

Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

Requirements to Hold Licensure in Virginia to Practice Speech-Language Pathology

General Licensure Requirements

Question: Is a license required to practice speech-language pathology?

Answer: Yes, pursuant to § 54.1-2603 of the Code of Virginia (Code) in order to practice speech-language pathology within the Commonwealth of Virginia, a license issued by the Virginia Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (BASLP) is required.

However, § 54.1-2601 of the Code provides the following exemptions to the licensure requirement:

- Any person employed by a federal, state, county or municipal agency or an educational institution; and
- Any student, intern or trainee in speech-language pathology pursuing a course of study at an accredited university or college, or working in a recognized training center.

Q: What happens if the practice of speech-language pathology occurs without a license?

A: For those individuals who are qualified to be licensed and practiced speech-language pathology without obtaining a license, the individual may be subject to public disciplinary action by BASLP. For those individuals who are not qualified to be licensed and practiced speech-language pathology, the matter is referred to the appropriate Commonwealth's Attorney for possible criminal prosecution.

Practice in Schools

Q: Is there a licensure requirement for a SLP working in a public school division?

A: Yes, one of the following licenses is required to work in a public school division:

- Professional licensure by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) with an endorsement in speech-language pathology;
- School speech-language pathology license issued by BASLP; or
- Full speech-language pathology license issued by BASLP.

Q: What constitutes working in a public school division?

A: In order to be considered working in a public school division, an SLP must be employed and compensated directly by the public school division.

Q: What is the licensure requirement for an SLP working in a public school division but placed and compensated by a private contractor?

A: If an SLP is employed by and receives his compensation from a private contractor, he is not considered working in a public school division. A full speech-language pathology license issued by BASLP is required.

Q: Is an SLP licensed and endorsed by VDOE or licensed as a school speech-language pathologist by BASLP permitted to practice speech-language pathology outside of the public school division?

A: No, a full speech-language pathology license must be obtained from BASLP prior to practicing outside of the public school division. In addition, seeing a patient privately for treatment on public school property requires a full speech-language pathology license issued by BASLP.

Q: Is the licensure requirement for an SLP working in a private school the same as for working in a public school division?

A: No, an SLP working in a private school must obtain a full speech-language pathology license issued by BASLP. However, an SLP licensed and endorsed by VDOE may provide services to a private school student in a private school setting **if performing duties as an employee of a public school division**. A BASLP full license would be required to otherwise provide services in a private school setting.

Practice as a Student, Intern or Trainee

Q: Who is considered a student, intern or trainee in speech-language pathology?

A: Any person who is pursuing a course of study in speech-language pathology at an accredited university or college or working in a recognized training center.

Q: What is a recognized training center?

A: A training facility that has a connection to an accredited university or college.

Q: Is licensure required while completing a clinical fellowship year?

A: Currently, the laws and regulations in Virginia do not require that a SLP complete a clinical fellowship year. If a clinical fellowship year is being completed prior to graduation from an accredited university or college, an SLP is considered a student/intern/trainee and is exempt from licensure. However, upon graduation, he must be licensed to practice speech-language pathology in Virginia regardless of the clinical fellowship status. **Practicing without a license may result in a public disciplinary action.**

Licensure Renewal and Practice

Q: When must a license be renewed?

A: All speech-language pathology licenses issued by BASLP expire each December 31st and must be renewed prior to this date.

Q: Who is responsible for licensure renewal?

A: The licensee is responsible for licensure renewal regardless of whether a renewal notice was received. Therefore, the BASLP recommends that each licensee have a personal reminder method for this important task. Ensure that the address of record and the email address are current by accessing the online account system or contacting the board office.

Q: What is practicing with a lapsed license?

A: Any practice of speech-language pathology after December 31st with a license that has not been renewed is considered practicing with a lapsed license. **Practicing with a lapsed license may result in public disciplinary action against a licensee.**

Q: Is there a grace period to practice speech-language pathology without a license or with a lapsed license?

A: No, there are no grace periods to practice without a license. However, exemptions to licensure discussed above exist if the specified conditions are met.