

CSHA FAQ

CALIFORNIA SLP LICENSING & CREDENTIALING

Q. If I have my ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC), can I practice in California?

A. While some California employers prefer and/or require the CCCs -- to legally practice speech-language pathology (SLP) in **California requires a state authorization – for schools usually* a state issued school SLP “service” credential. For other-than-schools such as private practice, hospitals, clinics, etc., a state issued SLP license is required.** While both the SLP license and the SLP school service credential have similar standards to the CCCs, they are each independent systems with separate and distinct application processes.

Standards for the CCCs, the SLP license, and the SLP service credential are similar with requirements for an accredited masters degree program, a nine-month supervised experience year, and the national written Praxis exam. The nine-month experience year is labeled by ASHA as the Clinical Fellow (CF); a Temporary SLP license is called the Required Professional Experience (RPE), and for schools the Preliminary SLP service credential. All school credentialed personnel are additionally required to pass a California Basic English and math exam (CBEST).

Most school districts have traditionally required a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) SLP school service credential. Many schools now generate additional funds from their LEA Medi-Cal Billing Recovery Program which currently requires either a license SLP providing SLP services, or a credentialed SLP supervised by a licensed SLP. Thus some schools utilize SLPs who hold both their SLP service credential and their SLP license.

*Schools are authorized (*not required*) to employ or contract with a “licensed” SLP [See below: Ed Code 44831]. These school-employed licensed SLP authorizations are referred to as a “Local Option.” Note that because local school bargaining rights (collective bargaining) and other state mandated school employee rights such as tenure are mandated for “credentialed” personnel, schools such as LA USD utilize “licensed SLPs” under a year-to-year contract with the same benefit package as those SLPs on the teacher pay scales.

Q. If I graduate from a California SLP graduate program, will I be eligible for a California SLP license and/or school SLP credential?

A. Yes, all California masters degree programs in Communication Disorders or Speech-language Pathology have been approved for the state SLP license (or Temporary license as a RPE) and the CTC SLP service credential (or the Preliminary SLP service credential).

The state SLP licensing system utilizes ASHA’s accreditation system. While the state CTC SLP service credential system has its own accreditation program (based upon an ASHA PLUS system -- ASHA accreditation standards plus some additional CTC education standards), all SLP graduate programs at this time have been approved by both the SLP licensing board and the CTC school credential systems.

Q. If I graduate from an out-of-state SLP graduate program, am I eligible for the state SLP license and/or the state SLP school service credential?

A. Because the state SLP licensing system utilizes the ASHA accreditation system, your out-of-state SLP graduate program has probably been ASHA accredited and thus accepted by the state SLP, licensing system. The CTC school credentialing system has pre-determined that some states meet the California CTC program standards**. Those who graduate from another state, may have to utilize the CTC “Out-of-State” application process (*see web site reference material below*). This may include the other state’s school certification system and/or obtaining an in-state evaluation from an approved SLP graduate program of your academic transcripts to certify that you have satisfied CTC SLP credential program standards.

*** States that after 1/1/2007 that CTC has pre-determined as satisfying the CTC SLP program accreditation standards are: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, No. Carolina, No. Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, So. Carolina, So. Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. (See CTC leaflet on SLP Credentialing, Table 1)*

Q. How long does the application process for state licensing or credentialing take?

A. Because of reduced state budgets, hiring freezes, etc., **applications for licensing can take eight weeks!** Careful attention to details in your application can avoid rejection or request for corrections which can cause even longer delays. The school credentialing process may be able to be done online more expeditiously. Those from out-of-state may have to utilize a mail-in process. Additionally, those who do not have access to the state’s electronic LiveScan fingerprint process can also experience some delays with the state’s Dept. of Justice (DOJ) and the FBI fingerprint clearances. The state requirement for the CBEST exam can be accomplished online and can be delayed until after starting employment.

Q. I understand that California licenses SLP assistants for use in all settings including schools. Where do I find information about SLPA training, duties, supervision, etc.?

A. See the SLP licensing web site: <http://www.slpab.ca.gov/applicants/assistant.shtml>

Note that the licensing system requires a supervisor of record and statement with the SLPA application.

References

LICENSING: www.slpahad.ca.gov
slpab@dca.ca.gov

RPE FAQs: <http://www.slpab.ca.gov/applicants/faqs.shtml>
[Required Professional Experience \(RPE\) - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Required Professional Experience \(RPE\) Supervisors - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Education Code 44831 referred to as a “Local Option”

44831. The governing board of a school district shall employ persons in public school service requiring certification qualifications as provided in this code, except that the governing board or a county office of education may contract with or employ an individual who holds a license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board and has earned a masters degree in communication disorders to provide speech and language services if that individual meets the requirements of Section 44332.6 [fingerprint clearance] before employment or execution of the contract.

SCHOOL CREDENTIALING: www.ctc.ca.gov
credentials@ctc.ca.gov

SLP School Service Credential information:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl879.pdf>