



RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: April 11, 2025

TIME: 12:44 PM

WSR 25-09-055

Agency: Department of Health – Board of Hearing and Speech

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

- 31 days after filing
- Other (specify) December 31, 2025 (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes
 - No
- If Yes, explain:

Purpose: Hearing and Speech – Implementing legislation, reducing licensure barriers for hearing and speech professions and clarifying requirements for speech-language pathology assistant certification in chapter 246-828 WAC.

The Board of Hearing and Speech (board) is adopting amendments to implement section 8 of Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1724 (chapter 425, Laws of 2023), codified as RCW 18.130.077 to reduce barriers to entering and remaining in the hearing and speech workforce and to shorten the credentialing process. The board is adopting revisions to WAC 246-828-020, 246-828-510, and creating a new section, WAC 246-828-035, Licensure by endorsement to align with RCW 18.130.077.

Under RCW 18.130.077, all disciplining authorities shall waive education, training, experience, and exam requirements for applicants who have been credentialed in another state or states with substantially equivalent standards for at least two years immediately preceding their application with no interruption in licensure for longer than 90 days. The statute also allows disciplining authorities to choose to waive education, training, experience, and exam requirements for applicants who have achieved the national credential for their profession.

The adopted amendments implement RCW 18.130.077 by creating expedited pathways to licensure for licensed out-of-state speech and hearing professionals who qualify under RCW 18.130.077, creating a pathway for speech and hearing professionals who have a national certification in good standing, and removing the jurisprudence exam requirement from initial licensure requirements. The adopted rules include the jurisprudence exam as a requirement under WAC 246-828-510, continuing education. The adopted rules reduce licensure barriers to entering and remaining in the health care workforce and shorten the credentialing process for hearing and speech professions.

Additionally, the board is adopting amendments to WAC 246-828-617 to clarify the requirements for speech-language pathology assistant certification to address confusion about the education and experience requirements.

To account for changes to the credentialing system the board is delaying the effective date to December 31, 2025.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

- New: WAC 246-828-035
- Repealed: None
- Amended: WAC 246-828-020, 246-828-510, 246-828-617
- Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.35.161, and 2SHB 1724 (chapter 425, Laws of 2023) codified as RCW 18.130.077.

Other authority: None

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 25-02-001 on 12/18/2024 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: Kim-Boi Shadduck, Program Manager

Address: Department of Health

PO Box 47852

Olympia, WA 98504-7852

Phone: 360-236-2912

Fax: N/A

TTY: 711

Email: kimboi.shadduck@doh.wa.gov

Web site:

Other:

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	<u>2</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Pilot rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	<u>3</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

Date Adopted: 3/14/2025

Name: Sonja Bradford, SLP

Title: Chair, Board of Hearing and Speech

Signature:



WAC 246-828-020 Examinations. (1) A hearing aid specialist credential applicant is required to take the written International Licensing Exam developed by the International Hearing Society or other entity approved by the board. An applicant must obtain a passing score as recommended by the examination administrator and as approved by the board. An applicant may apply to take the written examination no more than ~~((ninety))~~ 90 days prior to the anticipated completion date of the educational program. The anticipated completion date must be verified by the educational program.

(2) A hearing aid specialist credential applicant ~~((s))~~ who ~~((have))~~ has completed a board-approved nine-month certificate program ~~((are))~~ is required to take the practical examination approved by the board. The applicant ~~((s))~~ must obtain a passing score as recommended by the examination administrator and as approved by the board.

(3) An audiology credential applicant ~~((s-are))~~ is required to take the Praxis audiology exam ~~((or other entity approved by the board))~~. The applicant ~~((s))~~ must obtain a passing score as recommended by the examination administrator ~~((and as approved by the board))~~.

(4) A speech-language pathologist credential applicant ~~((s-are))~~ is required to take the Praxis speech-language pathology exam ~~((or other entity approved by the board))~~. The applicant ~~((s))~~ must obtain a passing score as recommended by the examination administrator ~~((and as approved by the board))~~.

~~((5) All credential applicants are required to take and pass a jurisprudence examination approved by the board. The passing score on the jurisprudence examination is one hundred percent))~~.

NEW SECTION

WAC 246-828-035 Licensure by endorsement. (1) An applicant that is currently licensed, and has been licensed for at least the immediately preceding two years in a state or jurisdiction with substantially equivalent standards to Washington, and meets all requirements in RCW 18.130.077 (1) and (3), qualifies for licensure by endorsement. The applicant shall submit to the department:

- (a) An application on forms provided by the department;
- (b) Proof of licensure history that demonstrates compliance with RCW 18.130.077; and
- (c) The appropriate licensing fees required under WAC 246-825-990(2).

(2) An applicant qualifies for licensure by endorsement if they meet the requirements of RCW 18.130.077(3) and hold one of the following national certifications; the certificate of clinical competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), board certification in audiology by the American Board of Audiology, or certification from the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences. The applicant shall submit to the department:

- (a) An application on forms provided by the department;
- (b) Proof of national certification;
- (c) Proof of compliance with RCW 18.130.077(3); and

(d) The appropriate licensing fees required under WAC 246-825-990(2).

(3) An applicant licensed in a state with substantially equivalent standards for less than two years:

(a) May obtain an initial license as provided in RCW 18.35.040.

(b) May obtain a temporary practice permit in WAC 246-828-305 or 246-828-315.

(4) An applicant licensed in a nonsubstantially equivalent state may obtain an initial license as provided in RCW 18.35.040.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 24-01-120, filed 12/19/23, effective 1/19/24)

WAC 246-828-510 Continuing education. The purpose of continuing education is to ensure the highest quality professional care. The objectives are to improve and increase the ability of the hearing aid specialist, audiologist, speech-language pathologist, and speech-language pathology assistant to deliver the highest possible quality professional care and keep the professional abreast of current developments.

Continuing education consists of educational activities designed to review existing concepts and techniques and to convey information and knowledge about advances in hearing instrument fitting and dispensing, audiology, and speech-language pathology fields as applied to the work setting. Continuing education requirements include:

(1) ~~((Continuing education requirement.))~~ A credential holder must take and pass the jurisprudence examination approved by the board within the first year of licensure. The jurisprudence examination requirement counts as one hour of continuing education.

(2) A credential holder must complete a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education every three years.

(a) At least one hour of the continuing education must be on infection control.

(b) One hour of continuing education must be the successful completion of the jurisprudence examination approved by the board.

(c) Multicultural education aimed at removing barriers to access to care may count for up to five hours of continuing education.

~~((e))~~ (d) At least 25 hours of continuing education must be related to profession specific skills and competencies.

~~((i))~~ (e) At least two hours of continuing education must be on health equity training, as specified in WAC 246-12-800 through 246-12-830. ~~((ii))~~ This training must be completed by the end of the second full continuing education reporting period after January 1, 2024, or the second full continuing education reporting period after initial licensure, whichever is later.

~~((2))~~ (3) Continuing education is defined as any of the following activities:

(a) Courses, seminars, workshops and postgraduate programs offered by accredited educational institutions. These educational activities must be recorded on an official transcript or by documentation stating the number of continuing education hours completed.

(b) Courses, seminars and workshops offering continuing clock or continuing educational units offered by profession-related organiza-

tions or industries. These activities will be accepted with documentation of the number of continuing education hours completed.

(c) Attendance at a continuing education program having a featured speaker(s) or panel, which has been provided by, sponsored by, or endorsed by a profession-related organization or industry. This activity will be accepted with documentation of the number of continuing education hours completed.

(d) Participation as a speaker or panel member in a continuing education program which has been provided by, sponsored by, or endorsed by a profession-related organization or industry. A maximum of eight hours, including preparation time, may be applied to the total three-year requirement.

(e) Completion of a written, video, internet, or audio continuing education program which has been provided by, sponsored by, or endorsed by a profession-related organization or industry. Only programs in which proof of completion is provided or with tests that are not self-graded will be accepted.

~~((3))~~ (4) The board may grant an exception for continuing education requirements under certain circumstances including, but not limited to, severe illness. The credential holder must submit a written request for exception to the board for review. The board will approve or deny the request.

~~((4))~~ (5) A credential holder may be randomly audited for continuing education compliance as specified in ~~(chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 7)~~ WAC 246-12-170 through 246-12-240.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-14-092, filed 6/29/15, effective 7/1/15)

WAC 246-828-617 Requirements for speech-language pathology assistant certification. An applicant for certification as a speech-language pathology assistant must have one of the following minimum qualifications:

(1) An associate of arts or sciences degree, or a certificate of proficiency ~~(, with transcripts showing forty-five quarter hours or thirty semester hours of speech-language pathology course work and transcripts showing)~~.

(a) Transcripts must show:

(i) Coursework that culminates in a speech-language pathology assistant certification program; and

(ii) Forty-five quarter hours or ~~((thirty))~~ 30 semester hours of general education credit from a board-approved institution of higher education as defined in WAC 246-828-025 (1)(b).

(b) Transcripts must reflect, or applicant must demonstrate, ~~((one hundred))~~ 100 hours of supervised patient/client/student work experience completed within a one-year time frame, or clinical experience practicum, with at least ~~((fifty))~~ 50 of those hours under direct supervision; or

(2) A bachelor of arts or bachelor of sciences degree with transcripts from a speech, language, and hearing program from a board-approved institution of higher education as defined in WAC 246-828-025 (1)(b). Transcripts must reflect, or applicant must demonstrate, ~~((one hundred))~~ 100 hours of supervised patient/client/student work experience completed within a one-year time frame, or clinical experience

practicum, with at least (~~fifty~~) 50 of those hours under direct supervision.