



Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and
Audiology

Applying for State Licensure in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

Graduate Student Presentation

What is ABESPA?

The state board that regulates and governs all licensed practice for audiology and speech pathology in the state of Arkansas.

<https://healthy.arkansas.gov/boards-commissions/boards/examiners-in-speech-language-pathology-and-audiology-arkansas-board/>

What is ABESPA's Purpose?

To protect consumers and to ensure the highest quality of services to consumers

To issue license/registration to Speech-Language Pathologists, Audiologists and SLP Assistants who meet the qualifications set forth in the law

To ensure compliance with the law and with the rules and regulations of the board

To investigate complaints

It's the Law

Established Practice Act:

- 1975 – Act 277
- 1993 – Revised – Act 121
- 1995 – Revised to add SLPAs
- 2013 – Revised – Act 219
- 2015- Revised to include Telepractice

Statute number 17-100-101

http://www.abespa.com/rules_regs/rules_regs.html

Who is ABESPA?

A regulatory board
consisting of:

7 Members – Appointed by
the Governor

- 5 Professionals
 - 2 Speech-Language Pathologists
 - 2 Audiologists
 - 1 either SLP or Audiologist
- 1 Consumer representative
- 1 Senior representative

When does ABESPA Meet?

The Board meets every January, March, May, July, September, and November

Meetings are open to the public

Board is advised by an attorney from the Attorney General's office

Communication with the Board must be in writing before official consideration can be given to any issue.

How do I obtain a license?

Complete an Application Packet for a provisional license

The following must be completed and received by ABESPA *within 30 days of beginning work*

- Application
- Application Fee
- CFY Plan – signed by you and your licensed supervisor
- Proof of degree status

Additional information to be sent

- Official Graduate transcripts
- Clinical Summary Report
- Official copy of PRAXIS/ETS *passing* score
- (ABESPA score code R8773)

Provisional License

Provisional licensees are entitled to *all* rights and privileges of persons holding a full license *except* that they must be supervised

Any application can be reviewed for approval for up to 3 consecutive meetings

License Expiration

All licenses expire on June 30 each year.

All licenses **MUST** be renewed by June 30 each year.

Exception: any license issued within 120 days of June 30 will expire the following year.

Continuing Professional Education

CPEs are required the year following your first renewal even if you have not completed your CFY. Licensure and CPE's run on the fiscal year – 7/1 through 6/30.

Each licensee must complete 10 hours of continuing education (15 for dual licensees) with at least 5 hours being in content area I

(Defined in Section 9 of the ABESPA Rules)

When submitting CPE's **do not** just list the conference name or title of CPE session. Be detailed and describe what the session was about.

Continuing Education-

Content Area I

Normal development of speech, language, hearing and balance

Physical basis of speech, language and hearing development

Linguistic variables related to normal development

Technical and instrumentation information that expands knowledge in the basic communication process

Disorders

Diagnostics

Principles of habilitation and rehabilitation of communication disorders and in balance and vestibular disorders

Continuing Education-

Content Area II

Must relate to audiology or speech-language pathology

Regulations and implementation of federal and/or state regulation programs

Service and delivery models

Ethical practices

Administration and supervision issues

Related disciplines which interface with the delivery of SLP and Audiology services

Reimbursement issues

ATTENTION

- Notify ABESPA within *30 days* of making changes.
 - Beginning Work
 - ***Completing CFY- ASHA CF Report or ASHA letter***
 - Changing Address
 - Changing work settings
 - Changing supervisors
 - Not sure? Contact ABESPA for guidance

Disciplinary Actions....

Medicaid Fraud

Failure to maintain & supply records
pertaining to services billed

Practiced with an expired license

Failure to apply within 30 days of
beginning practice

Failure to substantiate CPE Hours

ABESPA

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Bob Elder, Assistant

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Professional Organizations



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION



ArkSHA

Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

How's your hearing? Ask an Audiologist!



FAQ'S

Q: Is ASHA membership required for state licensure?

A: No

Q: How soon must I apply for license?

A: Within the first 30 days of beginning practice.

Q. Must I hold a license during my CFYear?

A. Yes, Arkansas requires a provisional license
See Rules-Sections 2.5 and 2.12

Clinical Fellowship FAQ's

Q. Can I begin my CF prior to receiving my advanced degree?

A. No. Arkansas requires applicants for licensure hold a master's or doctoral degree in speech-language pathology or audiology. See Section 2.8 of the Rules and Regulations.

Q. Must I report changes to my CF year?

A. Yes, within 30 calendar days of change. Changes such as the number of hours worked per week, CFY end date, or work setting can be submitted by letter, email, or fax. If your CF supervisor changes, you must complete a new CFY plan.

Clinical Fellowship FAQ's

Q. Do I need to acquire continuing education during my CFY?

A. A report of continuing education is not required during the initial licensing period (7/1 to 6/30) but will be required for the next licensing period even if you have not completed your CFY. See Rules-Section 9.4

Q. How do I convert from provisional license to full license?

A. You must submit documentation of the successful completion of the clinical fellowship year **within 30 days**. This proof might consist of a photocopy of the ASHA CF Report and Rating form or other verification documents.

There is no fee for the conversion.



QUESTIONS

