

Speech-
Language
Pathology

September 15,
2020

12:00 pm
EST

Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech- Language Pathology (CFCC)

SLP Committee Updates

Panelists

- Amy Thorpe Wiley, Past-Chair, CFCC
- Debra Suiter, CFCC
- Todd Philbrick, ASHA's Director of Certification
- Gretchen Ehret Hoshaw, ASHA's Associate Director of Certification Programs

THANK YOU

- Thank you for your continued commitment to students and client/patients
- Thank you for your comments and questions, and for responding to our recent survey. All comments were reviewed and considered, which helps the CFCC make decisions.

COVID-19 Impact on SLP Certification Standards Survey

- Web survey fielded from June 3, 2020 – June 25, 2020
- 43.3% response rate
- SLP program directors and authorized signatories

COVID-19 Impact on SLP Certification Standards Survey

Hours

- Respondents indicated that on average, their students entered graduate school with 23 guided observation hours and 10 direct clinical practicum hours.

Telepractice/Telesupervision

- Most (74%) respondents indicated that prior to COVID-19, their students were not providing services through telepractice.
- Most (93%) respondents indicated that prior to COVID-19, their students were not providing services while being telesupervised.
- Most (96%) respondents indicated that prior to COVID-19, their students were not providing services through telepractice while being telesupervised.
- Respondents indicated that a median of 0% of their clients/patients/students were receiving services through telepractice prior to COVID-19.
- Respondents indicated that a median of 100% of their clients/patients/students are now receiving services through telepractice as a result of COVID-19 closures.

COVID-19 Impact on SLP Certification Standards Survey

Clinical Hour Requirement

- Most (78%) respondents recommended the CFCC expand what qualifies for the clinical hour requirement for graduate student clinicians.

Clinical Simulation

- Most (94%) respondents indicated that prior to COVID-19, their graduate students did not acquire at least 75 hours of clinical simulation within their program. On average, their students acquired 14 hours.
- Most (83%) respondents indicated that as a result of COVID-19, their program intends on increasing its use of clinical simulations to at least 75 hours.
- Most (68%) respondents did not believe that there are sufficient existing clinical simulation experiences that cover knowledge outcomes identified in Standard IV-C across the lifespan of the client/patient.

SLP Certification Accommodations

- Permitted as of 3/16/2020
- **Valid through 6/30/2021**
 - CFCC continuously monitors the circumstances and will consider revising this date if programs continue to be impacted
- Telepractice and Telesupervision
 - **No limit** on the number of hours that can be earned through telepractice
 - All graduate student clinicians, clinical educators, and patients may be remote
 - Clinical educator must be **available** 100% of the time during each session
 - 25% of the total contact time with each client/patient must be supervised
 - If supervising via telesupervision, the clinical educator must have each concurrent session “line of sight” to be considered “available”
 - Number of graduate student clinician participating in each session is up to the discretion of the graduate program
 - Each student can receive credit for the full hour if they are fully engaged in the session

SLP Certification Accommodations

- On-site, in-person sessions
 - Up to 2 students may count the full hour when working with clients/patients on-site and in-person
 - Students must be fully engaged

Clinical Practicum- Permitted activities

- Activities may include:
 - Must be synchronous
 - Screenings
 - Includes observations
 - Evaluations
 - Informal
 - Formal
 - Parent/Caregiver History/ Interviews
 - Explaining evaluation results to parents/caregivers/clients/patients

Clinical Practicum- Permitted activities

- Treatment
 - Must be synchronous
 - Individual or group
- Counseling with caregivers and family, even if client/patient is not present
 - “wrap up sessions”
 - Advising, education, and training
 - Demonstrating skills to caregivers
 - Demonstrating to families how to program AAC devices

Frequently Asked Questions- Clinical Practicum Hours

- 1) Will the number of clinical hours be reduced?
 - 1) In March and April, the CFCC had multiple discussions regarding whether the number of clinical hours can be reduced. The CFCC remains firm with the decision that clinical hours will remain as written, which is 25 guided observation, 375 supervised clinical practicum, 325 of which must be earned while engaged in graduate education.
- 2) Will activities such as planning and paperwork be able to be counted as a portion of the direct clinical hours?
 - 1) No. These activities are not “direct.” These “indirect” activities certainly are important, however this time cannot be counted as direct hours.

*For complete responses, please review a recording of the session

Frequently Asked Questions- Clinical Practicum Hours

- 1) Can hours earned before the student enrolls in a clinical practicum course be counted if they are supervised in accordance with the standards?
 - 1) Yes. The standards do not state that a student must be enrolled in a particular course, only that they must earn at least 325 hours while engaged in graduate study. As long as the student is participating in sessions that are supervised in accordance with the standards, the hours may be counted.
- 2) What if students can't do an offsite school or medical placement? What if they cannot complete the required number of pediatric vs adult clinical practicum hours?
 - 1) The certification standards do not dictate that a specific number of hours be completed per site (school vs healthcare), per "Big 9," or per age range (Pediatric vs adult). The standards state that the student must demonstrate knowledge and skill across the lifespan and within all Big 9 areas.

Frequently Asked Questions- Telepractice and Telesupervision

- 1) Is there a maximum number of hours that can be earned through telepractice/ telesupervision?
 - 1) No. The CFCC has not placed a “cap” on the number of clinical practicum hours that can be earned through telepractice or supervised via telesupervision.
- 2) What is meant by “100% available?” Can I be available on the phone, or must it be on video?
 - “Line of Sight”
 - The clinical educator or supervisor must be able to visually see what is happening regardless of the method being used. Availability by audio-only does not meet this requirement.

Frequently Asked Questions- Clinical Simulation

1) What types of [clinical simulation](#) are available?

- Reminder:
 - 25 guided observation hours can be through the use of video recordings
 - 75 clinical practicum hours may be earned through clinical simulation
 - 100 total hours (25%) of the required 400 may be conducted through a form of clinical simulation
- CFCC nor ASHA endorses a specific clinical simulation platform
- In all cases, best practices in the use of clinical simulation must be followed. The [Council on Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders \(CAPCSD\)](#) offers a wide range of resources in clinical simulation, including podcasts, webinars, and [Best Practices in Healthcare Simulations in CSD](#) [PDF].

Frequently Asked Questions- Other

- 1) Can students who are working as SLPAs earn hours through work experience?
 - 1) No. Work experience can not be used in lieu of supervised clinical experience that is supervised by an academic program.

- 2) Will the delayed enforcement of supervisor requirements be extended?
 - 1) No. The CFCC spoke about this at length, and the enforcement of this requirement, which was announced in 2017, will begin on January 1, 2021.

Future Considerations

- CFCC will continue to monitor the impact the pandemic is having on future semesters of students.
- Tele- allowances not tied to the pandemic
- Will ASHA consider a competency-based model?
 - Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Education in Speech-Language Pathology
 - Future of Learning

Thank you

Additional questions? Please contact the CFCC at:

- CFCC@asha.org
- certification@asha.org