



Louisiana Board of Examiners for **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY**

MISSION STATEMENT: *We exist because the legislature declared that "in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare, to protect the public from incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons, and from unprofessional conduct by speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech-language pathology assistants, it is necessary to provide regulatory authority over persons offering speech-language pathology and audiology services to the public."*



RENEWAL UPDATES



In the recent Rules revisions, the Board shortened the time frame allowed for licensure renewal. Renewals will now be accepted April 15th – July 31st annually. Licenses will lapse on August 1st annually if not renewed.

The Board will no longer send renewal notification postcards on April 15th annually. All renewal notifications will be sent via email only. Please ensure that your email address remains current with LBESPA to ensure that you receive all notifications.

Beginning April 15, 2020, all fully licensed individuals will be required to renew online.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June 7th, 8:30 a.m.,

Board Meeting, Doubletree Hotel, Lafayette

August 2nd, 8:30 a.m.,

Board Meeting, Board Office, Prairieville

October 18th, 8:30 a.m.,

Board Meeting, Board Office,
Prairieville

December 6th, 8:30 a.m.

Board Meeting,
Loews Hotel, New Orleans

Presentations

Board members are available to provide university presentations on the transition from school to work. This presentation provides students with information regarding licensure and certification and helps to develop an understanding of the need to apply for licensure before beginning work in Louisiana.

Board members can also provide presentations regarding updates on supervision, as well as ethical considerations. If you are interested in having the Board present, please contact us at aud-slp@lbepa.org.

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TELEHEALTH | KNOW THE CODE!*

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Jolie Jones, Executive Director

Effective May 1, 2019, all new and reinstatement applicants who wish to obtain licensure from the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (the "Board") are required to furnish a full set of fingerprints to facilitate a state and federal criminal background check. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) shall report the result of the criminal background check to the Board, which may use that information to determine the applicant's moral character and suitability for licensing. LA R.S. 37:2659.1 authorizes the Board to conduct a criminal background check on applicants as a condition for eligibility for licensure. It is the responsibility of the applicant to read and understand the instructions below to complete a criminal background check with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Criminal background reports generated for or by another agency cannot be accepted to satisfy this requirement.

The Board is not permitted to issue a grace period or license until the results of the report and a completed application have been received.

Completion time varies from 1 to 8 weeks, depending on circumstances. Criminal history rap sheet findings will extend the completion time. Note that inadequate fingerprints and incorrect payment amount (either too much or too little) will result in delays with the Louisiana State Police (LSP).

Background checks are only valid for 90 days upon receipt from the Louisiana State Police (LSP) without an application submitted to the Board. If 90 days passes without a completed application, the background check must be completely reprocessed and resubmitted.

There are two options to complete the required criminal background check:

1. In person at the Louisiana State Police Headquarters

2. By Mail to the Louisiana State Police Headquarters

Please carefully review the instruction sheet below on how to complete the criminal background check for initial and reinstatement applications. The current fee for the state and federal background check is \$39.25. The fee must be made payable to "Louisiana State Police" as specified in the instruction sheet. Upon completion, the Louisiana State Police will forward the results directly to the Board office.

Forms and additional information can be found at

<https://www.lbespa.org/page/CBC>.



REVISIONS TO LBESPA LAW AND RULES

Glenn M. Waguespack, MS, L-AUD, CCC-A

As changes to the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology have occurred, so have the laws and rules governing the practice. Designed to protect the public, licensure conforms to standards that are specific to this purpose. As a result of changing scopes of practice, changing technology, significant events such as a national disaster, and the need to clarify existing provisions, the Louisiana Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (LBESPA) has made changes to both its enabling statute, the Practice Act, and to the rules and regulations that serve to define the provisions

in the statute. The Code of Ethics also received significant changes. What may have been considered a perfect result of legislative changes at the time later became outdated and not always applicable to the dynamic professions of audiology and speech-language pathology.

Since legislation for licensure in audiology and speech-language pathology was introduced by LBESPA in 1972, there have been numerous changes to both the enabling statute and to the rules and regulations. In 1972 licensure was established for private practitioners and was later modified in 1978 to include licensure in all job settings. Sweeping changes were made to the law in 1995, including allowing audiologists to dispense hearing aids with an audiology license, as well as the implementation of licensure for speech-language pathology assistants.

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License, Renewals, Delinquencies, Oh My!

Jerrilyn Frasier, Au.D., L-SLP/AUD

As June quickly approaches, we all look forward to summer vacations, LSHA meetings, and the annual LBESPA licensure renewal deadline. You may ask, “Why June?” Well the answer is simple, the LBESPA fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30.

We all know that June is the last opportunity to obtain continuing education (CE) for the previous fiscal year. But, did you know, that CE obtained in June may be used for either the previous year or the upcoming year; however, hours may not be split. You can also avoid the June rush and renew before June if you have obtained your CE. Online renewals are encouraged as the quickest and easiest method of renewing.

But what happens if life takes over and you forget to renew in June? Delinquent applications will be accepted through July for \$130 (\$180 for dual) along with the usual proof of CE. As part of the recent Rules revisions, the renewal period was shortened to end on July 31st annually. Licenses will lapsed on August 1st. Anyone attempting to renew after August 1 must submit a reinstatement application with their proof of CE and both the initial application fee of \$125 plus the delinquent fee of \$130 for a total of \$255 (\$305 for dual). Cease and desist letters will be mailed to the last known address for all non-renewed individuals. If we do not receive a renewal by April 1 of the following year, LBESPA will send an email to the last known email address with your steps to reinstate.

So what are some important facts to keep in mind going forward about licensure renewal? First, June, June, June. Timely renewals are your most cost effective renewals. Second, it is your responsibility as a licensed professional to keep LBESPA up to date with address and email changes. Third, as we become a technological world, LBESPA is moving to a more digital format for renewals, notices, and information. Lastly, CE can be entered in your LBESPA account as you accrue it to make renewals quicker and easier.

REMINDER: When entering dates for CE, ensure that the correct year is entered. This is the most common mistake made with online renewals!



Facebook

Make sure you are following the LBESPA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LBESPA).

Our Facebook page is a convenient place to receive helpful reminders during the renewal process and to stay updated with any licensure changes.



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REVISIONS TO LBESPA LAW AND RULES

No changes were made again until 2016, and since that time criminal background checks are to be required for new applicants and for reinstatements. Additionally, the doctoral degree was mandated as the entry level qualification for audiologists, guidelines for a conditional license were delineated, and the medical advisor was eliminated as a non-voting member of the Board. The composition of the Board was changed to include three speech-language pathologists and three audiologists in addition to a consumer member. All of these changes were the result of legislation requiring testimony before House and Senate committees.

What did not require legislation have been modifications to the rules and regulations. These changes occurred as a result of a promulgation process that includes the publishing of proposed changes, a public hearing, and written responses to changes that may have been brought forth at the public hearing. Many of the modifications result from a proposed list maintained by the Board office, but may also come from practitioners or from professional associations.

The latest modifications to the rules and regulations became effective in February 2019 and are available on the LBESPA web site. However, it should be noted that there is a need for further clarification of some rules, another set of rules is currently in the promulgation process. It is hopeful that these rules will be adopted and available on the Board's web site by the end of the summer.

As is customary, the General Rules begin with definitions that are applicable to terminology employed in the context of the document. To maintain currency with the professions, it was necessary to re-define some terms and create definitions for others. Some of the definitions include accredited educational program, criminal history record information, direct and indirect supervision, facilitator, full-time supervised professional employment, part-time postgraduate professional employment, and telehealth (telepractice).



Since implementation of the doctoral degree in audiology as the entry-level credential, the provisional audiology license was eliminated. Audiologists are generally enrolled in a 4-year program, and that fourth year comprises of an externship comparable to the clinical fellowship. Audiologists who apply for licensure may obtain an audiology license with no supervision mandates as was previously required with a provisional license. Although the current rules (February 2019) specify 1820 clinical practicum hours, the newly promulgated rules will eliminate the specific hour requirement.

Little has changed in the original application process except that a criminal background check will be required prior to the processing of the application. University programs have been furnished with suggestions for obtaining the background check. What is new in the application process is the application for telehealth registration. Individuals who hold an active license in speech-language pathology or audiology may apply for registration to provide services by telepractice, provided they meet the requirements as specified in the rules.

The fee structure has changed somewhat although there has been no increase in fees for initial licensure and for renewals. A separate fee will be assessed for telehealth registration, and the delinquent renewal dates have been modified. Modifications have been made to the continuing education requirements, specifically related to acceptable continuing education activities such as workshops and in-services.

Changes to the supervision requirements have been implemented with specific mandates for direct and indirect (terminology changed from on-site in-view and alternative) supervision activities. Form 200, utilized for SLP Assistant and Provisional SLP Assistant supervision, has been updated and is available on the web site. The actual amount of supervision for both categories of assistants has not changed. Special attention is requested regarding duties outside the scope of practice for SLP Assistants and Provisional SLP Assistants.

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REVISIONS TO LBESPA LAW AND RULES

Assistants cannot conduct evaluations and interpret test results, even under supervision, nor can they engage in service delivery via telepractice. A clarification specific to duties outside the scope for an assistant will be delineated in the rules to be adopted later this summer.

No significant changes were made to the Impaired Practitioner Program or to the disciplinary proceedings. The Code of Ethics has undergone a major revision, and licensees are encouraged to read this document in its entirety. Categories specific to each principle in the Code of Ethics are included as a separate attachment.

Licensees are encouraged to log on to the LBESPA web site at www.lbespa.org for a complete copy of the rules and regulations and also the law. As soon as the revisions and clarifications to the rules have been promulgated later this summer, that document will be uploaded to the web site. Please contact the Board office if there are questions concerning either the law or the rules and regulations. LBESPA thanks you for your continuing efforts to protect the consumers of our services.

Did you know that LBESPA has updated Supervision Form 200?

Erica A. Chatelain, M.Ed., L-SLP

Supervision Form 200 for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant has been updated and is now a one page form! We hope this change makes the form more user friendly! You can find the new form on the LBESPA website (www.lbespa.org).

Since we have a new form, please take this opportunity to also refresh yourself on the Supervision Requirements for SLPA's and Provisional SLPA's.

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Full-Time and Part-Time Supervision Requirements

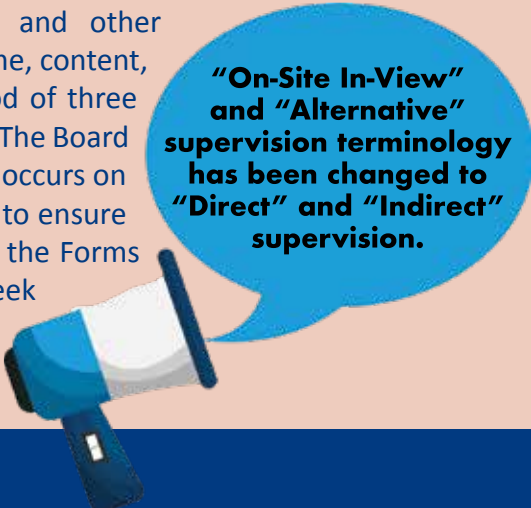
Hours Worked	Required Direct Supervision	Required Indirect Supervision
21-40 hours	1 hour/week	1 hour/week
20 hours or less	1 hour/every 2 weeks	1 hour/every 2 weeks

Supervision Requirements for the Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

1. A minimum of three clock hours of direct supervision shall be completed in the primary work setting each week for each licensee. If the provisional speech-language pathology assistant is employed in more than one work setting, additional direct supervision must occur in the secondary work setting.

2. A minimum of two clock hours of indirect supervision shall be completed each week for each licensee.

Please remember that supervisory records, including supervision logs and other documentation of supervision (should include supervisory visits with date, time, content, etc), shall be maintained by both the supervisor and supervisee for a period of three years. Documentation of supervision may be requested by the board. (131.L) The Board also recommends that the Supervision Form 200s be filled out as supervision occurs on a weekly basis or at a minimum, that they be completed on a monthly basis, to ensure accuracy. The Board also recommends shading in Saturdays and Sundays on the Forms 200s. Also, if no therapy is done for a certain week, write that across the week and include the reason, for example "LEAP Testing/No Tx".



**"On-Site In-View"
and "Alternative"
supervision terminology
has been changed to
"Direct" and "Indirect"
supervision.**



Telehealth

Annette E. Hurley, Ph.D., L-AUD

The World Health Organization (WHO) (2010) has defined telemedicine and telehealth as “The delivery of health care services, where distance is a critical factor, by all health care professionals using information and communication technologies for the exchange of valid information for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and injuries, research and evaluation and for the continuing education of health care providers, all in the interest of advancing the health of individuals and their

communities.” LBESPA defines telehealth as “a mode of delivering audiology and speech-language pathology services that utilizes information and communication technologies to enable the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of clients at a distance from the audiologist or speech-language pathologist provider. Telehealth allows services to be accessed when providers are in a distant site and patients are in the originating site. Telehealth facilitates self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers.”

During the past few years, the use of telehealth has expanded a way to provide services for audiology and speech-language pathology. The current literature reports growth in telemedicine and its application and use for audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

In February 2019, the new Rules and Regulations were promulgated to include Telehealth Registration as an option rather than licensure for telepractice. Louisiana state licensure is required for any in-state practitioners who are practicing audiology or speech-language pathology by telehealth. If a provider is out-of-state, but providing services in Louisiana, the practitioner may obtain a Louisiana license, or opt to apply for Telehealth Registration. Telehealth registration is only available to licensees who do not require supervision and hold an unrestricted and unencumbered current license granted in the home state based on standards at least equivalent to those in Louisiana. The initial application fee for telehealth registration is \$50 and can be renewed for \$25 prior to June 30th.

What are the differences in registration and licensure? Licensure is the process by which the State of Louisiana grants permission for an individual to engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology. Registration for telehealth ensures the individual currently holds an active and unrestricted professional license in audiology or speech-language pathology in another state (referred to as the home state) requiring similar qualifications. Louisiana is 1 of 14 states that allows telepractice with the appropriate licensure or registration in which the service is rendered and delivered. Providers of telehealth services shall be competent in both the types of services provided and the methodology and equipment used to provide the services. Providers of telehealth services must use methods for protecting client information that include authentication and encryption technology. The standard of care shall be the same as if the audiology or speech-language pathology services were delivered face-to-face. It is the responsibility of the provider to determine candidacy and to ensure that the client is comfortable with the technology being utilized.

Continuing education must be completed consistent with the license the individual possesses for the state in which the provider is located. Telehealth registrants residing in states which do not require continuing education for audiologists and/or speech-language pathologists shall complete the annual continuing education requirements specified in Rule 127.

Individuals who hold telehealth registration in Louisiana are only authorized to practice via telepractice. Licensure is required if an individual wishes to practice face-to-face in Louisiana.

KNOW THE CODE! *

Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP, ASHA Fellow, L-SLP, EdS (LD)

“Ethical dilemmas are a common and difficult part of the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology.” (Anderson & Chabon, 2007)

The topic is a pervasive and sometimes challenging one, applicable to all professionals, practice settings, and types of clients. Resolution of ethical challenges begins with knowledge of applicable codes of ethics as well as recognition of the dilemma.

The LBESPA Code of Ethics was revised effective February 20, 2019. Two separate codes continue to exist – (§701.E.) one for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, provisional speech-language pathologists, restricted speech-language pathologists and telepractice registrants, and (§701.F.) one for speech-language pathology assistants and provisional speech-language pathology assistants. New rules as well as edits to already-existing rules address: interprofessional collaboration, supervision, informed consent, technology, impaired practitioner, patient/client abandonment, research conduct, administrative/supervisory roles, conflict of interest, disclosures, reporting members of other professions, and self-reporting.

A document has been developed to assist licensees in the review, study, and ultimately application of the revised Codes in daily practice. The document can be found in the attachment. It serves to capture the focus of each of the Principles and Rules of Ethics.

It is incumbent upon each audiologist, speech-language pathologist, and assistant to conduct oneself in an ethical manner whether faced with a straightforward dilemma or one involving practice constraints and multiple considerations. Reaching the best possible outcome in all situations begins with *knowing the Code*.

*Training in the area of ethics can be requested by contacting the LBESPA office.

Anderson, N. & Chabon, S. (2007). Providing ethically responsible services to children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Seminar presented at ASHA Schools Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



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