
2B

Action

Professional Services Committee

Proposed Preconditions for Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Programs

Executive Summary: This agenda item presents the proposed Preconditions for Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Programs for Commission action.

Recommended Action: That the Commission adopt the proposed Preconditions.

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Strategic Plan Goal: 1

Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation and performance of professional educators and for the accreditation of credential programs

January 2010

Proposed Preconditions for Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Programs

Introduction

The Commission staff is bringing the specialized Program Preconditions for the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential forward for further consideration and adoption. The Preconditions were initially presented as an information item at the December 9, 2009 Commission meeting (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2009-12/2009-12-3H.pdf>). As stated in the December item, the program standards for the Speech-Language Pathology program were approved at the January 2009 Commission meeting (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2009-01/2009-01-3C.pdf>).

Proposed Preconditions for Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Program

As noted in the October 2009 Commission agenda item, (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2009-10/2009-10-2D.pdf>), preconditions are compliance requirements that must be met in order for an accrediting association or licensing agency to consider accrediting an institution, its programs or its schools. Preconditions determine a program sponsor's eligibility for accreditation. Some preconditions are based on state laws, while other preconditions are established by Commission policy. Previously, the Commission has adopted General Preconditions that apply to all credential programs.

Preparation Programs for the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential need to respond to the General Preconditions. In addition, the following specialized Program Preconditions for Other Related Services Credentials in the area of Speech-Language Pathology Services Credentials are being presented for adoption in this item. As described in the December 2009 item, in the Legislature specified certain requirements for the area of Speech-Language Pathology Services in 2006 in Education Code §44265.3. This section specifies particular requirements for both the preliminary and clear credentials for the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential (Appendix A). On the basis of that section, the following program specific preconditions were recommended in December 2009:

Preliminary Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Precondition:

A Commission-accredited program sponsor shall determine prior to recommending a candidate for a credential, that the candidate holds or has been recommended for a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from a program accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Council on Academic Accreditation.

Clear Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Preconditions:

A Commission-accredited program sponsor shall determine prior to recommending a candidate for a Clear Speech-Language Pathology Credential that the candidate has satisfied all of the following criteria:

- a. The Candidate has a Preliminary Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential.

- b. The Candidate holds a master's degree in speech-language pathology from a program accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), or an equivalent degree or academic program, as determined by the ASHA.
- c. The Candidate has achieved a passing score, as determined by the ASHA certification requirements, on the Praxis series written test in speech-language pathology, or a successor exam, administered by the Educational Testing Service.
- d. The Candidate has completed a mentored practical experience period, in the form of a 36 week, full-time mentored clinical experience, or an equivalent supervised practicum, as deemed by the Commission.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends Commission adoption of the proposed preconditions for Speech-Language Pathology Credential programs as presented in this agenda item.

Appendix A

California Education Code Section 44265.3

(a) Commencing January 1, 2007, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing shall issue the following credentials:

(1) A preliminary credential in speech-language pathology, to an individual who has been recommended by a commission-accredited program sponsor and who holds or has been recommended for a master's degree in speech-language pathology from a program accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Council on Academic Accreditation. The preliminary credential shall be valid for a period of two years.

(2) A professional clear credential in speech-language pathology to an individual who satisfies all of the following criteria:

(A) The individual holds a master's degree in speech-language pathology from a program accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Council on Academic Accreditation, or an equivalent degree or academic program, as determined by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

(B) The individual has achieved a passing score, as determined by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's certification requirements on the Educational Testing Service's national teachers' Praxis series written test in speech-language pathology or a successor exam.

(C) The individual has completed a mentored practical experience period, in the form of a 36-week, full-time mentored clinical experience, or an equivalent supervised practicum, as deemed by the commission.

(D) The individual satisfies other typical commission credentialing processing requirements, including, but not limited to, forms, fees, and fingerprint clearances.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to align the state credentialing requirements for personnel standards for California speech-language pathologists with standards for Medi-Cal local educational agency reimbursement, in order to ensure continued funding for the Local Education Agency (LEA) Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.

(c) A credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing on or before January 1, 2007, authorizing speech, language, and hearing services, shall continue to be valid, subject to commission renewal requirements.

(d) Upon renewal of a credential initially issued on or before January 1, 2007, the credential holder shall have the option of renewing the credential under the standards applicable prior to January 1, 2007, or to update the credential to satisfy the requirements of subdivision (a). At any time after January 1, 2007, the credential holder may update his or her credential, upon submission of an application and fee, and verification of requirements met in accordance with subdivision (a).

(e) To the extent allowable, as determined by the federal government, services provided by an individual with a credential for speech-language pathology, as specified in this section, shall be billable through the LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program.