



# North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists



Speech-Language Pathologists



Audiologists

## WHO THEY ARE



Licensed experts in communication who work with people of all ages to treat communication and swallowing disorders



Licensed experts in the prevention, diagnosis and evidence-based treatment of hearing and balance disorders for people of all ages

## WHAT THEY DO

- Screen for speech, language, swallowing and hearing problems and recommend additional testing, if needed
- Teach patients, parents, families and other professionals about speech, language and swallowing
- Find ways for people to communicate if they can't talk, such as using pictures, gestures and technology
- Work with doctors, teachers and other professionals to help people with communication and swallowing problems
- Do research on ways to improve a person's communication and swallowing
- Teach and train students studying to become SLPs

- Evaluate and treat tinnitus, hearing, balance and disorders
- Select, program and custom-fit hearing aids and hearing assistive technology
- Measure the effectiveness of hearing aids and other assistive technologies
- Provide counseling about hearing and balance problems, including tinnitus
- Provide tips to improve communication in daily living
- Program and manage cochlear implant technology and other implantable devices
- Provide education about the effects of noise on hearing and the prevention of hearing loss and tinnitus

## WHERE DO THEY WORK



## REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING

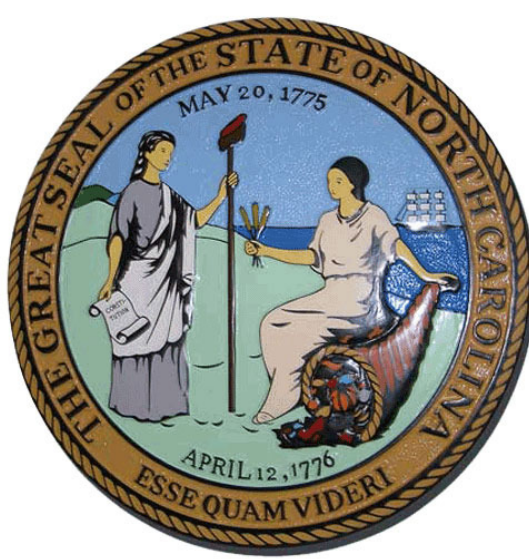
- A master's or doctoral degree
- A passing score on the national certification exam
- Participate in continuing education activities
- 400 clinical hours and 9 months of supervised experience

- A master's or doctoral degree
- A passing score on the national certification exam
- Participate in continuing education activities
- 1,800 hours of supervised experience

## WHY LICENSING IS IMPORTANT

- To safeguard the public from being misled by unauthorized persons and from unprofessional conduct on the part of qualified SLPs and audiologists
- To receive and resolve complaints from the public against licensees
- To help ensure the availability of the highest quality SLP and audiology services to communicatively impaired people
- To provide regulatory authority over persons offering SLP and audiology services

To learn more about the importance of licensing audiologists and SLPs, visit [www.ncboeslpa.org](http://www.ncboeslpa.org).



# North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

## WHO THEY ARE

The NCBOESLPA consists of 7 members appointed by the Governor for a term of 3 years with eligibility for a second 3-year term. Members include:



2 Public members



2 Audiology members



2 SLP members



1 Physician

## WHAT THEY DO

- Issue licenses to those in compliance with requirements under Article 22
- Provide continuing education to their licensees and training to potential licensees in the state's 6 training institutions
- Monitor continuing education requirements to ensure quality, skilled care
- Receive and investigate complaints from the public and from licensees
- Conduct settlement conferences and disciplinary hearings of licensees
- Collaborate with the NC Medicaid Fraud Unit on matters of fraudulent billing
- Per federal requirements, report disciplinary action to National Data Banks
- Randomly audit licensees to ensure compliance with Article 22 and provide feedback and instruction to those audited in an Audit Exit Interview
- Provide guidance to licensees
- Enact rules and regularly review those rules in accordance with the NC Administrative Procedures Act
- Undergo training in accordance with N.C.G.S. and additional training through the National Council of State Boards and Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards

## WHERE DO THEY WORK

The NCBOESLPA meets monthly in Greensboro or at the location of any disciplinary hearing. It posts meeting dates on its website and the Secretary of State's website/calendar, in compliance with open meeting laws.



## THE PURPOSE OF THE NCBOESLPA

The NCBOESLPA was created in 1975 by the North Carolina General Assembly to protect the most vulnerable populations in North Carolina; the very young, elderly and the communicatively impaired.

## ENABLING STATUTE

Article 22. Licensure Act for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

**§ 90-292. Declaration of policy.** It is declared to be a policy of the State of North Carolina that, in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare; to protect the public from being misled by incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons and from unprofessional conduct on the part of qualified speech and language pathologists and audiologists and to help assure the availability of the highest possible quality speech and language pathology and audiology services to the communicatively handicapped people of this State, it is necessary to provide regulatory authority over persons offering speech and language pathology and audiology services to the public.

(1975, c. 773, s. 1.)

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