



STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

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POSITION STATEMENT FOR SUPERVISING LICENSED INTERNS IN AUDIOLOGY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance related to the supervision of audiology interns. The Act and the Board Rules permit audiology interns to deliver audiological services under the supervision of a licensed audiologist. The supervising audiologist shall be responsible for all client services performed by the intern, and must determine that the intern is qualified to perform those services. A licensed intern shall only practice under supervision of the licensed audiologist(s) who completed the Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision Form and received approval from the Board office.

REFERENCES:

The Act: Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 401, §401.311
Board Rules: 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 741
Subchapter D, §741.41 Professional Responsibilities of License Holders
Subchapter E, §741.82 relating to Requirements for an Intern in Audiologist License
Subchapter H, Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments

(NOTE: Failure to follow the requirements of the Act and Board Rules shall result in disciplinary action imposed by the Board against both the supervising audiologist and the intern.)

RESPECTIVE DUTIES OF THE AUDIOLOGIST AND INTERN:

Under the supervision of a licensed audiologist, the licensed audiology intern is authorized to: conduct evaluations; interpret test results; determine case selection; design treatment programs; collect data and document performance; maintain clinical records; provide written or oral reports (e.g., progress notes, diagnostic reports) regarding patient/client status; make referrals, and participate in interdisciplinary team meetings (e.g., ARD's, IFSP conferences, discharge staffings) and fit and dispense hearing aids for all patients/clients being served. The licensed intern shall abide by the decisions made by the supervisor relating to the intern's scope of practice. In the event the supervisor requests that the intern violate Board Rules, the Texas Occupations Code, or any other law, the intern shall refuse to do so and immediately notify the Board office and any other appropriate authority.

The licensed audiologist is responsible for verifying that the Board office has approved the Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision, and that the intern holds a current, valid license before allowing him/her to practice. (Note: The intern may simultaneously pursue the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Clinical Fellowship, but approval from ASHA to begin the Clinical Fellowship is **not** a license to practice.)

PROVIDING ADEQUATE SUPERVISION:

To allow time for appropriate training and supervision, it may be necessary to reduce the number of patients/clients directly served by the licensed audiologist in relation to the number of interns being supervised. Variables that affect the maximum number of individuals who can be supervised appropriately by the licensed audiologist may include but are not limited to:

- a. the number of hours per week the audiologist and intern(s) are employed;
- b. the number of other individuals (e.g., audiology assistants, graduate externs) being supervised;
- c. time required of the supervising audiologist in direct service provision;
- d. the experience level of the supervisor and intern(s);
- e. the time limits imposed by supervision requirements;
- f. the number of locations in which services are provided and travel time between locations;
- g. other roles and responsibilities assigned to the audiologist (e.g., attending staff meetings and fulfilling other campus and district assignments).

The audiologist should be the *only* professional to decide how many, if any, audiology interns he/she can supervise and still ensure that all services are provided in compliance with Board Rules and the Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 401.

AMOUNT OF SUPERVISION REQUIRED:

The supervising audiologist must provide no fewer than 36 clock hours of supervisory activities over the course of the internship. Supervision must be divided equally among the three segments (1/3 length of the internship), including 6 hours of on-site observation of direct client contact at the intern's work site and 6 hours of other monitoring activities during each segment. Other monitoring activities may include, but are not limited to: telephone conferences with the intern, evaluating the intern's records and correspondence, reviewing videotapes of the intern's evaluations and/or hearing aid fittings, and discussing the intern's performance with his/her professional colleagues.

CHANGES IN SUPERVISOR, EMPLOYER, OR NUMBER OF HOURS EMPLOYED:

If the intern changes his or her supervisor or adds additional supervisors, a current Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision Form must be submitted by the new supervisor and approved by the Board office before the intern may resume practice. The past supervisor and the intern must complete a Report of Completed Internship Form and submit it to the Board office upon completion of that portion of the internship. The Board office shall evaluate the form and inform the intern of the results.

If the intern changes employers, but the supervisor and the number of hours employed per week remain the same, the supervisor must submit a signed statement giving the name, address and phone number of the new location. A Report of Completed Internship Form must be submitted for the experience at the previous location.

If the number of hours worked per week changes but the supervisor and the location remain the same, the supervisor must submit a signed statement giving the date the change occurred and the number of hours per week the intern is now working. A Report of Completed Internship Form must be submitted for the past experience. Be sure the form clearly indicates the number of hours worked per week.

DESIGNATE PRIMARY SUPERVISOR:

If more than one supervisor supervises the intern, each supervisor must complete the Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision Form and be approved by the Board office before supervising. The primary supervisor must be designated. At the end of the internship, the designated primary supervisor must complete the Report of Completed Internship Form. Additional supervisors may either submit the form or write a letter to the Board, naming the primary supervisor and concurring with the primary supervisor's report.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:

The supervising audiologist must provide feedback to the intern throughout the internship, and shall conduct at least one formal evaluation of the intern's progress in each segment of the internship. Both the

intern and supervisor must maintain documentation of the supervisor's observation and evaluation records for three years or until the audiology license is granted. These records must be provided to the Board upon request.

ISSUANCE OF INTERN LICENSE AND RENEWAL:

The intern license is issued for one full year to allow sufficient time for most individuals to complete the internship and apply for full licensure or the temporary certificate of registration.

If the internship is not completed by the expiration date of the license, the supervisor should verify that the intern renewed the license. (Ten continuing education hours are required to renew the intern's license, in addition to other required forms and the fee. A Renewal Form is mailed 45 days prior to the expiration date of the intern license and will include complete instructions.)

INTERNSHIP COMPLETED:

Once the internship has been completed, the intern must submit a current Application Form, fee, and other required documentation to the Board office to apply for full licensure or the temporary certificate of registration. The supervisor shall complete the Report of Completed Internship Form. It is the decision of the supervisor to determine whether the internship is acceptable. Refer to Board Rules, §741.112(a) for documentation to submit to the Board office.

As long as the intern license remains valid, the intern may practice under supervision while awaiting full licensure or the temporary certificate of registration. The supervising audiologist must mail or fax a signed letter to the Board office, stating that he or she will continue to supervise the intern from the "Ending Date of Internship" as shown on the Report of Completed Internship Form until the intern receives the full license or temporary certificate of registration.

NOTE: Please understand that holding the ASHA CCC is not a license to practice.

We can be contacted at:

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