

**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY AND  
HEARING AID DISPENSERS BOARD**

**Title 16, Chapter 13.4**

**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY**

**Article 3. Qualifications for Licensure – Education and Clinical Experience**

**Proposed Language**

**Amend Section 1399.152.2 of Article 3 of Division 13.4 of Title 16 as follows:**

**1399.152.2. Supervised Clinical Experience.**

(a) Supervised clinical experience within the meaning of Section 2532.2, subdivision (c) of the code shall be in the area for which licensure is sought. Speech-language pathology clinical experience shall be under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist or a speech-language pathologist having qualifications deemed equivalent by the Board, and who possesses at least two years of full-time experience providing services as a fully licensed speech-language pathologist, or if in a setting or state that does not require licensure, holds legal authorization to provide independent services. Audiology clinical experience shall be under the supervision of a licensed audiologist or an audiologist having qualifications deemed equivalent by the Board, and who possesses at least two years of full-time experience providing services as a fully licensed audiologist or if in a setting or state that does not require licensure, holds legal authorization to provide independent services. “Qualifications deemed equivalent by the Board” includes a supervisor who holds the legal authorization to practice in the field for which licensure is sought in the state where the experience is being obtained, if the supervised clinical experience is obtained in a setting which is exempt from the licensure requirements of the Act or out of state.

(b) Two hundred seventy-five (275) clock hours of clinical experience shall be required for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist for applicants who completed their graduate program on or before December 31, 1992.

(c) Three hundred (300) clock hours of clinical experience in three (3) different clinical settings shall be required for licensure as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist for applicants who completed their graduate program after December 31, 1992.

(d) Twenty-five (25) hours of the required clinical experience may be in the field other than that for which the applicant is seeking licensure (speech-language pathology for an audiologist or audiology for a speech-language pathologist) if such clinical experience is under a supervisor who is qualified in the minor field as provided in subsection (a).

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 2531.95, Business and Profession Code. Reference: Section 2532.2, Business and Profession Code.

**Title 16, Chapter 13.4**

**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY**

**Article 4. Qualifications for Licensure – Required Professional Experience**

**Proposed Language**

**Amend Section 1399.153 of Article 4 of Division 13.4 of Title 16 as follows:**

**1399.153. Definitions.**

As used in this article, the term:

(a) "Required professional experience" or "RPE" means the supervised practice of speech-language pathology or audiology for the purpose of meeting the requirements for licensure in accordance with Sections 2530.5, subdivision (f), and 2532.2, subdivision (d), of the code and these regulations.

(b) "Required professional experience supervisor" or "RPE supervisor" means a person who is licensed as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist in the field for which licensure is sought, or has qualifications deemed equivalent by the ~~h~~Board, and who possesses at least two years of full-time experience providing services as a fully licensed practitioner, or if in a setting or state that does not require licensure, holds legal authorization to provide independent services in the field for which licensure is sought. "Qualifications deemed equivalent by the ~~h~~Board" include a supervisor who holds legal authorization to practice in the state where the experience is being obtained in the field for which licensure is sought if the required professional experience is obtained in a setting which is exempt from the licensure requirements of the Act or out of state.

(c) "Required professional experience temporary license holder" or "RPE temporary license holder" means a person who has complied with Section 1399.153.2 of these regulations.

NOTE: Authority cited for Article 4 (Sections 1399.160 - 1399.168): Section 2531.95, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 2532.2, Business and Professions Code.

**Title 16, Chapter 13.4**  
**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY**  
**Article 12. Speech-Language Pathology Assistants**  
**Proposed Language**

**Amend Section 1399.170, 1399.170.4, 1399.170.6, 1399.170.10, 1399.170.11, and 1399.170.15 of Article 12 of Division 13.4 of Title 16 as follows:**

**1399.170. Definitions.**

As used in this article:

(a) "Accountability" means being legally responsible and answerable for actions and inaction's of self or others during the performance of a task by the speech-language pathology assistant.

(b) "Client" shall have the same meaning and effect as the term "patient" and "student," when referring to services provided in a school setting, for purposes of interpreting the provisions in this Article.

(c) "Direct supervision" means ~~on-site~~ observation and guidance via on-site or live electronic means by the supervising speech-language pathologist, while a clinical activity is performed by the speech-language pathology assistant. Direct supervision performed by the supervising speech-language pathologist may include, but is not limited to, the following: observation of a portion of the screening or treatment procedures performed by the speech-language pathology assistant, coaching the speech-language pathology assistant, and modeling for the assistant.

(d) "Immediate supervision" means the supervising speech-language pathologist is physically present during services provided to the client by the speech-language pathology assistant.

(e) "Indirect supervision" means the supervising speech-language pathologist is not at the same facility or in close proximity to the speech-language pathology assistant, but is available to provide supervision by electronic means. Indirect supervision activities performed by the supervising speech-language pathologist may include, but are not limited to, demonstration, record review,

review, and evaluation of audio or video-taped sessions, interactive television, and supervisory conferences that may be conducted by telephone or electronic mail.

(f) "Medically fragile" is the term used to describe a client that is acutely ill and in an unstable condition and if treated by a speech-language pathology assistant, immediate supervision by a speech-language pathologist is required.

(g) "Screening" is a pass-fail procedure to identify, without interpretation, clients who may require further assessment following specified screening protocols developed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.

(h) "Supervision" for the purposes of this article, means the provision of direction and evaluation of the tasks assigned to a speech-language pathology assistant. Methods for providing supervision include direct supervision, immediate supervision, and indirect supervision.

(i) "Support personnel" means individuals who, following academic and/or on-the-job training, perform tasks as prescribed, directed, and supervised by a speech-language pathologist. There are different levels of support personnel based on training and scope of responsibilities.

NOTE: Authority Cited: Sections 2531.95 and 2538.1(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference Cited: Section 2538.1(b), Business and Professions Code.

#### **1399.170.4. Application for Approval of Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Training Programs.**

(a) To be eligible for approval by the Board as a speech-language pathology assistant training program (hereinafter referred to as "program"), the sponsoring institution shall be accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

(b) An educational institution seeking approval of a speech-language pathology assistant program shall:

(1) Notify the Board in writing, by submitting a request from the officially designated representative of the sponsoring institution and the speech-language pathology assistant program director, who must hold a valid and clear license in speech-language pathology or equivalent credentials, of its intent to offer a new program.

(2) No later than six (6) months prior to the enrollment of students, submit a formal proposal to the Board demonstrating how the program will meet the requirements of Sections 1399.170.5. through 1399.170.10. The Board, at its sole discretion, may retroactively approve programs that enrolled students prior to the effective date of the regulations.

(c) The Board shall review the request and formal proposal and may thereafter grant or deny approval. The Board may request additional information to evaluate the request for approval and shall notify the program of its decision in writing within sixty (60) days from receipt of all requested documents.

(d) A material misrepresentation by the program of any information required to be submitted to the Board may be grounds for denial of approval or removal of the program from the approved list.

NOTE: Authority Cited: Sections 2531.95 and 2538.1(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference Cited: Section 2538.1(b)(2), Business and Professions Code.

#### **1399.170.6. Requirements of the Sponsoring Institution.**

(a) Responsibilities of the sponsoring institution and of each field work site shall be clearly established by formal agreement or memorandum of understanding.

(b) The sponsoring institution shall assume primary responsibility for receiving and processing applications for student admissions, curriculum planning, selection of course content,

coordination of classroom teaching and supervised field work, appointment of faculty, and granting the completion certificate or degree, or otherwise documenting satisfactory completion of the program.

(c) Student records including admission, enrollment, academic performance directed observation, field work clock hours, and demonstration of field work competencies shall be maintained by the sponsoring institution according to its policies. Grades and credits for courses must be recorded on students' transcripts and shall be maintained by the sponsoring institution. Hours for field work experiences and supervision shall be recorded and documented by supervisory staff.

(d) The program director of the sponsoring institution shall be responsible for ensuring that the scope of responsibilities delegated to students during field work experiences are appropriate to the training received and the clients assigned, and consistent with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's ~~Guidelines for the Training, Credentialing, Use, and Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (1996, Spring)~~ Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Scope of Practice (2013), incorporated herein by reference, and that all approved criteria for speech-language pathology assistant training has been met.

NOTE: Authority Cited: Sections 2531.95 and 2538.1(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference Cited: Section 2538.1(b)(2), Business and Professions Code.

#### **1399.170.10. Required Curriculum.**

(a) A program's curriculum shall not be implemented or revised until it has been approved by the Board.

(b) The curriculum shall be designed so that a speech-language pathology assistant who completes the program will have the knowledge and skills necessary to function in accordance with the minimum standards set forth in Section 2538.1(b)(3) of the Business and Professions Code.

(c) The curriculum shall consist of not less than sixty (60) semester units or ninety (90) quarter units, which shall include the following:

(1) Twenty (20) to thirty (30) semester units or thirty (30) to forty-five (45) quarter units in general education requirements, including but not limited to, basic communication skills, knowledge of mathematics, liberal arts, and biological, behavioral and health sciences.

(2) Thirty (30) to forty (40) semester units or forty-five (45) to sixty (60) quarter units in course work that satisfies the ~~competencies curriculum~~ defined in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's ~~Guidelines for the Training, Credentialing, Use, and Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Appendix C — Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Suggested Competencies (1996, Spring)~~ Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Scope of Practice (2013) including the following observation and field work experiences:

(A) A minimum of fifteen (15) clock hours of directed observation; and

(B) A minimum of ~~seventy (70)~~ one-hundred (100) clock hours of field work experience.

(d) The course of instruction shall be presented in semester or quarter units under the following formula:

(1) One (1) hour of instruction in theory each week throughout a semester or quarter equals one (1) unit.

(2) Three (3) hours of field work practice each week throughout a semester or quarter equals one (1) unit.

NOTE: Authority Cited: Sections 2531.95 and 2538.1(a), Business and Professions Code. Reference Cited: Section 2538.1(b)(2), Business and Professions Code.

### **1399.170.11. Qualifications for Registration as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.**

To be eligible for registration by the Board as a speech-language pathology assistant, the applicant must possess at least one of the following qualifications:

(a) An associate of arts or sciences degree from a speech-language pathology assistant program accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and approved by the Board; or

(b) Evidence of completion of a bachelor's degree program in speech-language pathology or communication disorders from an institution listed in the "Accredited Institutions of Postsecondary Education" handbook issued by the American Council on Education, and completion of the field work experience as required in Section 1399.170.10(c)(2)(B) from a Board-approved program, or completion of a minimum of ~~seventy (70)~~ one-hundred (100) hours of field work experience or clinical experience equivalent to that required in Section 1399.170.10(c)(2)(B) in a bachelor's degree program as recognized in this subsection.

(1) The equivalent field work hours or clinical experience completed in a bachelor's degree program in speech-language pathology or communication disorders shall be evaluated for verification by the current training program director.

(2) In the event that the field work experience or clinical experience completed in the bachelor's degree program is deemed deficient by the authorized representative of a board-approved speech-language pathology assistant training program, the applicant may petition the Board for reconsideration.

(3) In lieu of completion of the ~~seventy (70)~~ one-hundred (100) hours of field work experience or clinical experience in a bachelor's degree program as defined in subsection (b) above, the Board may consider the completion of nine months of full-time work experience performing the duties of a speech-language pathology assistant enumerated in paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of Section 2538.1 of the Business and Professions Code as equivalent to the required clinical training.

(c) Evidence of completion of an equivalent speech-language pathology assistant associate of arts or science degree program, which includes the ~~competencies curriculum~~ in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's ~~Guidelines for the Training, Credentialing, Use, and Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Appendix C — Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Suggested Competencies (1996, Spring)~~ Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Scope of Practice (2013).

NOTE: Authority Cited: Sections 2531.95 and 2538.1, Business and Professions Code. Reference Cited: Section 2538.1(b)(2) and 2538.3(a), Business and Professions Code.

### **1399.170.15. Requirements for the Supervision of the Speech Language Pathology Assistant.**

(a) The supervising speech-language pathologist is responsible for designing and implementing a supervisory plan that protects client care and maintains the highest possible standards of quality. The amount and type of supervision required should be consistent with the skills and experience of the speech-language pathology assistant, the needs of the clients, the service setting, the tasks assigned, and the laws and regulations that govern speech-language pathology assistants. Treatment of the client remains the responsibility of the supervisor.

(b) Any person supervising a speech-language pathology assistant registered with the Board ~~on or after April 10, 2004~~, (hereinafter called "supervisor") shall submit, within thirty (30) days of the commencement of such supervision, the "Responsibility Statement for Supervision of a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant" (~~77S-60, New 12/99~~ SPA 110/REV 7/15), which requires that:

(1) The supervisor shall possess and maintain a current valid California license as a speech-language pathologist as required in Section 2532 of the Code and Section 1399.160.3 of California Code of Regulations or may hold a valid and current professional clear, clear, or life clinical

or rehabilitative services credential in language, speech and hearing issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and must have at least two years of full-time experience providing services as a speech-language pathologist.

(2) The supervisor shall immediately notify the assistant of any disciplinary action, including revocation, suspension (even if stayed), probation terms, inactive license, or lapse in licensure that affects the supervisor's ability or right to supervise.

(3) The supervisor shall ensure that the extent, kind and quality of the clinical work performed is consistent with the training and experience of the person being supervised, and shall be accountable for the assigned tasks performed by the speech-language pathology assistant. The supervisor shall review client/patient records, monitor and evaluate assessment and treatment decisions of the speech-language pathology assistant, and monitor and evaluate the ability of the assistant to provide services at the site(s) where he or she will be practicing and to the particular clientele being treated, and ensure compliance with all laws and regulations governing the practice of speech-language pathology.

(4) During the first 90 days, the supervisor shall provide immediate supervision at least 20% per week of the work schedule.

(5) The supervisor shall complete not less than six (6) hours of continuing professional development in supervision training ~~in the initial two year period from~~ prior to the commencement of supervision, and three (3) hours in supervision training of continuing professional development every ~~two~~ four (4) years thereafter. Continuing professional development training obtained by a Board-approved provider that meets the course content listed below, may be applied towards the continuing professional development requirement for licensees set forth in Section 1399.160.3 of the California Code of Regulations. The content of such training shall include, but is not limited to:

(A) Familiarity with supervision literature through reading assignments specified by course instructors; and

(B) Improving knowledge and understanding of the relationship between the speech-language pathologist and the assistant, and the relationship between the speech-language pathologist and the client.

(C) Structuring to maximize supervision, including times and conditions of supervision sessions, problem solving ability, and implementing supervisor interventions within a range of supervisory modalities including live, videotape, audiotape, and case report methods;

(D) Knowledge of contextual variables such as culture, gender, ethnicity, and economic issues; and

(E) The practice of clinical speech-language pathology including the mandated reporting laws and knowledge of ethical and legal issues.

(5) The supervisor shall maintain records of course completion for a period of two years from the speech-language pathology assistant's renewal date.

(6) The supervisor knows and understands the laws and regulations pertaining to supervision of speech-language pathology assistants.

(7) As the professional development advisor, the supervisor shall assist in the development of a plan for the speech-language pathology assistant to complete twelve (12) hours of continuing professional development every two years through state or regional conferences, workshops, formal in-service presentations, independent study programs, or any combination of these concerning communication disorders.

(8) The supervisor shall communicate to the speech-language pathology assistant the manner in which emergencies will be handled.

(9) Upon written request of the Board, the supervisor shall provide the Board with any documentation which verifies the supervisor's compliance with the requirements set forth in this article.

NOTE: Authority Cited: Sections 2531.95 and 2538.1(a), Business and Professions Code.  
Reference Cited: Sections 2530.2(f), 2538.1(b)(5), (6), (7), and (9), Business and Professions Code.