

EFFECTIVE
12-13-2020

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

172 NAC 24

TITLE 172 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

CHAPTER 24 REGISTRATION OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH- LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS

001. SCOPE AND AUTHORITY. These regulations govern the registration requirements for audiology or speech-language pathology assistants and the certification requirements to supervise audiology or speech-language pathology assistants under Nebraska Revised Statute (Neb. Rev. Stat.) §§ 38-501 to 38-527 of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Practice Act, and the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA). Additional licensure information regarding audiology and speech-language pathology requirements may be found in 172 Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) 23.

002. DEFINITIONS. Definitions are set out in the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Practice Act, the Uniform Credentialing Act, 172 NAC 10, 172 NAC 23, and this chapter.

002.01 ACCREDITED TRAINING PROGRAM. A postsecondary school accredited by a regional accrediting institution recognized by the United States Department of Education. This includes, but is not limited to, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Higher Learning Commission, and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges.

002.02 ALTERNATE SUPERVISOR. A licensed audiologist or speech-language pathologist who provides supervisory coverage due to absences of the supervisor not to exceed 3 months.

002.03 DIRECT ONSITE SUPERVISION. The direction given by a licensed audiologist or speech-language pathologist who:

- (A) Is present in the room in which clinical services are being given; or
- (B) Observes the clinical setting either by use of an observation window or by closed circuit television with amplification from the clinical setting.

003. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS. To register as an audiology or speech-language pathology assistant, an individual must submit a complete application provided by the Department and provide documentation demonstrating the applicant meets the registration requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-501 to 38-527, and this chapter.

003.01 DOCUMENTATION. The applicant must provide the following documentation to the Department.

003.01(A) EDUCATION. Submit an official transcript, sent directly from the issuing institution, verifying a bachelor's degree from an accredited training program in communication disorders, or an associate's degree from an accredited training program in communication disorders; or professional education that is equivalent to an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree. The equivalent coursework will meet the requirements outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-521 and consist of the following:

- (i) A minimum of 30 semester credit hours in general education that includes the following areas:
 - (1) Oral and written communication which may include grammar and usage, composition, public speaking, or business writing; and
 - (2) Mathematics which may include general mathematics, business mathematics, accounting, algebra, or higher level mathematics; or
 - (3) Computer applications which may include computer basics, computer literacy, word processing, software applications, web-based applications; or
 - (4) Social and natural sciences which may include psychology, sociology, biology, anatomy, or physiology of speech and hearing mechanisms; and
- (ii) A minimum of 40 semester credit hours in technical knowledge that includes the following areas:
 - (1) Overview of normal processes of communication across the life span which must include normal speech, language, communication, hearing development and swallowing physiology; and phonetics;
 - (2) Overview of communication disorders including dysphagia which must include speech, language, and hearing disorders, and dysphagia;
 - (3) Overview of the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology;
 - (4) Instruction in assistant-level service delivery practices which must include technical procedures and legal and professional issues and ethics for audiology and speech-language pathology assistants, assisting the audiologist and speech-language pathologist in service delivery, and audiology and speech-language pathology assistant technical skills in speech, language and hearing disorders, behavior management and modification;
 - (5) Instruction in workplace behaviors which must include workplace behaviors of the audiology or speech-language pathology assistant and must include relating to clients or patients in a supportive and professional manner, observing and recording patient progress, following the supervisor's instructions, maintaining confidentiality, communicating in oral and written formats, following health and safety precautions, and appropriate recordkeeping; and
 - (6) Cultural and linguistic factors in communication which may include language and culture, nonverbal communications, sign language and other manually coded systems, bilingualism, or multicultural issues.

003.01(B) ADDITIONAL TRAINING. If the applicant will provide aural rehabilitation services, he or she must provide documentation showing completion of additional training that includes the following:

- (i) Information concerning the nature of hearing loss;
- (ii) Purposes and principles of auditory and visual training;
- (iii) Maintenance and use of amplification devices; and

- (iv) Communication options for individuals with hearing loss. This includes sign language and the use of assistive technology.

004. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS TO SUPERVISE AN ASSISTANT. To obtain certification to supervise an assistant, a Nebraska licensed audiologist or speech-language pathologist must submit an application provided by the Department and provide documentation demonstrating that the applicant meets the requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-501 to 38-527 and this chapter.

004.01 DENIAL OF CERTIFICATION TO SUPERVISE. The Department may deny an audiologist or speech-language pathologist the right to supervise an audiology or speech-language pathology assistant upon evidence of any of the following:

- (A) The supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist is not licensed to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in Nebraska;
- (B) The audiology or speech-language pathology assistant is not registered in Nebraska;
- (C) The supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist proposes to permit the audiology or speech-language pathology assistant to perform duties beyond the scope of practice of an audiology or speech-language pathology assistant as outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-501 to 38-527; or
- (D) The audiologist or speech-language pathologist is supervising more than 2 audiology or speech-language pathology assistants.

005. RENEWAL, WAIVER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, AND INACTIVE STATUS. The applicant must meet the requirements set out in 172 NAC 10. All registrations expire one year from date of issuance.

006. CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS. On or before December 1st of each even-numbered year, individuals holding an active registration in the State of Nebraska must complete at least 10 hours of in-service training. The in-service training may be formal or informal and must be directly related to the particular services provided by the audiology or speech-language pathology assistant.

007. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT. Unprofessional conduct is set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-179 and 172 NAC 23.

008. REINSTATEMENT. The applicant must meet the requirements set out in 172 NAC 10.

009. FEES. Fees are set out in 172 NAC 2.