

**Revolutionary Thoughts: ASHA Certification Updates**  
*Emerging challenges in the certification of Speech-language pathology and audiology assistants*

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**Disclosure**

- Todd Philbrick is an ASHA employee and ex-officio to the CFCC and as such has a financial relationship with ASHA as his employer. He has no non-financial relationships to disclose.



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**Agenda**

- Certification Numbers
- Current COVID Accommodations
- COVID Accommodation Updates for 2022
- Certification Maintenance Change
- Assistant Certification Program



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## Certification Applications and Renewal

### New Certification Applications

	8/2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
AUD App	621	691	754	591	547
SLP App	6,695	3,809	17,400	8,254	7,848
<b>Total Apps</b>	<b>8,246</b>	<b>4,945</b>	<b>18,854</b>	<b>9,420</b>	<b>8,970</b>
<b>Total Certified</b>	<b>8,408</b>	<b>10,129</b>	<b>10,055</b>	<b>9,644</b>	<b>9,280</b>

### Total CCC-A and CCC-SLP

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
CCC-A	Available in Feb/March	13,727	13,610	13,407	13,226
CCC-SLP		188,143	181,143	175,025	168,604
Dual Cert		758	785	815	849
<b>Total Certified</b>		<b>202,628</b>	<b>195,538</b>	<b>189,245</b>	<b>182,719</b>

2021 Certificant Renewal 98.25% - 96.25% AUD, 91% Dual, and 98.4% SLP




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## Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CFCC)

- Define the standards for clinical certification and apply those standards in the certification of individuals.
- Comprised of volunteers from Audiology and SLP profession, Board Certified Specialists, Community members, NSSLHA student representatives
- Supported by ASHA staff members and liaisons
- 4 Open positions for 2023.




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## Temporary COVID-19 Telepractice Accommodations to Expire 12/31/2021

- Telepractice and Telesupervision acceptable if permitted by regulatory body/bodies
- Multiple students can earn a full hour for the same session if all are meaningfully involved in the clinical care.
- Clinical educators may supervise more than one telepractice session concurrently if they are 100% available to each session.
- See here for additional details:  
<https://www.asha.org/certification/covid-19-guidance-from-cfcc/>




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### CFCC Virtual Meeting July 29-30, 2021

- Reviewed **COVID-19: Guidance for Graduate Programs, Students, and Clinical Fellows** scheduled to end 12/31/2021
- Recognized that **COVID-19** continues to affect the ability for clinical services to be provided on site and in person with clients and patients as required by the 2020 Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Certification Standards
- The CFCC approved that at least 2 of the 30 certification maintenance hours (CMHs) will be required during each certification maintenance interval must be in areas that enhance certificate holders' cultural competency, humility, responsive practice, and/or understanding of DEI in service delivery, professional interactions, and the impact of DEI in CSD.



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### Changes to the 2020 Audiology Standards

- Regarding Simulation – Permanent Now
  - The expanded definition of simulation created due to COVID has been adopted.
  - Simulations completed in any clinic or course enrollment can count for hours if they meet the simulation requirements.
  - Recall that only 10% of a student's clinical hours can be through simulation (unchanged).
  - See here for additional information: <https://www.asha.org/certification/certification-standards-for-aud-clinical-simulation/>
- Regarding Telepractice - Beginning 1/1/2022
  - **Up to 50%** of clinical practicum experience may include telepractice provided regulations permit.



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### Updated SLP Graduate Student COVID Accommodations

- **Effective January 1 – June 30, 2022**
  - At least 50% of supervised clinical practicum must be provided on site and in person for purposes of ASHA certification.
  - This change will not apply to any practicum hours earned between March 16, 2020 and December 31, 2021.
- All other previous accommodations for SLP graduate students remain in place through June 30, 2022.



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### Updated SLP Clinical Fellowship Accommodations

- Effective January 1 – December 31, 2022
  - The CFCC **prefers** that the 6 on-site and in-person direct observations per segment be completed on site and in person. However, given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, telesupervision may be used for direct, on-site, and in-person observations of Clinical Fellows by CF mentors.



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### Questions?



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### ASHA Assistants History

- Assistants have been in the field and ASHA has been providing guidance on their usage since 1969
- Associates program launched in 2011
- In 2016, ASHA Completed Feasibility Studies showing strong support for certifying assistants across all stakeholders
- BOD approved a 3-year plan in Nov 2017
- Joint Certification and Membership Initiative
- Used outside consultants and 100's volunteers



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### Why?

- Demand for services and shortage of service providers
- Enhance/refine/clarify the KSA of assistants and mitigate disparate view across states
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of assistants
- Achieve greater uniformity in education and training programs
- Shift regulators' perspectives to align with national certification
- Identify qualified assistants for positions and reduce the time required to train assistants on the job
- Allow CCC-As and CCC-SLPs to practice at the top of the license




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### Qualifying for Certification and Renewing

- 3 pathways to meet Certified Audiology Assistant (C-AA) and C-SLPA eligibility requirements
- SLPA requires a college degree and 100 supervised clinical hours
- Audiology has more variance in educational pathways (BA/BS – CSD, Military Job Certificate, or HS/GED) but more supervised hours
- Passing the national exam is the last step in the process Adherence to the Assistant Code of Conduct
- 3-year certification maintenance interval, which requires completing a Maintenance of Certification Assessment (MOCA)
- *Should* complete continuing education/professional development that enhances their knowledge and skills as an assistant.




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### Assistant Certification - Initial Returns

- In the first 9 months:
  - Over 375 Assistant Certificate Holders
  - Over 100 Applicants who have not yet tested
- We have already exceeded the number of Associates at the end of 2020 and will have more certified assistants by the end of the year than its peak.
- 5 states (AZ, MD, NC, TN, WY) have accepted, proposed, recognized, or aligned with the C-SLPA exam or certification requirements.
  - *SC and MT are also interested*




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### Assistant Certification 2022 and beyond

- Review Audiology Assistant Scope of Practice and Updated SLPA Scope of Practice for potential impact to the exam blueprint.
- Create the Maintenance of Certification Assessments (MOCA)
- Consider additional programs, resources, and priorities to support Assistants and their employers:
  - Advocacy, Continuing Education, Model Curriculums, etc.



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### Questions?



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