

A. The applicant must complete a curriculum of academic and clinical education that follows an appropriate sequence of learning sufficient to achieve the skills outcomes in Standard IV-G.

B. The applicant must possess skill in oral written or other forms of communication sufficient for entry into professional practice.

C. The applicant for certification in speech-language pathology must complete a minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised clinical experience in the practice of speech-language pathology. Twenty-five (25) hours must be spent in clinical observation, and 375 hours must be spent in direct client/patient contact.

D. At least 325 of the 400 clock hours must be completed while the applicant is engaged in graduate study in a program accredited in speech-language pathology by the Council on Academic Accreditation in audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. (Experience gained as speech-language pathology assistant cannot be used to meet requirements for purposes of certification)
1. Our department requires 20 hours in each of the following areas:
   a. Evaluation/diagnostic: Speech disorders in children
   b. Evaluation/diagnostic: Speech disorders in adults
   c. Evaluation/diagnostic: Language disorders in children
   d. Evaluation/diagnostic: Language disorders in adults
   e. Treatment/therapy: Speech disorders in children
   f. Treatment/therapy: Speech disorders in adults
   g. Treatment/therapy: Language disorders in children
   h. Treatment/therapy: Language disorders in adults
   i. Audiology Testing/Aural Rehabilitation: Adults/children
   j. Speech disorders include disorders of articulation (speech sound disorders), voice, fluency, and dysphagia.

2. We also require 50 hours of treatment and/or diagnostics in at least three different types of clinical settings, e.g., Roy Eblen Speech and Hearing Clinic, School, or hospital/clinic.

E. Supervision must be provided by individuals who hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence in the appropriate area of practice. The amount of supervision must be appropriate to the student’s level of knowledge, experience, and competence. Supervision must be sufficient to ensure the welfare of the client/patient.

F. 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.

G. The applicant for certification must complete a program of study that includes supervised clinical experiences sufficient in breadth and depth to achieve the following skills outcomes:

1. Evaluation:
   a. Conduct screening and prevention procedures (including prevention activities)
   b. Collect case history information and integrate information from clients/patients, family, caregivers, teachers, relevant others, and other professionals
   c. Select and administer appropriate evaluation procedures, such as behavioral observations, non-standardized and standardized tests, and instrumental procedures
   d. Adapt evaluation procedures to meet client/patient needs
   e. Interpret, integrate, and synthesize all information to develop diagnoses and make appropriate recommendations for intervention
   f. Complete administrative and reporting functions necessary to support evaluation
   g. Refer clients/patients for appropriate services

2. Intervention
   a. Develop setting-appropriate intervention plans with measurable and achievable goals that meet clients'/patients’ needs. Collaborate with clients/patients and relevant others in the planning process.
b. Implement intervention plans (involve clients/patients and relevant others in the intervention process)
c. Select or develop and use appropriate materials and instrumentation for prevention and intervention
d. Measure and evaluate clients’/patients’ performance and progress
e. Modify intervention plans, strategies, materials, or instrumentation as appropriate to meet the needs of clients/patients
f. Complete administrative and reporting functions necessary to support intervention
g. Identify and refer clients/patients for services as appropriate

3. Interaction and Personal Qualities:
   a. Communicate effectively, recognizing the needs, values, preferred mode of communication, and cultural/linguistic background of the client/patient, family, caregivers, and relevant others.
   b. Collaborate with other professionals in case management
   c. Provide counseling regarding communication and swallowing disorders to clients/patients, family, caregivers, and relevant others
   d. Adhere to the ASHA Code of Ethics and behave professionally

V. Assessment

The applicant for certification must demonstrate successful achievement of the knowledge and skills delineated in Standard II and Standard IV by means of both formative and summative assessment.

A. The applicant must meet the education programs’ requirements for demonstrating satisfactory performance through ongoing formative assessment of knowledge and skills.

B. Summative Assessment
The applicant must pass the national examination adopted by ASHA for purposes of certification in speech-language pathology.

VI. Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship

After completion of academic course work and practicum (Standard IV), the applicant then must successfully complete a Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship (SLPCF).

A. The mentoring speech-language pathologist and Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellow will establish outcomes and performance levels to be achieved during the Speech-Language Pathology Fellowship (SLPCF), based on the Clinical Fellow’s academic experiences, setting specific requirements, and professional/goals.

B. The Clinical Fellow and mentoring SLP must engage in periodic assessment of the Clinical Fellow’s performance, evaluating the Clinical Fellow’s progress toward meeting the established goals and achievement of the clinical skills necessary for independent practice.
C. The Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship (SLPCF) will consist of the equivalent of 36 weeks of full-time clinical practice.
   15-20 hours/week over 72 weeks
   21-26 hours/week over 60 weeks
   27-34 hours/week over 48 weeks

D. The Clinical Fellow must submit evidence of successful completion of the Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship (SLPCF) to the Council for Clinical Certification.

VII. Maintenance of Certification

Demonstration of continued professional development is mandated for maintenance of the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology. This standard took effect on January 1, 2005. The renewal period will be three (3) years. This standard will apply to all certificate holders, regardless of the date of initial certification.

See: www.asha.org/about/membership-certification/handbooks/slp/slp_standards.htm

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