

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY.
609-3-.04 PAID CLINICAL EXPERIENCE/REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE,,
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (hereinafter "Board") proposes amendments to Georgia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Rules as cited above, (hereinafter "proposed rule amendments").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendments, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendments may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review at the Georgia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology web-site at www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on March 16, 2009 in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment. At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information for the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on March 9, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. FAX: 866-888-1308

This proposed rule amendment will be considered for adoption by the Georgia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at its meeting scheduled to begin at 10:05 a.m. on February 9, 2009, at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology has the authority to adopt the proposed rule amendment pursuant to

authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-44-3, 43-44-6, 43-44-8, 43-44-11, 43-44-13, 43-44-16, and 43-1-19.

At its meeting on January 12, 2009 meeting, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of these rules does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-44-3, 43-44-6, 43-44-8, 43-44-11, 43-44-13, 43-44-16, and 43-1-19.

Additionally, at its meeting on January 12, 2009, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-44-3, 43-44-6, 43-44-8, 43-44-11, 43-44-13, 43-44-16, and 43-1-19 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. §§50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

For further information, contact the Board office at 478-207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §§50-13-4).

This 27th day of January, 2009

Randall Vaughn
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO
THE RULES OF THE
GEORGIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY**

609-3-.04 PAID CLINICAL EXPERIENCE/REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendments provide clarification on the amount of experience required for licensure and the method by which the experience can be obtained. Also, the change provides a restriction for supervising family members.

Main Feature: The rule amendment makes provides clarification on the amount of experience required for licensure and the method by which the experience can be obtained. Also, the change provides a restriction for supervising family members.

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

09-3-.04 Paid Clinical Experience/ Required Professional Experience.

In order to meet the requirements for paid clinical experience/ required professional experience, an individual must submit the required application, pay applicable fees and satisfy the following requirements:

(a) Paid Clinical Experience (PCE)/Required Professional Experience (RPE) Fellow.

In order to be eligible to become a Paid Clinical Fellow Experience/Required Professional Experience Fellow, the applicant must have met the academic and clinical experience requirements set out in Board Rules. The applicant must have been issued an official transcript showing degree earned and date of issue.

1. Paid Clinical Experience/ Required Professional Experience (RPE) Duration – Speech-Language Pathology or Masters Degree Audiology. The speech-language pathology or masters degree audiology applicant for licensure must submit evidence of satisfactory completion of no less than ~~nine months of full-time paid clinical experience/required professional experience. The applicant must specify the duration of the RPE on the application.~~ 36 weeks of full-time professional employment. A minimum of 30 hours of work per week constitutes full-time employment. At least 80% of the clinical fellowship work week must be in direct client contact (assessment, diagnosis, evaluation, screening, habilitation, or rehabilitation) related to the management process. Thus, in a 30-hour work week, at least 24 hours must be devoted to direct clinical activities. The PCE/RPE must be completed no more than 12 months after the initial application. The PCE/RPE requirement can also be met by less than full-time employment, but must be completed no more than 24 months after initial application. For example, if the PCE/RPE Fellow works:

(i) ~~Full-Time. “Full-time” is defined as at least 35 hours per calendar week. The nine month equivalent of full-time paid experience should be completed from continuous employment, but must be completed no more than 12 months after initial application.~~ 25-29 hours per week, the length of the PCE/RPE must be at least 48 weeks.

(ii) ~~Part-Time. The requirement may also be fulfilled by 18 months of part-time paid experience of at least 17 hours per calendar week which should be completed from continuous employment, but must be completed no more than 24 months after initial application.~~ 20-24 hours per week, the length of the PCE/RPE must be at least 60 weeks.

(iii) 15-19 hours per week, the length of the PCE/RPE must be at least 72 weeks.

Professional employment of less than 15 hours per week may not be used to fulfill any part of the PCE/RPE.

2. Paid Clinical Experience (PCE)/Required Professional Experience (RPE) Duration – Doctoral Degree Audiology.

(i) The applicant who has completed a clinical externship as outlined in the board rule 609-3-.03 has satisfied the Required Professional Experience.

(ii) The applicant who did not complete the clinical externship as outlined in board rule 609-3-.03 shall follow the required professional experience as outlined for the master's degree audiology applicant.

(b) Required Supervision During the PCE/RPE.

1. At all times during the period of PCE/RPE, the PCE/RPE Fellow shall be under the direction of one or more supervisors.

2. Supervision of the PCE/RPE Fellow must entail the personal and direct monitoring of the Fellow's work.

3. Personal and direct monitoring activities shall include but not be limited to observations, evaluations of written reports, evaluation by professional colleagues and discussions of clinical work.

4. Personal and direct monitoring activities shall be conducted at a minimum of one per month in order to evaluate the progress of the PCE/RPE Fellow.

(c) Qualifications and Responsibilities of the PCE/RPE Supervisor.

1. The PCE/RPE must be obtained under a supervisor who is either:

(i) a Georgia licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist who is licensed in the area(s) for which the PCE/RPE Fellow seeks clinical professional experience and who is ultimately liable for the quality of services provided; ~~and~~

(ii) The supervisor shall supervise no more than two (2) PCE/RPE Fellows under the provisions of this rule; and

(iii) A family member or individual related in any way to the PCE/RPE Fellow may not serve as a PCE/RPE supervisor.

(d) Application for PCE/RPE Fellow Provisional License.

1. The PCE/RPE Fellow applicant and supervisor must submit to the Board an application and all required information for provisional license. The Board must receive official undergraduate and graduate transcripts indicating degree(s) earned and date of issue.

2. The PCE/RPE applicant may not begin the PCE/RPE until Board approval is received and provisional license number issued. The Board may, at its discretion, approve the plan for PCE/RPE and grant a provisional license to the application as a PCE/RPE Fellow for the purpose of practicing during the PCE/RPE.

3. The provisional license shall be valid for a period of one year from the beginning date of the PCE/RPE period.

(i) The provisional license may be renewed for one additional year if the approved PCE/RPE period is for part time experience and the period extends beyond one year, but may not be renewed solely for the purposes of the applicant's completion of other license requirements.

(ii) If the PCE/RPE Fellow has been approved for permanent license, the provisional license shall be superseded. If the PCE/RPE Fellow is not approved for permanent license, the provisional license may be voided or continued through the remaining period

of validity of the license.

(e) Grounds for denial/suspension/revocation of PCE/RPE.

The Board shall have the authority to refuse to grant a provisional license to, suspend or revoke a provisional license pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19.

(f) Documentation of Completion of the PCE/RPE.

1. Within 14 calendar days after completing the approved PCE/RPE period, the PCE/RPE Fellow and supervisor shall complete and provide to the Board the appropriate notarized forms to document completion of the PCE/RPE.

2. The documentation shall provide information on the approximate hours per calendar week engaged in diagnostic evaluations, therapy, recordkeeping, staff meetings and inservice training.

3. Any calendar week in which the PCE/RPE Fellow has not worked a minimum of 35 hours for full-time or 17 hours for part-time shall not be counted toward the PCE/RPE.

4. The supervisor and PCE/RPE Fellow shall provide the documentation of the monitoring activities as provided for in Board Rules.

5. The documentation shall include a statement on the supervisor's assessment of the PCE/RPE Fellow's clinical competency as demonstrated by performance during the PCE/RPE.

(g) Change(s) to the PCE/RPE.

1. The PCE/RPE Fellow shall notify the Board within 14 calendar days of any changes in the PCE/RPE during the approved period, including but not limited to:

(i) the dates and duration of any breaks in service,

(ii) change in PCE/RPE supervisor,

(iii) change in the place of employment, or

(iv) change of employer.

2. The Board may approve the changes in its discretion, and specify allowable adjustments in the PCE/RPE.

(h) Failure to Obtain a Provisional License for the PCE/RPE.

1. A person who practices speech-language pathology and/or Audiology and who fails to apply for and be approved for a provisional license shall be considered practicing without a license and may be subject to sanction of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

2. A supervisor who allows a person to practice without a provisional license for the PCE/RPE may be subject to sanction of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-33-8, 43-44-3, 43-44-6, 43-44-8, 43-44-11, 43-44-13, 43-44-16, and 43-1-19.