

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 in Virginia?

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.

Q: Is a license required to practice speech-language pathology via telepractice into Virginia?

A: If the practice of speech-language pathology is being provided to a client within Virginia, regardless of delivery method, a license issued by the BASLP is required. The license type required is dependent upon the practice setting. If providing services via telepractice solely in a public school division as outlined in the “Practice in Schools” section below, then a school speech-language pathology license is appropriate. The inclusion of any other setting (i.e. home, private school, medical facility, etc.) would require a full speech-language pathology license.

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 an SLP working in a public school division?

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

- School speech-language pathology license issued by BASLP;
- Provisional speech-language pathology license issued by BASLP; or
- Full speech-language pathology license issued by BASLP.

Q: What constitutes practicing solely in a public school division?

A: A licensee who has been granted a school speech-language pathology license by statute shall practice solely in public school divisions and may not provide treatment to clients privately. Additional clarification is provided in the following scenarios:

- When a public school student receives speech-language pathology services in a setting other than a public school such as a preschool or homebound/home-based setting, a school, provisional or full speech-language pathology license is required.
- When a public school student is placed by a public school division into a private school/facility and receives speech-language pathology services which are being paid for by the public school division, a school, provisional or full speech-language license is required.

- When a private school student is placed in a private school by a parent but qualifies for a service plan and receives speech-language pathology services at the public school, a school, provisional or full speech-language pathology license is required.
- When a private school student is placed into a private school by a parent with no public school funding and receives speech-language pathology services by a private school speech-language pathologist, a provisional or full license speech-language pathology license is required.

Q: What type of license is required for practice in another setting?

A: A provisional or full speech-language pathology license is needed to practice outside of a public school division. Additional clarification is provided in the following scenarios:

- When a private school student is placed into a private school by a parent with no public school funding and receives speech-language pathology services, a provisional or full speech-language pathology licensed is required.
- When a student, public or private, receives services not paid for by a public school division, a provisional or full speech-language pathology licensee is required.

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

A: An SLP employed by a school or a contractor may practice in a public school division with a school, provisional or a full speech-language pathology license issued by the BASLP.

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 a clinical fellowship year required for licensure in Virginia?

A: As of January 15, 2015, a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is required in order to receive an initial license from BASLP. ASHA requires a clinical fellowship year in order to issue an SLP a Certificate of Clinical Competence.

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

A: Licensure requirements during a clinical fellowship year are dependent upon the following:

- If a clinical fellowship year is being completed prior to graduation from an accredited university or college and the SLP is placed in a clinical fellowship program as part of the course of study or working in a recognized training center, an SLP is considered a student/intern/trainee and is exempt from licensure pursuant to § 54.1-2601 of the Code of Virginia.
- Upon graduation, an SLP completing a clinical fellowship year must hold a provisional license issued by BASLP in order to practice in Virginia.

Practicing without a license may result in a public disciplinary action.

Licensure Renewal and Practice

Q: When must a license be renewed?

A: School and full speech-language pathology licenses issued by BASLP expire each December 31st and must be renewed prior to this date. A provisional license expires 18 months from the date of issuance.

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 without a current, valid license after December 31st or expiration date of a provisional license is considered practice 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.