

# STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY GUIDELINES

## The assistant shall:

- use the title “Licensed Assistant in Speech-Language Pathology.”

## At the direction of the supervising Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), and with appropriate training, the assistant shall:

- conduct or participate in speech, language, and/or hearing screening with the appropriate training;
- implement the treatment program or the Individual Education Plan designed by the licensed speech-language pathologist;
- provide carry-over activities that are the therapeutically designed transfer of a newly acquired communication ability to other contexts and situations;
- collect data;
- administer routine tests, if assistant has been appropriately trained and the assessments are conducted under the direction of the supervisor;
- maintain clinical records;
- prepare clinical materials; and
- participate with the licensed SLP in research projects, staff development, public relations programs, or similar activities as designated and supervised by the licensed SLP.



## The assistant shall NOT:

- conduct evaluations, even under supervision, since this is a diagnostic and decision-making activity;
- interpret results of routine tests;
- interpret observations or data into diagnostic statements, clinical management strategies, or procedures;
- represent speech-language pathology at staff meetings or at admission/review/and dismissal (ARD) meetings;
- attend staffing meetings or ARD meetings without the supervisor being present;
- design a treatment program or individual education plan (IEP);
- determine case selection;
- present written or oral reports of client information;
- refer a client to other professionals or other agencies;
- use any title that connotes the competency of a licensed SLP; and
- practice as an assistant in speech-language pathology without a valid supervisory responsibility statement on file in the State Licensing Board office.



*“Being a Licensed Assistant in Speech-Language Pathology is extremely rewarding. I am able to utilize my skills in ways that are meaningful and helpful to others.”*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What are the requirements for being a licensed assistant in speech-language pathology?

Board rules, 22 TAC, Chapter 741, Section 741.65, available on the State Board of Examiners Web site at < [www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech) > .

- Baccalaureate degree with 24 semester hours in speech-language pathology and/or audiology, with at least 18 hours in speech-language pathology;
- twenty-five (25) hours of clinical observation;
- twenty-five (25) hours of clinical assisting experience; and
- a supervising licensed speech-language pathologist.

### How do I apply for an assistant’s license?

Qualified candidates who wish to apply for an assistant’s license should read the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 741, Section 741.112(e), available on the State Board of Examiners Web site at < [www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech) > .

### What is the best way for a new graduate to obtain 25 hours of clinical experience?

Since many universities do not offer practicum at the undergraduate level, bachelor’s level students seeking to obtain an assistant’s license are often faced with trying to obtain practicum hours after they have left school. To do this, they must submit documentation to obtain the assistant’s license and include a Clinical Deficiency Plan to acquire the supervised practicum hours. This is done through the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The assistant’s license must be issued by the Board before any training can begin. The individual then has 60 days to complete the 25 hours of supervised assisting experience and must submit proof of completion.

### May a licensed assistant attend interdisciplinary team meetings if the SLP is not available?

No, the licensed assistant may NOT attend any meetings, (e.g., ARD’s, IFSP conferences, discharge staffings) without the physical presence of the supervising speech-language pathologist.

### How often must a licensed assistant be supervised?

The licensed assistant must be supervised a minimum of two hours per week, whether the assistant works full-time or part-time. One hour of this supervision must be face-to-face in the location where the assistant works. The licensed SLP must determine if an assistant requires more than the minimum two hours of supervision per week.

### My employer would like me to start therapy while my paperwork is being processed. May I?

No. An assistant may NOT practice until a signed document identifying the licensed supervisor is received and approved in the office of the State Licensing Board.

## LICENSED ASSISTANTS IN TEXAS

The purpose of this brochure is to highlight the role of the licensed assistant in speech-language pathology within Texas. It will benefit both the licensed assistants and their supervisors in understanding the licensed assistant's scope of practice.

The State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology has stated that a licensed assistant may assist in the delivery of speech-language services under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist. Possible employment opportunities may be found in, but not limited to, hospitals, rehab centers, private practices, and schools. All job placements will require a licensed speech-language pathologist be available for supervision. While licensed assistants cannot be assigned to, or responsible for their own caseloads, they assist in managing existing caseloads.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

*regarding licensed assistants in speech-language pathology, please use the following contacts.*

### STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, TX 78756  
512/834-6627  
< [www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech) >

### TEXAS SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION (TSHA)

PO Box 140647  
Austin, TX 78714-0647  
888/SAY-TSHA (729-8742)  
< [www.txsha.org](http://www.txsha.org) >

### TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701  
512/463-9414  
< [www.tea.state.tx.us/rules](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules) >

**Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association**  
PO Box 140647  
Austin, TX 78714-0647  
888/SAY-TSHA (729-8742)  
< [www.txsha.org](http://www.txsha.org) >



# THE ROLE OF THE LICENSED ASSISTANT

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## IN SPEECH- LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY



prepared and provided by the  
Texas Speech-Language  
Hearing Association