

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
**TITLE 16. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY
AND HEARING AID DISPENSERS BOARD**

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant
Program and Academic Requirements

ORDER OF ADOPTION

Amend section 1399.170.4 of Article 12 of Division 13.4 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 1399.170.4. Application Eligibility 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) To be eligible for program approval by the Board, the program director must meet the following requirements:

(1) hold a current, active, and unrestricted California license,

(2) have practiced speech-language pathology for at least five (5) years, and

(3) not be the subject of Board disciplinary action within the past five (5) years.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the terms “disciplinary action” and “restricted California license” shall both mean that the license was revoked, suspended, placed on probation, or publicly reprovved.

(bd) 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, 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.

(ee) 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.

(df) 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: Section 2538.1(b)(2), Business and Professions Code.

Amend section 1399.170.10 of Division 13.4 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 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~~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 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) 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: Section 2538.1(b)(2), Business and Professions Code.

Amend section 1399.170.11 of Division 13.4 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 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.

(~~2A~~) 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.

(3B) 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~~thirty-six (36) weeks 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 listed 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).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2531.95 and 2538.1, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Section 2538.1~~(b)(2)~~ and 2538.3~~(a)~~, Business and Professions Code.