



# ASHA FAQs

## UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE FACULTY

This fact sheet covers common questions about ASHA membership and certification, state licensure, and specific information for graduate students.

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### FAST FAQs:

#### ASHA membership:

As of year-end [2023](#), ASHA represents 234,000 members—including 14,059 ASHA-certified audiologists and 206,126 ASHA-certified speech-language pathologists.

#### Consumers:

More than 40 million Americans have communication disorders. People with hearing, communication, and/or cognitive difficulties often face barriers to education, health care, employment, and social interactions.

#### Job Growth:

Job growth for audiologists is expected to increase by 11% from 2023 to 2033. For speech-language pathologists, the job growth is projected at 18% from 2023 to 2033.



# COMMON FAQs



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## What is ASHA?

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is a professional, scientific, and credentialing association. ASHA is the only member-led organization maintaining standards for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and is one of the leading authorities on standards for audiologists. With its growing number of 234,000 members and affiliates, ASHA's Certificate of Clinical

Competence (CCC) is an indicator of quality and training. ASHA works with international, national, state, and local stakeholders to strengthen the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology and the communication sciences and disorders discipline; build community; advocate; and influence policy by sharing knowledge and resources.

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## Why join ASHA?

ASHA is committed to being a part of your journey as a student and a professional. We provide the support and resources that you need to excel in your career, enabling you to provide the best care to those who need it most. Some of the benefits that ASHA provides include:

- **Certification:** ASHA offers a certification that helps audiology and speech-language pathology professionals maintain a national standard in the profession.
- **Membership:** ASHA members are part of a community that is shaping the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology. ASHA membership provides knowledge that you can use, community that you can rely on, advocacy for the professions, and awareness of your value among key decision makers and clients. As an involved member, you can help drive the work of the Association and shape the organization's priorities.
- **Resources, Continued Education, and Care:** ASHA aims to transform lives by providing members with resources to advance care. Members get access to vast continued education courses, the latest developments in their fields, and timely information about their professions.
- **Advocacy:** ASHA's dedicated team advocates for its members and focuses on issues that are most important by providing a voice on Capitol Hill. The team's efforts help advance initiatives and legislation that support higher wages, expanding the Interstate Compact and reducing high caseloads, among other issues.

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## How do I get involved as a student?

ASHA offers several opportunities for students to get involved and to access resources that support them in their professional and academic journeys, including mentoring and award programs. To find out more, please visit the following ASHA web pages:

- [ASHA Mentoring Programs](#)
- [ASHA Awards Programs](#)
- [ASHA's Academic and Research Mentoring \(ARM\) Network](#)  
"Considering an Academic-Research Career" programs are open to undergraduate and graduate students through ASHA's ARM Network.

# What is the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC)?

## Why is it relevant to me as a student? Is it required to practice?

The ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) is a nationally recognized credential representing a standard of excellence for audiologists and speech-language pathologists. It shows that someone has met high national standards (set by your colleagues in the professions) and abides by ASHA's Code of Ethics. Although the CCCs come with many benefits, certification is generally not required to practice.

For example, in a 2019 study, 97% of hiring managers in health care settings who participated in a study reported that they would be more inclined to look for an audiologist or speech-language pathologist candidate who is ASHA-certified (2020 Focus Group of ASHA's [Value of the CCCs campaign](#)).

Getting the CCCs can help students after they graduate by

- facilitating better pay and career longevity and
- offering more job opportunities and chances for career growth.

## What is the difference between ASHA certification and state licensure?

A key difference between certification and licensure is that ASHA certification establishes a consistent national standard, while licensure requirements vary by state. Licensure protects the consumer, while certification signals qualifications across many different specialties, including

audiologists, SLPs, SLPAs, and audiology assistants. Certificate holders have increased professional credibility, and trust from employers and the public. The CCCs protect scope infringement and overreach from other disciplines.

	ASHA CERTIFICATION	STATE LICENSURE
What does it do?	Reflects that an individual has met—and continues to meet—ASHA's scope of practice and the national standards while abiding by ASHA's Code of Ethics	Grants legal authority to practice
Who develops the standards?	Peers working in the professions develop and validate these standards	Criteria are developed by state legislature
Where is it recognized?	These consistent standards are recognized nationwide	Standards vary by state
What does it offer?	Offers an easy pathway to state licensure and—most important—multiple-state licensure	License is only valid in the state in which it was issued
What are the compensation benefits?	Provides justification for potential compensation differential	Authorized to practice within a state
How often is it updated?	The peer group updates these standards every 5-8 years, with input from certificants and constituents	Can be changed or eliminated at any time by the state legislature
Is it required for practice?	Not required for practice	Required for practice

# What is the difference between ASHA certification and ASHA membership?

Although certificate holders (also known as “certificants”) and ASHA Certified Members are held to the same standards—and have access to some of the same professional resources and advocacy work developed by

ASHA—membership takes it a step further. Members have exclusive access to resources, discounts, and community connections—and a voice in shaping the priorities and direction of the Association and the professions.

BENEFIT	CERTIFICATION	MEMBERSHIP
Uniform standard of care	✓	
Consistent profession development requirements	✓	
Ability to shape the national standards through peer reviews	✓	
Advocacy	✓	✓
Professional resources (limited if certificate holder only)	✓	✓
Research to advance the professions	✓	✓
Code of Ethics	✓	✓
Community		✓
Member-specific professional resources (e.g., mentorship, ASHA Career Portal)		✓
Discounts on ASHA resources		✓
Journals access		✓
Professional liability insurance and other bonus benefit discounts		✓
A voice in shaping the professions and the work of the Association		✓

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## How do I apply for ASHA membership as a student?

As a first-time applicant, you have options regarding the type of membership or affiliation you sign up for:

- If you are a member of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (National NSSLHA) during the last 2 years of your master's or doctoral program, including the year you graduate, you can receive the [NSSLHA to ASHA Conversion Discount](#) and pay only \$240.

- First-time applicants for certified membership are eligible for the New Professional Membership Package, which offers up to two years of membership/certification for the price of one.
- To learn more about ASHA's various membership types and determine the best time for you to apply, please visit [ASHA New Dues Information](#).

Application discounts are given automatically when you apply for your initial ASHA membership and certification. (Conditions may apply.)

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## What are ASHA's dues?

As of 2025, ASHA's dues are as follows:

Certified members	\$250 / year
Graduate student certified members	\$150 / year
Members without certification	\$90 / year
Certified nonmembers	\$221 / year

To learn more about ASHA's dues, visit [ASHA New Dues Information](#).

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## Will I be able to pay off my student loans in this industry?

Although each student loan situation is unique, ASHA provides several resources to help you understand, manage, and pay your student loans. Resources include information on loan forgiveness programs, guidance on refinancing federal and private student loans, and tips and advice on budgeting and financial planning. Visit the following ASHA web pages to learn more:

- [Student Loan and Refinancing Information](#)
- [Repaying Your Student Loan](#)

The [Public Student Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\) Employer Search Tool](#) can help job seekers determine if an employer is eligible for PSLF loan forgiveness.

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## Is there a demand for both the audiology and the speech-language pathology professions?

Yes! There is high demand in both the audiology and speech-language pathology professions. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job growth for audiologists is expected to increase by 11% from 2023 to 2033. For speech-language pathologists, the job growth is projected to be even higher, at 18%, from 2023 to 2033. This growth is much faster than the average for all occupations.

Demand in both professions is driven by factors such as an aging population, which increases the need for services that address issues such as hearing loss and speech disorders. Other areas in which the need for audiologists and speech-language pathologists is growing include schools and private practices. ([Market Trends in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology](#))



# GRADUATE FAQS



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## Why is ASHA not prioritizing the removal of the CCCs?

ASHA's CCCs reflect a national standard of excellence in communication sciences and disorders (CSD). A CSD professional's CCCs are determined by rigorous standards, which are crucial to client/patient/student care. These national standards are established by professionals in the discipline and often surpass what is required for

state licensure. Certificants carry increased professional credibility and have earned trust from employers and the public. Also, the CCCs protect scope infringement and overreach from other disciplines and employers.

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## How can I find a job?

ASHA offers multiple tools to help those in the CSD profession find employment. The [ASHA Career Portal](#) offers a job seeker toolkit, livestreams on career-related advice, and various career fairs and events.

Within the ASHA Career Portal, members may upload their resume to help employers find them, and the portal makes searching for a relevant position even easier.

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## How do I negotiate salaries?

As CSD professionals, you have a unique set of training, skills, competencies, and subject-matter expertise.

To negotiate effectively, gather market data on average salaries for your position, consider your experience and unique attributes, and set a realistic target salary range. Practice your delivery to appear confident, let the employer initiate the salary discussion, and avoid sharing your salary history. Remember to consider the entire compensation package, including benefits, and aim slightly higher than your desired salary to allow room for negotiation.

Please note that ASHA also helps you by collecting and sharing [salary data](#) and is a great resource to look into first.

Learn more about negotiation in the CSD discipline in this [ASHA Leader article](#).

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## How is ASHA supporting those who want a career in schools or health care settings?

One of our goals is to provide a clear path to a career in the audiology and speech-language pathology professions for our members. With that aim, ASHA offers many resources that members can use to find appropriate positions in a variety of settings.

Fast Facts:

- Most (75.4%) audiologists work in health care settings, including hospitals and residential and nonresidential health care facilities. Most of the remainder work in either schools (7.1%) or colleges/universities (6.2%).
- About half (49.9%) of speech-language pathologists work in schools. Most of the remainder (40.4%) work in either health care settings, including hospitals and residential and nonresidential health care facilities, or colleges/universities (2.4%).
- About 31.8% of audiologists and 23.5% of speech-language pathologists work full or part time in private practice.

ASHA provides the following resources for audiologists and speech-language pathologists:

- [Information for Audiologists](#)
- [Information for Speech-Language Pathologists](#)

We also offer the following resources, categorized by work setting:

- [Health Care](#)
- [Private Practice](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [Telepractice](#)

[Clinical Personnel Supply and Demand in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology](#) provides information and data—including workforce reports and survey reports on audiology and speech-language pathology work settings.

To get up-to-date information, please visit [ASHA's website](#).

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## How does ASHA advocate for my pay?

At ASHA, we advocate for salary supplements and bonuses for educational audiologists and school-based speech-language pathologists who hold the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC).



We have submitted letters supporting various state legislations:

- Supported Oklahoma legislation advocating for a \$5,000 annual bonus for certified professionals.
- Supported Utah legislation requesting that the state include certified professionals in the teacher salary supplement program.
- Supported Maryland legislation to ensure that certified professionals receive a minimum salary and potential salary increase/supplement.