

## Requirements for Registering a SLP-Assistant

1. For registration, the following information must be presented to the Board of Examiners:
  - a. Evidence of successful completion of an Associate's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology Assisting from an accredited institution of higher learning, community college, or equivalent program; or evidence of successful completion of a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution as well as evidence of successful completion of the following Speech-Language Assisting curriculum courses developed by the N. C. Department of Community Colleges:
    - i. Introduction to Speech-Language Pathology (SLP III or equivalent)
    - ii. SLP Office Procedures (SLP 120 or equivalent)
    - iii. Disorders and Treatment I (SLP 211 or equivalent)
    - iv. Disorders and Treatment II (SLP 212 OR equivalent)
    - v. Assistive Technology (SLP 220 OR equivalent)
    - vi. SLP Field Work (SLP 230 or equivalent)
    - vii. SLP Field Work Seminar (SLP 231 or equivalent)
  - b. A passing score on a competency test approved by the Board of Examiners
  - c. Registration form signed by SLP-Assistant and supervising licensee(s)
2. Licensees who register a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant must hold a current, permanent license in North Carolina and must have held such a license, or equivalent qualifications from another state, for at least two years.
3. Licensees who register a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant must submit the application and annual fee for registration to the Board. The Board's policy with regard to fees requires that remitted checks must clear the bank before the assistant can be registered. The only exceptions are those fees that are paid with money orders or certified checks.
  - a. Registration Fee - \$40.00
  - b. Annual Renewal Fee - \$40.00
4. Before the Board can approve the registration, the Primary Supervising Licensee must complete and return to the Board of Examiners the Learning Instrument for Licensed Speech-Language Pathologists to Register a SLP-Assistant.
5. The Primary Licensee must submit to the Board of Examiners the Assistant's competency checklist within ninety days of registration. A new competency checklist must be completed and filed within ninety days each time the Primary Supervising Licensee changes.
6. Before assigning a treatment task to an Assistant, the Licensee must first have evaluated the patient, written a general treatment plan, and provided the Assistant with a written session protocol specifying the eliciting conditions (A) the target behavior, (B) and the contingent response (C) for patient behaviors. A recommended format for this session protocol is enclosed.

## Summary of Basic Requirements Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

- Only speech-language pathologists licensed by the Board of Examiners may register speech-language pathology assistants. No other license, certification, or credential qualifies an individual to register and use assistants in North Carolina.
- The maximum number of assistants which a licensed speech-language pathologist may register with the Board of Examiners is two. This number is reduced to one assistant per licensee for licensees who are employed part-time, which is defined in the rules as less than 30 hours per week.
- More than one licensee may participate in the supervision of assistants, however only one individual is designated as the primary supervising licensee who registers the assistant with the Board and who has overall responsibility for the activities of the assistant. All primary and secondary supervisors must be identified to the Board.
- Speech-Language Pathology Assistants must have the minimum of an Associate's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology Assisting, or equivalent training as approved by the Board. It is anticipated that very few candidates will meet all requirements through equivalency, particularly for supervised practicum. Abbreviated programs may be used with partially-qualified applicants to accelerate training to meet the full qualification standard.
- The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant must be registered with the Board of Examiners before providing any direct services to students or clients.
- The scope of responsibilities for speech-language pathology assistants (i.e. tasks which the speech-language pathology assistants are authorized to perform) as well as the requirements for supervision are defined in the approved rules.
- Speech-Language Pathology Assistants may not bill patients or insurance directly for the services which they provide, however billing is processed through the primary supervising licensee.
- There is no reciprocity between states for speech-language pathology assistants, although reciprocity may be a future possibility if a standard national model emerges.

Instruction in the supervision standards is available through other organizations. The Board of Examiners has given a grant to the North Carolina Association of Supervisors in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to develop training materials in supervision as it relates to speech-language pathology assistants. Please contact the Board office if you wish to receive more information.