



STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

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POSITION STATEMENT FOR SUPERVISING LICENSED INTERNS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance related to the supervision of speech-language pathology interns. The Act and the Board Rules permit speech-language pathology interns to deliver speech-language services under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist. The supervising speech-language pathologist shall be responsible for all client services performed by the speech-language pathology intern, and must determine that the speech-language pathology intern is qualified to perform those services. A licensed speech-language pathology intern shall only practice under supervision of the licensed speech-language pathologist(s) who have 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 relating to the Code of Ethics; Duties and Responsibilities of License Holders
Subchapter E, §741.62 relating to Requirements for an Intern in Speech-Language Pathology License

(NOTE: Failure to follow the requirements of the Act and Board Rules shall result in disciplinary action being proposed by the Board against both the supervising speech-language pathologist and the speech-language pathology intern.)

RESPECTIVE DUTIES OF THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AND INTERN:

Under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist, the licensed speech-language pathology 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., Admission Review Dismissal (ARD)'s, Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) conferences, discharge staffings) for all patients/clients being served. The licensed speech-language pathology intern shall abide by the decisions made by the licensed speech-language pathologist supervisor relating to the speech-language pathology intern's scope of practice. In the event the supervising speech-language pathologist requests that the speech-language pathology intern violate Board Rules, the Texas Occupations Code, or any other law, the speech-language pathology intern shall refuse to do so and immediately notify the Board office and any other appropriate authority.

The licensed speech-language pathologist is responsible for verifying that the Board office has approved the Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision, and that the speech-language pathology intern holds a current, valid license before allowing him/her to practice. (Note: The speech-language pathology intern may simultaneously pursue the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) 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 clients directly served by the licensed speech-language pathologist in relation to the number of speech-language pathology interns being supervised. Variables that affect the maximum number of individuals who can be supervised appropriately by the licensed speech-language pathologist may include but are not limited to:

- a. the number of hours per week the speech-language pathologist and speech-language pathology intern(s) are employed;
- b. the number of other individuals (e.g., speech-language pathology assistants) being supervised;
- c. time required of the supervising speech-language pathologist in direct service provision;
- d. the experience level of the speech-language pathologist supervisor and speech-language pathology 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 speech-language pathologist (e.g., attending staff meetings and fulfilling other campus/district/agency assignments).

The supervising speech-language pathologist should be the *only* professional to decide how many, if any, speech-language pathology 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 speech-language pathologist 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 speech-language pathology 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 speech-language pathology intern, evaluating the speech-language pathology intern's records and correspondence, reviewing videotapes of the speech-language pathology intern's therapy, and discussing the speech-language pathology intern's performance with his/her professional colleagues.

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

If the speech-language pathology intern changes his or her speech-language pathologist supervisor or adds additional supervisors, a current speech-language pathology Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision Form must be submitted by the new speech-language pathologist supervisor and approved by the Board office before the speech-language pathology intern may resume practice. The past speech-language pathologist supervisor and the speech-language pathology 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 speech-language pathology intern of the results.

If the speech-language pathology intern changes employers, but the speech-language pathologist supervisor and the number of hours employed per week remain the same, the speech-language pathologist 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 speech-language pathologist supervisor and the location remain the same, the speech-language pathology supervisor must submit a signed statement giving the date the change occurred and the number of hours per week the speech-language pathology 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 speech-language pathologist supervisor supervises the speech-language pathology intern, each speech-language pathologist supervisor must complete the Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision Form and be approved by the Board office before supervising. The primary speech-language pathologist supervisor must be designated. At the end of the internship, the designated primary speech-language pathologist supervisor must complete the Report of Completed Internship Form. Additional speech-language pathologist supervisors may either submit the form or write a letter to the Board, naming the primary speech-language pathologist supervisor and concurring with the primary supervisor's report.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:

The supervising speech-language pathologist must provide feedback to the speech-language pathology intern throughout the internship, and shall conduct at least one formal evaluation of the speech-language pathology intern's progress in each segment of the internship. Both the speech-language pathology intern and speech-language pathologist supervisor must maintain documentation of the speech-language pathologist supervisor's observation and evaluation records for three (3) years, or until the speech-language pathology license is granted. These records must be provided to the Board upon request.

ISSUANCE OF INTERN LICENSE AND RENEWAL:

The speech-language pathology 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 speech-language pathologist supervisor should verify that the speech-language pathology intern renewed the license. (Ten continuing education hours are required to renew the speech-language pathology 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 speech-language pathology intern's license and will include complete instructions.)

INTERNSHIP COMPLETED:

Once the internship has been completed, the speech-language pathology 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 speech-language pathologist supervisor shall complete the Report of Completed Internship Form. It is the decision of the speech-language pathologist supervisor to determine whether the internship is acceptable. Refer to Board Rules, §741.112(a) for documentation to submit to the Board office.

If the speech-language pathology intern has not passed the Praxis Exam, by the end of the Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY) the speech-language pathology intern must apply for a Temporary Certificate of Registration (§741.65) which allows him/her to practice for eight (8) weeks after the next Praxis Exam. However, after that timeframe if the speech-language pathology intern has not passed the exam, the speech-language pathology intern will need to apply for an speech-language pathology assistant license and submit a new Supervisory Responsibility Statement (SRS) and abide by the rules and regulation of a speech-language pathology assistant.

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

language pathology intern changes supervisors, the new speech-language pathologist supervisor shall first submit the speech-language pathology intern plan and agreement of supervision form and receive Board approval before the speech-language pathology intern may resume practice.

NOTE: Please understand that holding the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency (CCC) is not a license to practice in Texas.

We can be contacted by regular mail at:

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