ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 870-X-2
THE LICENSURE, CFY/FOURTH-YEAR INTERNSHIP REGISTRATION AND ASSISTANT REGISTRATION

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870-X-2-.01 Exemptions.

Nothing in these rules and regulations or the current law shall be construed as preventing or restricting:

(a) Physicians or surgeons or persons under their supervision from engaging in the examining, testing and diagnosing of speech and auditory disorders in this state;

(b) A licensed hearing aid fitter and seller (dealer) from engaging in the practice of fitting, testing and selling hearing aids in this state;

(c) Any person licensed in this state by any other law from engaging in the profession or occupation for which that person is licensed;

(d) The activities and services of a person who holds a valid and current credential as a speech and/or hearing specialist issued by the Department of Education of this state, or a person who is employed as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist by the Government of the United States, if such person performs speech pathology and audiology services solely within the confines or under the jurisdiction of the organization by which he/she is employed: This provision does not exempt persons who perform speech-language pathology and audiology services outside the confines or jurisdiction of the Department of Education of this state or the Government of the United States. Such persons may, without obtaining a license

under the act, consult with or disseminate his research findings and other scientific information to speech-language pathologists and/or audiologists outside the jurisdiction of the organization by which he/she is employed. Such person may also offer lectures to the public for a fee, monetary or other, without being licensed under the act. Such persons may additionally elect to be subject to and licensed under the provisions of this Act;

(e) Persons designated as an intern, trainee, or other such title, who are pursuing a course of study and/or training in speech-language pathology and/or audiology at a college or university. Such activities and services must be part of a supervised course of study and/or training at that institution or its cooperative programs approved by the University;

(f) The activities and services of a person fulfilling the Clinical Fellowship Year or Fourth-Year Internship if such person is registered as a clinical fellow with the Board;

(g) An unlicensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist, who resides in another state if:

1. The person meets the qualifications and requirements for application for licensure described herein; and

2. Services are performed for no more than seven days in any calendar year; and

3. Services are performed in cooperation with a speech-language pathologist, or audiologist licensed by the Board.

(h) A licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist, who resides in another state and who is not licensed by the Board, may perform speech-language pathology or audiology services in this state provided:

1. The person is licensed under the laws of another state that has established licensure requirements at least equivalent to those established by the State of Alabama, or who holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence in speech-language pathology or audiology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, or its equivalent; and

2. Services are performed for no more than 30 days in any calendar year; and

3. Services are performed in cooperation with a speech-language pathologist or audiologist licensed by the Board.

(i) Any practitioner seeking an exemption under paragraphs (g) or (h) must notify the Board.

(j) Any practitioner who does not meet the exemptions stated above must hold an Alabama license. This shall be required for all individuals providing services for consumers in Alabama via in-office practice as well as telepractice or any other electronic means.

Author: David Savage, H. Gregory Adams, Kay Wilson, Ken Earley, Robert L. Rane, Paul Stevens, Lawrence Molt
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870-X-2-.02 Application For Licensure.

(1) Be of good moral character.

(2) A person eligible for licensure shall make application upon a form and in such a manner as the Board prescribes, and shall mail or deliver the application to a permanent address set and made known to the general public by publication by the Board. The application must be received at least five (5) business days prior to the Board meeting at which it will be reviewed.

(3) Applications must be accompanied by a $200.00 application fee, which can in no case be refunded. Applications should be submitted prior to the initiation of practice in Alabama. However, those holding a valid Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) and/or an equivalent certification including an active license in Audiology or Speech-Language Pathology in another state may practice during the interim period between submission of the licensure application form and Board action on the application. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete.

(4) A license will be issued in either speech language pathology or audiology upon Board approval of the license application and receipt of a $75.00 license fee. The license fee may be prorated based on the following criteria:

(a) Full initial fee of $75.00 is due for all licenses that are approved by the Board within the first eight (8) months of the licensure year (January-August).

(b) Applications submitted after August 31st will be assessed a license fee of $10.00 less per month from the full fee up to December 31st. This proration will be effective based on the date of license approval, not based on the date of

application. The prorated license is valid until December 31st.

(c) for individuals submitting applications for licensure for the first time. It does not apply to late renewals see 870-X-4-.03 for information regarding late renewals.

(5) Be a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government.

(6) Each licensee shall notify the board in writing by certified mail within 30 days after he/she receives notice of:

(a) a disciplinary action by another licensure board in another jurisdiction; or

(b) any criminal convictions, misdemeanors, or felonies from the State of Alabama or another jurisdiction.

Failure to notify the board of such will result in disciplinary action, as stated in Section 870-X-5-.01, est. seq. of the ABESPA rules and regulations.

(7) Licensure Guidelines for Military Spouses

(a) In accordance with Military Family Jobs Opportunity Act 2018, a military spouse who is licensed as a speech language pathologist, or audiologist in another state will be given special consideration when applying for licensure in this state.

1. Military spouse applicants apply according to 870-X-2-.02 but using the Military Spouse Expedited Licensure Form.

2. Applicants who are the spouse of military personnel submit with the application a copy of current dependent military-issued identification.

3. Application fees usually associate with licensure applications are waived.

4. This section shall not apply to the spouse of a military member receiving a dishonorable discharge.

Author: David Savage; Robin Auerbach, Beth Hardaway, Kay Wilson, Ken Earley, Robert L. Rane, Fran Buttram, Florence Cuneo, Denise Heffel, Mark Carroll
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870-X-2-.03 Requirements For Licensure.

(1) Upon receipt of the licensure application and payment of the licensing fee, the Board may grant licensure to any person certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that is, holding a currently valid Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) or an equivalent certification from an accrediting Association or Academy in the area for which licensure is applied. A license may be granted in either speech-language pathology or audiology. Licenses in both speech-language pathology and audiology may be granted to an applicant who requests both licenses and who is certified in both areas. The fee will be twice that of a license in a single area.

(2) Persons without the CCC (not holding a currently valid Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) or an equivalent certification from another accrediting Association or Academy must meet the following:

(a) Education Requirements. Submit official transcripts from one or more accredited colleges or universities approved by the Board, showing evidence of possession of at least a Master's degree, the completion of academic requirements preceding the Fourth-Year Internship in Au.D. programs or the equivalent in speech-1anguage pathology or audiology. The word "equivalent" as stated in the Code of Ala. 1975, §34-28A-1 is defined in these Rules and Regulations as being equal to or greater than requirements for the Master's degree or Doctorate of Audiology degree.

(b) Practicum Requirements. Provide documentation (letter on university/college letterhead with original signature) from the director of the training program that the individual meets the clinical requirements commensurate with the training program and degree (specifically defined in the document). The practical experience was obtained under the qualified supervision within the training institution or one of its cooperative training programs.

(c) Written Examination Requirements. See Chapter 870-X-3.

Author: David Savage, Beth Hardaway, Robin Auerbach, Kay Wilson, Ken Earley, Robert L. Rane, Florence Cuneo

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870-X-2-.04 Disposition Of Applications For Licensure.

(1) Board Action.

(a) Applications, which are deemed to be in order, will be reviewed by the Board. If approved, the applicant will be notified and will be licensed upon receipt of the $200.00 application fee and appropriate license fee. Failure of the applicant to respond to the Board's notification (within 30 days) will necessitate investigation by the chair of the Board's Committee on Credentials Review and Enforcement.

(b) A majority vote by a quorum (four members) or more shall be required to determine disposition of an application for licensure. The applicant will be notified by letter of the Board's decision.

(2) Restrictions on Member Voting. Board members must abstain from voting in the licensing process if there is a conflict of interest.

(3) Issuance of License Certificate.

(a) Each person approved for licensure by the Board shall be issued a license. Licenses will be issued at least quarterly. Applications should be received five (5) days prior to the meeting for review.

(b) A license certificate will identify the licensee as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist.

(c) License certificates shall bear the full name of the licensee, the date of Board approval, and a serial number. They shall be signed by the chair and executive secretary under the seal of the Board.

Author: David Savage, Denise P. Gibbs, Kay Wilson, Ken Earley, Robert L. Rane, Richard Talbott
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-28A-1, et seq. **History:** Filed September 20, 1982. **Amended:** Filed December 12, 1988; January 14, 1994. **Amended:** Filed February 11, 1994; effective March 18, 1994. **Amended:** Filed August 29, 1997;

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870-X-2-.05 Clinical Fellowship Or Fourth-Year Internship And Requirements.

(1) Persons fulfilling the clinical experience (Clinical Fellowship or Fourth-Year Internship) are required to apply for a provisional license with the Board within thirty (30) days of beginning employment or an internship. The application process must be completed within sixty (60) days of receipt of application. If requirements listed below are not met within sixty (60) days the applicant will lose the application fee and must reapply. A license will not be granted until the applicant has successfully applied with the Board and the supervised clinical experience is complete. The following apply to both Clinical Fellowship and Fourth-Year Internship:

(a) Provisional license application.

(b) $200 application fee.

(c) A notarized statement from the applicant's Clinical Fellowship or Fourth-Year Internship supervisor which must include:

(i) Beginning date of Clinical Fellowship or Fourth-Year Internship.

(ii) Expected completion date

(iii) Number of hours to be worked each week.

(iv) Place of employment.

(v) Supervisor's name and Alabama license number.

(d) ALL official undergraduate and graduate transcripts.

(2) The applicant must notify the Board within ten (10) days of any changes in employer or supervisor.

(3) Following approval of the Clinical Fellowship or Fourth-Year Internship, the Board shall issue a provisional license. This provisional license shall reveal the full name of the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship, the beginning date of the clinical experience, the expected completion date, the number of hours worked per week, the number of weeks worked, supervisor's name, supervisor's license number (supervision to be provided in

accordance with the accrediting Association or Academy guidelines), and shall bear a serial number. The provisional license shall be signed by the chair of the Board or the executive secretary under the seal of the Board. The purpose of the provisional license is to indicate to the general public legal compliance by the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship with the Board rules and regulations for the period of time indicated on the provisional license. The provisional license shall contain the following statement: "This is to certify that (Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship's name) is engaged in the completion of his/her clinical experience and to further certify that (Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship's name) is under the supervision of (supervisor's name) a licensed (speech-1anguage pathologist or audiologist) (license number)".

(4) Applicant has thirty (30) days to complete the process to obtain a license in Speech-Language Pathology and/or Audiology following the supervised clinical experience.

(5) The Clinical Fellowship must be completed within a maximum of 36 months. The following is a suggested work schedule that may be used to meet Clinical Fellowship year requirements:

(a) Full-time Clinical Fellowship:

30 hours or more per week for 9 months

(b) Part-time Clinical Fellowship:

25-29 hours per week for 12 months
20-24 hours per week for 15 months
15-19 hours per week for 18 months

Professional employment of any less than 15 hours per week will not fulfill any part of this requirement.

(6) For the Fourth-Year Internship, the acquisition of a total 1,820 hours (that include hours obtained prior to the commencement of the Fourth-Year Internship).Total number of clinical practicum hours may vary based on current academic requirements.

(7) Roles and Responsibilities of the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship Supervisor.

(a) Provide meaningful mentoring and feedback to the Clinical Fellow/Fourth-Year Internship to assist the Clinical Fellow/ Fourth-Year Intern in developing independent clinical skills.

(b) Conduct the required minimum supervisory obligations. Supervisory obligations are specified for each segment of the Clinical Fellowship or Fourth-Year Internship period. Each segment is one-third the length of the Clinical Fellowship/ Fourth-Year Internship; for the Clinical Fellowship, a nine

month fellowship would be broken into three segments, each three months in duration, a thirty-six month Clinical Fellowship would be broken into three segment of twelve months each. For the Fourth-Year Internship, the length of the internship period and the consequent length of each one-third interval is determined by the academic institution under whose authority the intern is completing the internship.

(c) Supervisory obligations include 6 hours of direct supervision per segment and 6 indirect monitoring activities per segment. Indirect monitoring might include reviewing diagnostic report/treatment records/plans of treatment, monitoring the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Intern's work by consulting with colleagues or clients and their families. These requirements are not intended to supplant or supersede supervisory requirements of appropriate accrediting or certifying entities or academic programs.

(d) The main purpose of the clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship is to improve the clinical effectiveness of the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Intern. The mentoring SLP or Audiologist must provide performance feedback to the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Intern throughout the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship. Feedback and goal-setting require two-way communication whereby both the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Intern mentoring SLP or Audiologist and the Clinical Fellow/Fourth-Year Intern share important information about the Clinical Fellow's/Fourth-Year Internship's performance of clinical activities. A specific time should be set aside for each performance feedback session at the end of each of the three segments of the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship. This session should be used to identify performance strengths and weaknesses and through discussion and goal-setting, to assist the Clinical Fellow/4th Year Intern in developing necessary clinical skills for appropriate and effective clinical practice.

(e) If the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship supervisor anticipates at any time during the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship that the Clinical Fellow under supervision will fail to satisfactorily complete the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-Year Internship, the supervising SLP or Audiologist must counsel the Clinical Fellowship/ Fourth-Year Intern (both verbally and in writing) and maintain written records of all contract and conferences over the ensuing months.

(f) Submit a notarized statement indicating satisfactory completion of the Clinical Fellowship/Fourth-submission of the academic transcript showing completion of the doctoral program is required to indicate completion of the Fourth-Year Internship.

Author: Martha Paxton, Susan Grigsby, Florence Cuneo, Amanda Blaszczynski, Florence Cuneo' Lana Langley
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870-X-2-.06 **Assistant Registration**.

Any person not eligible for a license under the provisions of this act who assists in the practice of audiology under the supervision of a licensed audiologist, **must** have a bachelor's degree or equivalent, as stated in the Code of Alabama 1975, §34-28A-1, in communication disorders or related field and register with the Board. Any person not eligible for a license under the provisions of this act who assists in the practice of speech-language pathology under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist, must have either of the educational requirements stated in the Code of Alabama 1975, §34-28A-21.1(a)(2) and register with the Board. Before granting such registration, the Board will consider the academic training and clinical experience of the applicant, the specific duties and responsibilities that will be assigned to the applicant and the amount and nature of the supervision that will be given to the applicant. Registration to assist a licensed speech-language pathologist and/or audiologist will be granted under the following conditions:

(a) Qualifications. Under the supervision of a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologists. Assistants may assist in providing services commensurate with their training and experience.

(b) Duties: Under supervision of a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist, Assistants may:

1. conduct speech-language-hearing screenings

2. implement documented treatment plans or protocols as prescribed by the supervising clinician

3. document as prescribed by the supervision clinician patient/client progress

4. assist during assessment

5. assist with informal documentation, prepare charts, record graphs, or otherwise display data

6. perform checks and maintenance of equipment

7. participate in research projects, in-service training, and public relations programs

(c) Prohibited Duties: Assistants will not:

1.evaluate speech, language, or hearing

2. interpret measurements of speech, language, or hearing

3. make recommendations regarding treatment or provide counseling

4. sign test reports and other documents regarding the practice of speech-language pathology and/or audiology

(d) Assistant Titles. Speech-Language Pathology Assistants and Audiology Assistants shall list their degree followed by title (e.g., B.A., SLP Assistant). Assistants shall always identify themselves as such in professional interactions.

(e) Assistant Supervision. The applicant, if registered, must assist the licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist. A licensee who supervises a speech-language pathology assistant or an audiology assistant shall be responsible for the direction of all clinical services provided by said assistant and shall be responsible to the client for the performance of these services. The assistant must be under the direct supervision of a licensee. Supervision requires the physical presence of the licensee in the same facility one hundred percent (100%) of the time when the assistant is carrying out assigned clinical responsibilities. The licensed supervisor must document direct observation of at least ten percent (10%) of all clinical services provided by the assistant. The licensee shall be responsible for the legal, ethical, and moral professional behavior relating to the approved work each assistant is conducting under the licensee’s supervision.

(f) Advertising. Registered assistants are not allowed to represent themselves or to be represented as practitioners of speech-language pathology or audiology. Preparation or distribution of announcements of practice, independent telephone listings, or other such notices shall be in violation of the registration to assist, and will lead to automatic revocation of such registration.

(g) Application for Registration. Application for registration of an assistant must be made to the Board. The application will be completed by the supervisor, signed by the proposed assistant and supervisor, and must be notarized. It will contain the plan (described below) for the assistant and a

statement that the proposed supervisor accepts the complete and legal responsibility for the speech-1anguage pathology and/or audiology services of the proposed assistant. An official copy of the proposed assistant's transcript must be sent to the Board by the school registrar. A statement indicating the number and types of practicum hours obtained must be provided by the director of the training program.

(h) The Plan for an Assistant. Registration for a speech-1anguage pathology assistant or an audiology assistant will be considered after a specific work plan has been reviewed and approved by the Board to include:

1. The place(s) in which the assistant will work,

2. A description of the activities to be performed by the assistant,

3. A description of the amount and circumstances of supervision to be given to the assistant, and

4. A description of the training the assistant is to receive in preparation for the performance of the planned activities.

(i) Length of Registration. Registration for assisting a speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall expire December 31 of each year. This registration must be renewed each year effective January 1. Failure to apply for renewal of registration shall result in automatic revocation of registration to assist.

(j) Speech-Language Pathology Assistant and/or Audiology Assistant Fee. There will be a $100.00 fee charged for assistant registration and $50.00 for assistant registration renewal. This fee must be submitted with the application and is non-refundable.

(k) Renewal of Registration. All assistant registrations expire on December 31 following their issuance or renewal, and are invalid thereafter unless renewed. Renewals of registration must be accompanied by:

1. Written request for registration renewal from the supervisor.

2. Statement of any proposed modifications of the original plan. (see section (f) above).

3. Evidence of a minimum of ten (10) continuing education hours completed in the twelve month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of that year. Academic course work approved by the Board may be used to meet

this requirement completed in the twelve-month period beginning January 1 of each year and ending December 31. These continuing education hours must be related to the activities registered to be performed by the assistant as outlined in the application for the assistant (see Section (f) above).

4. A $50.00 annual renewal fee.

(l) Changes in Plan. If changes are desired in the approved supervisory plan, a new application must be filed. An additional registration fee is not required to make changes in the Plan.

(m) Licensed Supervisor. Each speech-language pathologist and/or audiologist supervising assistants shall have held a full unrestricted license for at least two years. Each audiologists will accept no more than the equivalent of two full-time assistants concurrently. Each speech-language pathologist may not supervise more than three full-time equivalent assistants in any one setting.

(n) Board Member Restriction. A Board member shall abstain from evaluating and voting on registration of assistants if there is any question of conflict of interest.

Author: David Savage, Gregory Adams, Richard Sweitzer, Patsy Patton, Denise Gibbs, Kay Wilson, Ken Earley, Robert L. Rane, Ruth Tucker and Shermetra Payton
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870-X-2-.07 Reciprocity.

The Board, subject to the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations of the Board promulgated thereunder may grant, at its discretion, any person who has successfully complied with the requirements of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) or an equivalent accrediting Association or Academy, and is a holder of a Certificate of Clinical Competence in speech-1anguage pathology or audiology or its equivalent, or who holds a current license in another state in speech-language

pathology or audiology may be granted a license according to the following conditions:

(a) That the other state maintains a system and standard of qualifications and examinations for speech-language pathologists or audiologists which meet or exceed the current requirements for licensure in the state of Alabama.

(b) Payment of the current fee established by the Board for other licensees.

(c) Submission of evidence satisfactory to the Board, i.e., proof of current out-of-state license.

Author: H. Gregory Adams, Kay Wilson, Ken Earley, Robert L. Rane, Richard Talbott
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-28A-1, et seq.
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870-X-2-.08 Mandatory Continuing Education.

Continuing education is required for renewal of license. See Chapter 870-X-4-.08 for specific requirements for continuing education.
Author: Dr. Ruth Tucker, Dr. Richard Sweitzer, Kay Wilson, Ken Earley, Robert L. Rane
Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-28A-1, et seq.
History: Filed July 27, 1992. **Amended:** Filed August 29, 1997; effective October 3, 1997. **Amended:** Filed October 25, 2000; effective November 29, 2000 (Rule was not amended only renumbered).