

Newsflash -- September 15, 2013

Subject: New Rules Affect Prospective SLPAs and their Supervising SLPs

If you know someone wanting to become an SLPA, this is important and good news! Effective September 13, 2013, the Board issued new rules to create a new temporary license category called a "Provisional SLPA Certificate" and have revised the clinical fieldwork requirements for SLPA certification for **all** applicants. These temporary rules are now posted on BSPA's [home page](#). The new rules will be included in the official rules on the Oregon Secretary of State's website as of November 1st.

First, the good news: Prospective SLPAs can now legally complete their clinical fieldwork outside of an approved practicum course *if they first obtain a Provisional SLPA Certificate*. This has been the Board's intention since 2006, but we recently found a conflict between SLPA certification rules and the Board's overall licensing law. This conflict is resolved by the new temporary license.

Here's how it works: After completing one year of general education and one year of technical credits in speech-language pathology, individuals wanting to train as an SLPA can find a supervisor at a fieldwork site and obtain a Board Provisional SLPA Certificate that will allow them to complete their fieldwork. This new temporary license costs only \$30, and is valid for 180 days. This should be plenty of time to complete the 100 hours of clinical interaction (with 100% direct supervision) that is required for SLPA certification. The Provisional SLPA Certificate application has a Clinical Fieldwork Contract that the supervisor and prospective SLPA need to sign, attesting that they will meet Board requirements for the fieldwork. It is still up to the fieldwork participant to meet other obligations determined by the fieldwork site, such as liability coverage, background check, etc. With a Provisional SLPA Certificate, the fieldwork participant may be paid in a non-licensed position (such as Educational Assistant), receive an educational stipend, or be unpaid.

Students enrolled in a practicum course in a Board-approved, accredited training program do not need to obtain a Provisional SLPA Certificate to complete their clinical fieldwork in that practicum course. For example, students enrolled in the SLPA practicum course at Chemeketa Community College do not need this Provisional SLPA Certificate. Students may not be paid; except that they can receive a reasonable educational stipend while completing their practicum.

Second, be aware that the forms and requirements for the clinical fieldwork have changed somewhat for **all** SLPA applicants (including those from Chemeketa). In addition to 100 clinical interaction hours, SLPA clinical fieldwork participants must now also document 2 hours of assessment and consultation with their supervisor for every 25 hours of clinical interaction—for a total of 8 hours. This amount of supervision has undoubtedly been taking place, but now it must be documented. The Clinical Fieldwork Log (part of the SLPA application form) has been revised so that applicants know to document both the 100 clinical interaction hours **and** the 8 assessment/consultation hours. The SLPA Clinical Competency Checklist has also been updated to allow space for each of the three interim assessments and the final assessment.

These rules went into effect on a temporary basis on Friday, September 13, 2013. They are also included in a package of rule changes that are proposed to become permanent in the next couple of months. More information on the permanent rule-making—including how and where to send your formal comments—will be sent in a separate newsflash.

If you have questions about the new Provisional SLPA Certificate or the revised SLPA clinical fieldwork rules, please contact the Board office at speechaud.board@state.or.us, or call 971-673-0020.