

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

Todd Philbrick, ASHA, Director, Certification



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.



Agenda

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



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
Total Apps	8,246	4,945	18,854	9,420	8,970
Total Certified	8,408	10,129	10,055	9,644	9,280

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
Total Certified		202,628	195,538	189,245	182,719

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



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.



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/>



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.



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.



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.



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.



Questions?



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



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



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.



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*



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.



Questions?



Contact Info
Todd Philbrick –
tphilbrick@asha.org
301-296-5738


