

Explanation of Licensure Levels for the SD Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology

Speech-Language Pathologist: An individual who holds a master's or doctoral degree from an institution accredited by the accrediting agency of ASHA and from an educational institution approved by the US Department of education, has completed supervised clinical practicum, has completed supervised postgraduate professional experience, has passed a written national examination for speech-language pathology, and has committed no act for which disciplinary action may be justified.

Provisional Speech-Language Pathologist: An individual who holds a master's or doctoral degree from an institution accredited by the accrediting agency of ASHA and from an educational institution approved by the US Department of education, has completed supervised clinical practicum, has passed a written national examination for speech-language pathology, and is working under the mentorship of a licensed speech-language pathologist to complete the postgraduate professional experience needed to be licensed as a speech-language pathologist. Individuals must have committed no act for which disciplinary action may be justified. The term of a provisional license is 24 months and may be renewed only one time.

Limited Speech-Language Pathologist: An individual who holds a bachelor's degree in communication disorders or speech-language pathology and a speech-language pathologist certificate from the South Dakota Department of Education as of July 1, 2012. Individuals must have committed no act for which disciplinary action may be justified. Individuals with a limited license may provide speech-language services as employees of public or private school districts or state departments that provide educational services, but may not perform non-medical endoscopy, or evaluate or treat swallowing disorders.

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant: An individual who holds an associate's degree in speech-language pathology assisting or a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology or communication disorders from an accredited academic institution, has completed a supervised clinical practicum of at least 100 clock hours as a speech-language pathology assistant, and has committed no act for which disciplinary action is justified. The speech-language pathology assistant works under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist.

An individual who was employed as a paraprofessional providing speech-language pathology services under the direct supervision of a South Dakota Department of Education certified speech-language pathologist as of July 1, 2012 may obtain a speech-language pathology assistant license and continue to practice as a speech-language pathology assistant until July 1, 2020. As of this date, SLPA license requirements will need to be met in order to maintain licensure.