



Validation Process for the ASHA Exam

Introduction

For 75 years, ASHA has been the guardian of the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology. Since 1952, the organization has been awarding the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in audiology (CCC-A), speech-pathology (CCC-SLP) or both (CCC-A/SLP), to those who meet its rigorous requirements.

ASHA Certification Means High Quality

ASHA certification requires that its professionals in their respective fields have met rigorous standards of training and competency and have passed a national examination. Standards for certification have under gone many changes throughout the years.

Speech-Language Pathology Certification

The most recent change in speech-language pathology standards occurred on January 1, 2005. The 2005 Standards for Certification in Speech-Language Pathology mandate the completion of at least 75 semester credit hours of academic course work, 36 of which must have been attained at the graduate level. Additionally, applicants for certification must have been assessed by their accredited graduate program as having achieved the knowledge and skills outlined by the standards. Applicants must have completed at least 400 clock hours of supervised clinical practicum; 25 hours must have been spent in clinical observation and 375 hours must have been spent in direct client/patient contact. At the completion of the graduate program, applicants must complete a supervised Clinical Fellowship of 36 weeks full-time experience (or the part-time equivalent), and must take and pass the Praxis examination in speech-language pathology.

Audiology Certification

Applicants in audiology will have until December 31, 2007 to submit an application under the 1993 standards for certification. These standards mandate a course of study resulting in either a master's or doctoral degree. They must have completed no less than 75 semester credit hours of course work, of which 30 semester hours were completed at the graduate level. In completing course work, the applicant must have taken at least 27 semester hours in the basic sciences, completed 21 graduate semester hours in the professional area of audiology, and completed 350 clock hours of clinical practicum with a ASHA certified clinical supervisors. Finally, these applicants must have completed a clinical fellowship of at least 36 weeks of full-time experience (or the equivalent part-time) and passed the Praxis examination in audiology (see side-by-side comparison chart).

As of January 1, 2008, all applicants for audiology certification will be required to meet the 2007 audiology standards. These standards mandate completion of 75 semester credit hours of academic course work at the graduate level, during which the student is assessed by their accredited program on their achievement of specified knowledge and skills listed in the standards. Applicants for certification in audiology as of January 1, 2008 will also be required to have completed practicum experience that is equivalent to a minimum of 12 months of full-time, supervised experience. This practicum experience must be supervised by individuals holding current ASHA certification in audiology. Finally, applicants for certification in audiology will be required to take and pass the Praxis examination in audiology. Beginning January 1, 2012, all applicants for certification in audiology will be required to have earned a doctoral degree.

The National Examinations in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

The national examinations are administered several times a year as the Specialty Area Test of the Praxis Series by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The examinations are administered at over 400 test centers throughout the nation.

Speech-Language Pathology

The examination in speech-language pathology focuses on seven major areas: basic human communication processes; phonological and language disorders; speech disorders; neurogenic disorders; audiology/hearing; clinical management; and professional issues/psychometrics/research.

Audiology

The examination in audiology focuses on eight major areas: basic human communication processes; prevention/identification; behavioral assessment/interpretation; electrophysiological measurement/interpretation; rehabilitative assessment; rehabilitative technology; rehabilitative management; and professional issues/psychometrics/research.

Each two hour exam has 120 objective multiple-choice questions with varying degrees of complexity. Applicants for the CCCs must pass the examination within two years from the date the course work and practicum are approved by the ASHA Clinical Certification Board. If the applicant does not pass the exam during this period, the applicant is required to reapply for certification. The current passing score is 600.

ASHA imposes the most rigorous standards for the professions. As a result, the letters “CCC” inspire trust to the public. To parents, they inspire confidence. To individuals who possess the CCC there is the satisfaction of knowing that they have achieved the model of excellence recognized by governmental and private agencies.

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