

The Pathway to SLP Licensure, Certification and Credentialing in California

To participate as a speech-language pathologist, depending on the employment setting, you will need either a license, national certification or a credential, or a combination of the three. CSHA has developed this helpful guide to outline the steps to meeting each of these requirements.

Before you begin, consider these pro tips from industry veterans:

- 1 Get help from your university.** Your faculty members, career advisors and others in your university program are helpful sources of information as you navigate the application process.
- 2 Keep your own documentation.** Make copies of all documents sent as part of the application process and consider sending everything via certified mail so a receipt of delivery is provided.
- 3 Plan ahead and know what's required.** There are multiple steps and a variety of costs involved in licensure, certification and credentialing. This guide provides some clarity on the steps involved, but also be aware of the fees that will be incurred, including application fees, test fees and fingerprinting costs.

SLP Licensing

Licenses issued by the [California Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board](#) (SLPAHADB or “board”) are required for SLPs and audiologists to practice in most settings in the state.

What does the process look like?

- 1 The first step is to submit your [RPE Temporary License Application](#) to the SLPAHADB.** This should include applicable fees, fingerprinting, a completed clinical practicum and university recommendation.

From there, follow these helpful tips:

- 2 Start the process early.** You need to know your RPE supervisor and place of work when applying for the temporary license. Processing time for the RPE temporary licenses can take two or months or more.
- 3 Ask the right questions of potential employers.** Make sure they are aware of the licensure process and [supervisory requirements](#), and that your RPE supervisor will have the time and training needed to support you. A qualified supervisor will have an active California license (or a CTC credential authorizing school-based service) and will have completed six hours of professional development training (with an additional three hours every four years) in the area of supervision.
- 4 Stay informed along the way.** In many settings, you will not be able to begin a position until your temporary license has posted. You will receive notification when your temporary license posts and you can begin your RPE, and you can check for updates [here](#).
- 5 Complete the required number of hours.** Full-time RPEs (30 hours or more per month) will need 36 weeks of experience, with direct monitoring by your RPE supervisor during eight hours of each month. For part-time RPEs (15-29 hours per month), 72 weeks of professional experience are required, with four hours per month of direct monitoring.
- 6 Monitor your performance.** Your RPE supervisor should complete an [RPE Performance Review Form](#) and discuss it with you at least three times during the process.

From Temporary to Permanent Licensure

Submit early! To make the licensure process as seamless as possible, have your official transcripts sent to the SLPAHADB as soon as you earn your graduate degree. Have your Praxis results sent to the SLPAHADB at any point during your RPE experience. (They must be submitted prior to issuance of your permanent license.)

Once your RPE is completed, the [RPE verification form](#) must be submitted to the board within 10 days. For school-based providers, this form needs to be submitted for each school year, along with your district's academic calendar.

After the SLPAHADB reviews and approves the successful completion of your RPE, you will be emailed an application for permanent licensure. Once submitted, the permanent license is typically issued within a few days with no additional fee.

ASHA Certification

Earning your Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) through the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) has some of the same requirements as a state license, including a master's degree or equivalent from an accredited university, and a minimum score of 162 on a Praxis exam. But certification also requires a Clinical Fellowship.

What does the certification process look like?

1

First, find a qualified [Clinical Fellowship Mentor](#).

Mentors must hold their CCC-SLP and have a minimum amount of clinical experience and training.

2

Next, begin your [application](#) at any point after completing the necessary coursework and graduate clinical practicum.

The application process can be finished once the Clinical Fellowship is complete and graduate transcripts and Praxis results are submitted to ASHA.

From there, follow these helpful tips:

3

Complete the required number of hours. A total of 1,260 hours of work experience over at least 36 weeks for full time (at least 35 hours per week), and longer if part-time.

4

Understand the process. The Clinical Fellowship is divided into three segments, each 12 weeks long for a candidate working full time. At a minimum, six hours of direct and six hours of indirect supervision must be provided by your mentor for each segment, with each of the [Clinical Fellowship Skills Inventory](#) being observed and rated during each segment. A minimum rating of two in all areas is required for certification.

5

If possible, complete the requirements for your certification and licensure concurrently.

Since there are many parallels in the process, completing all the steps together can be easier on the applicant. NOTE: You may have the same supervisor/mentor for both the SLPAHADB and ASHA processes.

6

Within 90 days of completing the Clinical Fellowship, verify the completed experience online. This step will prompt your mentor to verify the experience as well.

What are the costs of certification? Learn more about ASHA certification and membership [here](#). Note that there is a discount for converting from National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) to ASHA membership.

Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential

A Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential issued by the [California Commission on Teacher Credentialing](#) is required for SLPs practicing in California public schools.

Qualification for a credential is based on verification of Praxis scores, a clinical experience or supervised practicum, verification of a California SLP license, or verification of ASHA certification. Unlike the requirements for ASHA Certification and CA Licensure, the credential has a [Basic Skills Requirement](#) such as a passing score on the CBEST.

It is important to note that some of the requirements differ for applicants coming from out of California.

Learn more about the credential process, including application fees and the requirements for both a preliminary and clear credential, [here](#).



CSHA

California Speech Language Hearing Association