



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 an intern in speech-language pathology (licensed intern). 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 (supervisor). The supervisor shall be responsible for all client services performed by the licensed intern, and must determine that the licensed intern is qualified to perform those services. A licensed 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 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 intern shall abide by the decisions made by the supervisor relating to the licensed intern's scope of practice. In the event the supervisor requests that the licensed intern violate Board Rules, the Texas Occupations Code, or any other law, the licensed intern shall refuse to do so and immediately notify the Board office and any other appropriate authority.

The licensed speech-language pathology supervisor 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 licensed 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 licensed 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:

- the number of hours per week the speech-language pathologist and speech-language pathology intern(s) are employed;
- the number of other individuals (e.g., speech-language pathology assistants) being supervised;
- time required of the supervising speech-language pathologist in direct service provision;
- the experience level of the speech-language pathologist supervisor and speech-language pathology intern(s);
- the time limits imposed by supervision requirements;
- the number of locations in which services are provided and travel time between locations;
- other roles and responsibilities assigned to the speech-language pathologist (e.g., attending staff meetings and fulfilling other campus/district/agency assignments).

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

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

If the licensed intern changes his or her speech-language pathologist supervisor or adds additional supervisor(s), a current Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision Form must be submitted (via e-mail to the Board) by the new speech-language pathologist supervisor and approved by the Board office before the licensed 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 **within 30-days of completion of that portion of the internship. Supervisors will NOT be removed until the report is received.** Both intern and supervisor must complete this report. A separate report must be completed and emailed to the board for each component of the internship which involved a **change of supervisor**. **Each supervisor must submit this form.** The Board office shall evaluate the form and inform the licensed intern of the results.

If the licensed 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.

If the number of hours worked per week falls below five hours per week, then that week does not count towards the 1260 hours.

If the licensed intern has the same supervisor for both their regular job and a PRN job the hours can be combined; however, if the hours for the PRN job fall below five hours in a given week, that week CANNOT be counted towards the 1260 hours for the internship.

ADDITIONAL SUPERVISOR (S):

If more than one speech-language pathologist supervisor supervises the licensed intern, each speech-language pathologist supervisor must complete a separate Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision Form and be approved by the Board office before the supervision can begin. In accordance with Board Rule §741.62(e)(2), all supervisors are held to the same level of responsibility for the work of the named intern.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED:

The supervisor must provide feedback to the licensed intern throughout the internship, and shall conduct at least one formal evaluation of the licensed intern's progress in each segment of the internship. Both the licensed intern and 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 AN INTERN'S LICENSE:

The speech-language pathology intern license is issued for one year to allow sufficient time for most individuals to complete the internship and apply for full licensure (if the licensed intern passed the Praxis exam) or the temporary certificate of registration (if the licensed intern has not passed the Praxis exam)..

RENEWAL OF AN INTERN'S LICENSE:

If the speech-language pathology intern has not completed the internship (supervised professional experience) within one year, a request for an extension is required, in writing, explaining the reason for the request. The request must be signed by both the intern and the supervisor. Evaluation of the intern's progress of performance from all supervisors must accompany the request. Intern plans and supervisory evaluations for any completed segments must be submitted. Within 15 working days of receipt of the request, the board's designee shall determine if the internship: (1) should be revised or extended; and/or (2) whether additional course work, continuing professional education hours, or passing the examination is required.

If the board designee approves the extension; the intern in speech-language pathology must submit the Renewal Form, fee and new Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision Form before the expiration date of the license. Before the intern in speech-language pathology can continue to practice, the speech-language pathologist supervisor must verify that the speech-language pathology intern renewed the license. Ten continuing education hours are required during the renewal-period of the speech-language pathology intern's license.

INTERNSHIP COMPLETED:

Once the internship has been completed and the licensed intern has passed the Praxis Exam, the licensed 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. Each speech-language pathologist supervisor(s) must complete a separate 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 licensed 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 certificate holder has not passed the exam, the certificate holder will need to apply for a 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 licensed intern may practice under supervision while awaiting full licensure or the temporary certificate of registration. The supervising speech-language pathologist must submit the Report of Completed Internship Form 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 (for up to 30 days after the Board office receives the Report of Completed Internship Form) until the licensed intern receives the full license or temporary certificate of registration. However, if the licensed intern changes supervisors, the new speech-language pathologist supervisor shall first submit the Intern Plan and Agreement of Supervision Form and receive Board approval before the licensed 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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