

## **WHO ARE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS AND WHAT DO THEY DO?**

Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLP-As) are trained professionals who work under the supervision of licensed Speech-Language Pathologists, helping children and adults improve their communication skills. Under the supervision and direction of the Speech-Language Pathologist, SLP-As may conduct speech-language screenings, implement ongoing treatment and intervention plans, document student/client progress and assist the SLP during assessment and treatment.

SLP-As implement a treatment or intervention program as designed by the supervising SLP. They can do screenings, document client/student progress, and assist the SLP in assessment activities.

SLP-As do not make diagnoses or eligibility determinations, conduct or interpret evaluations, or develop or modify a treatment/intervention plan.

## **WHERE DO SLPAs WORK?**

SLP-As work wherever Speech-Language Pathologists work: in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities and private practices.

## **WHAT IS REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED AS AN SLP-A?**

The Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts (BHA), Advisory Commission for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is responsible for regulating Speech-Language Pathology Assistants. SLP-As must have a Bachelor's degree with a total of 21 hours in the following speech/language areas –

- Anatomy and physiology
- Phonetics
- Language development
- Language disorders  
(acquired and developmental)
- Clinical methods

SLP-As must also have --

- 25 hours of SLP observation, and
- 25 hours of SLP clinical assisting or practicum.

## **WHERE IS THE REQUIRED COURSEWORK AVAILABLE?**

The eight SLP programs in Missouri all offer the required coursework –

- Fontbonne University
- Missouri State University
- Rockhurst University
- St. Louis University
- Southeast Missouri State University
- Truman University
- University of Central Missouri
- University of Missouri-Columbia

In addition, the coursework can be obtained online through a number of universities.

## **WHERE CAN SOMEONE GET THE REQUIRED PRACTICAL HOURS?**

Most, if not all, of the universities that offer the required coursework also provide opportunities to obtain practical hours as required. However, a person could also get these hours from an employer or other setting so long as the SLP-A applicant can provide documentation of obtaining the required practical hours.

## **WHEN CAN SOMEONE APPLY TO BE REGISTERED AS AN SLP-A?**

As soon as a person meets the coursework and practical hours required, they can apply to be registered. When the person obtains a job as an SLP-A, they need to provide the name of their supervising SLP to the BHA since that person is responsible for providing adequate supervision under their SLP license as regulated by the BHA.

## **WHO CAN SUPERVISE AN SLP-A?**

An SLP licensed by the BHA must supervise SLP Assistants. Each supervising SLP must provide direct supervision at least one hour per week or one of every three therapy sessions for each SLP-A. Currently an SLP who holds ONLY a State Board of Education SLP certificate cannot supervise an SLP-A.

## HOW DOES THE REGISTRATION RENEWAL PROCESS WORK?

Registration as an SLP-A is a two year credential as is the SLP license. The SLP-A will need to renew their license at the beginning of every odd numbered year. Currently there is no specific number of continuing education units (CEUs) required for SLP-A registration renewal. Each supervising SLP should identify appropriate continuing education activities for an SLP-A. It is highly likely that specific CEUs, both number and content, will be required for SLP-A registration renewal in the future.

## FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SLP-A REGISTRATION CONTACT

Missouri Advisory Commission for  
Speech-Language Pathologists &  
Audiologists  
3605 Missouri Boulevard  
P.O. Box 4, Jefferson City, MO 65102  
866.289.5753  
<http://pr.mo.gov/speech.asp>

The following organizations are pleased to make this brochure available –

*Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education (MO-CASE)*

*Missouri Speech Language Hearing Association (MSHA)*

*Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA)*

*Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

These organizations support the use of SLP Assistants to improve and expand speech and language interventions to ensure all Missourians with communication needs have access to quality services.

# Speech-Language Pathology Assistants in Missouri

*With the recent revision of state regulations, Missouri has a new opportunity to utilize Speech-Language Pathology Assistants to improve and expand services across the state. This brochure provides an introduction to the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLP-A).*

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