



Credential Information Alert

DATE: November 4, 2015

NUMBER: 15-03

SUBJECT: Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Variable Term Waiver for Speech-Language Pathology

Summary:

The Commission adopted new criteria for initial issuance and reissuance of Variable Term Waivers (VTW) for Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Services Credential and authorized staff to approve or deny VTWs based on the adopted criteria. Coded Correspondence 15-05 provided guidance to the field on specifics of the adopted criteria. This *Credential Information Alert* (CIA) seeks to answer the most frequently asked questions regarding the submission process for these VTWs.

Degree Requirement

1. In what ways can an educator meet the degree requirement for the VTW in SLP?

The degree requirement may be met by one of the following methods:

- a. *Submit official transcripts showing conferral of a baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally-accredited college or university in Speech-Language Pathology or Communicative Disorder.*
- b. *Submit official transcripts showing conferral of a Baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally-accredited college or university in a field closely aligned to Speech-Language Pathology. Examples of closely aligned fields include, but are not limited to, the following:*

<i>Communication and Learning Disorders</i>	<i>Speech and Language Disabilities</i>
<i>Communication Disorders</i>	<i>Speech-Language Sciences</i>
<i>Communication Sciences and Disorders</i>	<i>Speech-Language Sciences and Disorders</i>
<i>Language, Speech, and Hearing</i>	<i>Speech Pathology</i>
<i>Speech and Hearing</i>	<i>Speech Pathology and Audiology</i>
<i>Speech and Hearing Sciences</i>	<i>Speech Therapy</i>
<i>Speech Language and Hearing Science</i>	<i>Speech Sciences</i>



- c. If an applicant's degree is not in Speech-Language Pathology or a closely aligned field then the educator may acquire a letter from a California college or university with a program in one of these fields stating that the degree earned and/or coursework completed by the educator is equivalent to a baccalaureate degree or higher in Speech Language Pathology or a closely aligned field. The letter must be signed by the undergraduate or graduate department chair in SLP or a closely aligned field from a California institution of higher education and be on official letterhead.*
- d. Educators who submit verification that they have been accepted into a Commission-approved or ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program are not subject to verification that their degree is in Speech-Language Pathology, Communicative Disorders, or a closely aligned field.*

Inability to Enroll

- 2. When applying for the VTW in SLP based on an educator's inability to enroll in a Commission-approved or ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program, how do you confirm that all requirements for entry are met?

The employing agency would need to submit a or b, along with c as outlined below.

- a. An employing agency would need to submit a letter from a Commission-approved or ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program listing the programs admission requirements.*

or

- b. Submit a copy of the admission requirements from the program's website*

and

- c. Submit documentation verifying that the educator has met all the listed requirements for admission to the Commission-approved or ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program. This may include but is not limited to official transcripts showing degree conferral and that the minimum GPA was met as well as exam score reports verifying that the educator met the minimum requirements established by the Commission-approved or ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program. Additionally, the Commission requires a copy of the application form submitted to the program as well as the denial letter or denial email returned by the program.*

If a letter or email from a Commission-approved or ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program specifically states that all minimum admission requirements were met it may be used to verify all requirements for entry were met in place of the other options listed above.



Delayed Program Enrollment (Date Mismatch)

3. The adopted criteria allows for a waiver to be issued when there is an inability to enroll in a Commission-approved or ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program. One of the inability to enroll scenarios describes a “mismatch between the requested initial employment date and the program enrollment date”. What are some examples of a mismatch?
 - a. *An educator was accepted into a Commission-approved or ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program but the program does not begin until after the requested issuance date of the VTW in SLP. This would need to be verified by a letter or email from the program sponsor stating that the individual has been accepted and showing the program start date.*
 - b. *An educator attempted to enroll in a Commission-approved or ASHA-accredited graduate level SLP program but was denied because the program is no longer accepting applications for the current academic school year. The Commission would require the letter or email received by the educator stating that the window to apply was now closed. If an educator did not apply because it was evident on the program’s website that the application window was closed, a printout of the webpage must be submitted. In either case, the employing agency would need to submit verification that the educator met all program admission requirements via the method described in item #2 above. If program requirements for the next enrollment date are not yet posted, please use the program requirements from the previous academic year.*

References:

Coded Correspondence 15-05: Variable Term Waiver for the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2015/1505.pdf>

February 2015 Agenda Item 6A: Proposed Amendments to Adopted Criteria for a Variable Term Wavier of the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-02/2015-02-6A.pdf>

October 2014 Agenda Item 4A: Policy Issues Pertaining to the Variable Term Waiver for the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2014-10/2014-10-4A.pdf>

Waiver Requests Guidebook, Edition 2015:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/manuals-handbooks/WaiverHandbook.pdf>

List of Commission-approved SLP programs:

http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_apm/ORESS_slp_lsh.php



ASHA-accredited programs:

www.asha.org/Academic/accreditation/CAA-Accredited-Programs

Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential Information leaflet CL-879:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl879.pdf>

Extensions by Appeal for Credentials and Permits Information leaflet AL-3:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/al3.pdf>

Contact Information:

Questions concerning Variable Term Waivers should be directed to the Waiver unit at
waivers@ctc.ca.gov

Credentialing questions can be directed to the Commission's Information Services Unit by email
at credentials@ctc.ca.gov or by telephone to (916) 322-4974 Monday through Friday from 12:30
pm to 4:30 pm.