

CHAPTER 4750

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PROFESSIONALS REGISTRATION

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4750.0010 SCOPE.

Parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700 apply only to persons who are applicants for registration, who are registered, who use protected titles, or who represent that they are registered. Parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700 do not apply to school personnel licensed by the Board of Teaching under part 8700.5505, provided that school personnel practicing within the scope of their licensed occupation preface titles protected in part 4750.0030 with the words "school" or "educational."

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0020 DEFINITIONS.

Subpart 1. **Scope.** For the purpose of parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700, the following terms have the meanings given to them.

Subp. 2. **Accredited educational institution.** "Accredited educational institution" means a university, college, or other postsecondary educational institution that offers speech-language pathology or audiology training and that is accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Subp. 3. **Advisory council.** "Advisory council" means the Minnesota Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Advisory Council established under Minnesota Statutes, section 214.13, subdivision 4.

Subp. 4. **Applicant.** "Applicant" means a person who applies to the commissioner for registration or registration renewal.

Subp. 5. **Approved continuing education sponsor.** "Approved continuing education sponsor" means an organization that offers a learning experience designed to promote continuing competency in the procedures and techniques of the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology as defined in subparts 7 and 17, and that meets the criteria in part 4750.0400, subpart 3, or is a preapproved sponsor listed in part 4750.0400, subpart 2.

Subp. 6. **Audiologist.** "Audiologist" means a natural person who engages in the practice of audiology as defined in subpart 7, meets the qualifications required by parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700, and registers as an audiologist with the commissioner. As used in parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700, audiologist also means a natural person using any descriptive word with the title audiologist.

Subp. 7. **The practice of audiology.** "The practice of audiology" means:

- A. screening, identification, assessment and interpretation, diagnosis, rehabilitation, and prevention of hearing disorders;
- B. conservation of the auditory system function; development and implementation of hearing conservation programs;
- C. measurement, assessment, and interpretation of auditory and vestibular function;

D. selecting, fitting, and dispensing of assistive listening devices, alerting and amplification devices and systems for personal and public use, including hearing aids and devices, and providing training in their use;

E. aural habilitation and rehabilitation and related counseling for hearing impaired individuals and their families;

F. screening of speech, language, voice, or fluency for the purposes of audiologic evaluation or identification of possible communication disorders; or

G. teaching of, consultation or research about, or supervision of the functions in items A to F.

Subp. 8. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department of Health or a designee.

Subp. 9. **Contact hour.** "Contact hour" means an instructional session of 50 consecutive minutes, excluding coffee breaks, registration, meals without a speaker, and social activities.

Subp. 10. **Continuing education.** "Continuing education" is a planned learning experience in speech-language pathology or audiology not including the basic educational program leading to a degree if the education is used by the registrant for credit to achieve a baccalaureate or master's degree in speech-language pathology or audiology.

Subp. 11. **Credential.** "Credential" means a license, permit, certification, registration, or other evidence of qualification or authorization to engage in the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology issued by any authority.

Subp. 12. **Individual.** "Individual" means a person over whom the commissioner has jurisdiction under parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700. Individual includes an applicant, registrant, or person who uses any title protected by part 4750.0030, whether or not authorized to do so by parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700.

Subp. 13. **Register or registered.** "Register" or "registered" means the act or status of a natural person who meets the requirements of parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700 and who is authorized by the commissioner to use the titles in part 4750.0030.

Subp. 14. **Registrant.** "Registrant" means a person who meets the requirements of parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700 and is authorized by the commissioner to use the titles in part 4750.0030.

Subp. 15. **Registration.** "Registration" is the system of regulation defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 214.001, subdivision 3, paragraph (c), and is the process specified in parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700.

Subp. 16. **Speech-language pathologist.** "Speech-language pathologist" means a person who practices speech-language pathology as defined in subpart 17, meets the qualifications in parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700, and registers with the commissioner. Speech-language pathologist also means a natural person using, as an occupational title, a term identified in part 4750.0030.

Subp. 17. **The practice of speech-language pathology.** "The practice of speech-language pathology" means:

A. screening, identification, assessment and interpretation, diagnosis, habilitation, rehabilitation, treatment and prevention of disorders of speech, articulation, fluency, voice, and language;

B. screening, identification, assessment and interpretation, diagnosis, habilitation, and rehabilitation of disorders of oral-pharyngeal function and related disorders;

C. screening, identification, assessment and interpretation, diagnosis, habilitation, and rehabilitation of communication disorders associated with cognition;

D. assessing, selecting, and developing augmentative and alternative communication systems and providing training in their use;

E. aural habilitation and rehabilitation and related counseling for hearing impaired individuals and their families;

F. enhancing speech-language proficiency and communication effectiveness;

G. audiometric screening for the purposes of speech-language evaluation or for the identification of possible hearing disorders; or

H. teaching of, consultation or research about, or supervision of the functions in items A to G.

Subp. 18. **Supervisee.** "Supervisee" means an individual who, under the direction or evaluation of a supervisor, is:

A. engaging in the supervised practice of speech-language pathology or audiology;

B. performing a function of supervised clinical training as a student of speech-language pathology or audiology; or

C. performing a function of supervised postgraduate clinical experience in speech-language pathology or audiology.

Subp. 19. **Supervision.** "Supervision" means the direct or indirect evaluation or direction of:

A. a practitioner of speech-language pathology or audiology;

B. a person performing a function of supervised clinical training as a student of speech-language pathology or audiology; or

C. a person performing a function of supervised postgraduate clinical experience in speech-language pathology or audiology.

Subp. 20. **Supervisor.** "Supervisor" means a person who has the authority to direct or evaluate a supervisee and who is:

A. a registered speech-language pathologist or audiologist; or

B. when the commissioner determines that supervision by a registered speech-language pathologist or audiologist as required in item A is unobtainable, and in other situations considered appropriate by the commissioner, a person practicing speech-language pathology or audiology who holds a current certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0030 PROTECTED TITLES AND RESTRICTIONS ON USE.

A person shall not use a title relating to speech-language pathology or audiology, except as provided in items A and B.

A. Use of the following terms or initials which represent the following terms, alone or in combination with any word or words, by any person to form an occupational title is prohibited unless that person is registered under parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700:

(1) speech-language;

(2) speech-language pathologist, S, SP, or SLP;

(3) speech pathologist;

(4) language pathologist; or

(5) audiologist, A, or AUD.

B. Use of the term "Minnesota registered" in conjunction with the titles protected under this part by any person is prohibited unless that person is registered under parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0040 GENERAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS; PROCEDURES AND QUALIFICATIONS.

Subpart 1. **General registration procedures.** An applicant for registration must:

A. submit an application as required in part 4750.0200, subpart 1; and

B. submit all fees required under part 4750.0500.

Subp. 2. **General registration qualifications.** An applicant for registration must possess the qualifications required in one of the following items:

A. A person who applies for registration before January 1, 1993, must meet the requirements in part 4750.0050.

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B. A person who applies for registration on or after January 1, 1993, must meet the requirements in part 4750.0060.

C. A person who applies for registration and who has a current certificate of clinical competence issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association must meet the requirements of part 4750.0070.

D. A person who applies for registration by reciprocity must meet the requirements in part 4750.0080.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0050 QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1993.

Subpart 1. **Applicability.** Except as provided under parts 4750.0070, 4750.0080, and 4750.0100, an applicant who applies for registration before January 1, 1993, must meet the requirements in this part.

Subp. 2. **Master's degree or equivalent required.** An applicant must possess a master's degree or its equivalent, as approved by the commissioner, in speech-language pathology or audiology from an accredited educational institution offering speech-language pathology or audiology training.

A. Until January 1, 1993, an applicant may qualify as holding an equivalent to a master's degree if the applicant holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited educational institution and provides evidence of at least 42 postbaccalaureate semester credits or 63 quarter credits or their equivalent in courses that are acceptable toward a graduate degree by the educational institution in which they are taken. Thirty semester credits or 45 quarter credits or their equivalent must be in the areas of speech-language pathology, audiology, or speech-language and hearing science. At least 21 of the 42 semester credits or 31 of the 63 quarter credits or their equivalent must be obtained from a single educational institution. None of the applicable credits may have been completed earlier than ten years before the date of application. No more than six semester credits or nine quarter credits or their equivalent may be credit received for clinical training. An applicant seeking to obtain registration by establishing an equivalent to a master's degree must submit an application to the commissioner before January 1, 1993.

B. The master's degree training must meet the following criteria:

(1) A minimum of 90 quarter credits or 60 semester credits or their equivalent must deal with normal aspects of human communication, development and disorders of communication, and clinical techniques for evaluation and management of such disorders.

(2) Eighteen of the 90 quarter credits or 12 of the 60 semester credits or their equivalent must be obtained in courses that pertain to normal development and use of speech, language, and hearing. The applicant must show evidence of obtaining at least three quarter credits or two semester credits in each of the following areas:

(a) the anatomic/physiologic bases for normal development and use of speech, language, and hearing;

(b) physical bases and processes of the production and perception of speech, language, and hearing; and

(c) linguistic and psycholinguistic variables related to normal development and use of speech, language, and hearing.

(3) Forty-five of the 90 quarter credits or 30 of the 60 semester credits or their equivalent must be in courses that provide information relative to communication disorders and information about and training in evaluation and management of speech, language, and hearing disorders. A minimum of 45 of the 90 quarter credits or 30 of the 60 semester credits or their equivalent must be at the graduate level. Thirty-one and one-half of the 45 quarter credits or 21 of the 30 semester credits or their equivalent taken at the graduate level must be within the 36 quarter credits or the 24 semester credits or their equivalent required in the area for which registration is sought as described in paragraphs (a) and (b).

(a) Applicants seeking registration as speech-language pathologists must complete 36 quarter credits or 24 semester credits or their equivalent in courses pertain-

ing to speech and language disorders and nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in courses in the area of audiology.

i. The 36 quarter credits or 24 semester credits or their equivalent in speech and language disorders must include at least nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in speech disorders and nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in language disorders.

ii. The nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in the area of audiology must include at least 4.5 quarter credits or three semester credits or their equivalent in auditory pathology and 4.5 quarter credits or three semester credits or their equivalent in habilitation and rehabilitation.

iii. No more than nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent may be in courses that provide credit for clinical training obtained during academic training.

(b) Applicants seeking registration as audiologists must complete 36 quarter credits or 24 semester credits or their equivalent of coursework in audiology and nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in the area of speech-language pathology.

i. The 36 quarter credits or 24 semester credits or their equivalent in audiology must include at least nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in auditory pathology and nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in habilitation and rehabilitation.

ii. The nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in speech-language pathology must include at least 4.5 quarter credits or three semester credits or their equivalent in speech disorders and at least 4.5 quarter credits or three semester credits or their equivalent in language disorders.

iii. No more than nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent may be in courses that provide credit for clinical training obtained during academic training.

(c) Applicants seeking registration as both a speech-language pathologist and an audiologist must complete a minimum of 22.5 quarter credits or 15 semester credits or their equivalent at the graduate level in each area of speech-language pathology and audiology.

Subp. 3. Supervised clinical training required. An applicant must complete no fewer than 300 hours of supervised clinical training as a student in an accredited educational institution in speech-language pathology or audiology, according to items A to C.

A. Supervision in the student's clinical training must include evaluation and management of persons with disorders of hearing, language, and speech. At least half of the hours must be obtained during graduate study. All of the hours must be obtained within an accredited educational institution or in one of its cooperating programs. A minimum of 50 hours must be spent in at least two separate clinical settings. The first 25 hours of the clinical training must be supervised by the educational institution's professional staff. A minimum of one-half of each evaluation session must be supervised. The applicant's clinical training must include work with individuals, groups, children, and adults.

B. An applicant for registration as a speech-language pathologist shall complete:

(1) a minimum of 200 hours in speech-language pathology as follows:

- (a) 50 hours in evaluation of speech and language problems;
- (b) 75 hours in treatment of language disorders;
- (c) 25 hours in treatment of voice disorders;
- (d) 25 hours in treatment of articulation; and
- (e) 25 hours in treatment of fluency disorders; and

(2) a minimum of 35 hours in audiology as follows:

(a) 15 hours in assessment or treatment of speech or language problems associated with hearing impairment. Additional hours may be counted toward minimum hours with language and speech disorders;

(b) 15 hours in assessment of auditory disorders; and

(c) five hours in audiology within the applicant's discretion.

C. An applicant for registration as an audiologist shall complete:

(1) a minimum of 200 hours in audiology as follows:

(a) 50 hours in identification and evaluation of hearing impairment;

(b) 50 hours in habilitation or rehabilitation of the hearing impaired; and

(c) 100 hours in audiology within the applicant's discretion; and

(2) a minimum of 35 hours in speech-language pathology in evaluation and treatment of speech and language problems not related to hearing impairment.

Subp. 4. Supervised postgraduate clinical experience required. An applicant must complete no less than nine months or its equivalent of full-time supervised postgraduate clinical experience according to this part.

A. Supervision in the postgraduate clinical experience includes both on-site observation and other monitoring activities. On-site observation must involve the supervisor, the supervisee, and the client receiving speech-language pathology or audiology services. On-site observation must include direct observation by the supervisor of treatment given by the supervisee. Other monitoring activities may be executed by correspondence and include, but are not limited to, conferences with the supervisee, evaluation of written reports, and evaluations by professional colleagues. Other monitoring activities do not include the client receiving speech-language pathology or audiology services but must involve direct or indirect evaluative contact by the supervisor of the supervisee.

B. The applicant must, as part of the postgraduate clinical experience, be supervised by an individual who meets the definition of part 4750.0020, subpart 20.

(1) When registration as a speech-language pathologist is sought, the supervisor must be a registered speech-language pathologist or hold a current certificate of clinical competence in speech-language pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

(2) When registration as an audiologist is sought, the supervisor must be a registered audiologist or hold a current certificate of clinical competence in audiology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

C. The applicant may not begin the postgraduate clinical experience until the applicant has completed the academic coursework and clinical training in subparts 2 and 3.

D. To be considered full time, at least 30 hours per week must be spent over a nine-month period in clinical work. Equivalent time periods may include part-time professional employment as follows:

(1) 12 months of at least 25 hours per week;

(2) 15 months of at least 20 hours per week; or

(3) 18 months of at least 15 hours per week.

E. The applicant's postgraduate clinical experience must include direct clinical experience with patients, consultations, report writing, recordkeeping, or other duties relevant to clinical work. A minimum of 80 percent of the clinical experience must be in direct contact with persons who have communication handicaps. If the applicant uses part-time employment to fulfill the postgraduate clinical experience requirement, all of the minimum required hours of the part-time work week requirement must be spent in direct professional experience.

F. The applicant must complete the postgraduate clinical experience within a maximum of 36 consecutive months and must be supervised in no less than 36 activities, including 18 one-hour on-site observations. A maximum of six hours can be accrued in one day. A minimum of six one-hour on-site observations must be accrued during each one-third of the experience.

G. The applicant must complete 18 other monitored activities and complete at least one monitored activity each month of the postgraduate clinical experience. Alternatives to on-site observation and monitoring activities include activities supervised by correspondence, evaluation of written reports, and evaluation by professional colleagues.

Subp. 5. **Qualifying examination score required.** An applicant must achieve a qualifying score on the National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology (NESPA), administered by NTE Programs, Educational Testing Service.

A. The commissioner shall determine the qualifying scores for both the speech-language pathology and audiology examinations based on guidelines provided by the advisory council or the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

B. The applicant is responsible for:

- (1) making arrangements to take the examination described in this item;
- (2) bearing all expenses associated with taking the examination;
- (3) having the examination scores sent directly to the commissioner from the educational testing service; and
- (4) including a copy of the scores along with the original registration application.

C. The applicant must receive a qualifying score on the examination within three years after the applicant applies for registration under part 4750.0200. If the applicant does not receive a qualifying score on the examination within three years after the applicant applies for registration, the applicant may apply to the commissioner in writing for consideration to submit a new application for registration under part 4750.0200.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0060 QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1993.

Subpart 1. **Applicability.** Except as provided in parts 4750.0070, 4750.0080, and 4750.0100, an applicant who applies for registration on or after January 1, 1993, must meet the requirements in this part.

Subp. 2. **Master's or doctoral degree required.** An applicant must possess a master's or doctoral degree that meets the requirements of this part.

A. If an applicant's registration application is postmarked on or after January 1, 1994, all of the applicant's graduate coursework and clinical practicum required in the professional area for which registration is sought must have been initiated and completed at an institution whose program was accredited by the educational standards board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in the area for which registration is sought.

B. The master's degree training must include a minimum of 112.5 quarter credits or 75 semester credits or their equivalent of academic coursework that includes basic science coursework and professional coursework.

C. Applicants for registration in either speech-language pathology or audiology must complete 40.5 quarter credits of the 112.5 quarter credits or 27 of the 75 semester credits or their equivalent in basic science coursework, distributed as follows:

- (1) nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent must be in biological or physical sciences and mathematics;
- (2) nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent must be in behavioral or social sciences, including normal aspects of human behavior and communication;
- (3) 22.5 quarter credits or 15 semester credits or their equivalent must be in basic human communication processes and must include coursework in each of the following three areas of speech, language, and hearing:
 - (a) the anatomic and physiologic bases;
 - (b) the physical and psychophysical bases; and
 - (c) the linguistic and psycholinguistic aspects.

D. All applicants for registration must complete 54 quarter credits of the 112.5 quarter credits or 36 semester credits of the 75 semester credits or their equivalent in professional coursework. The coursework must include the nature, prevention, evaluation, and treatment of speech, language, and hearing disorders. The coursework must encompass

courses in speech, language, and hearing that concern disorders primarily affecting children as well as disorders primarily affecting adults. A minimum of 45 of the 54 quarter credits or 30 of the 36 semester credits or their equivalent must be courses for which graduate credit was received. A minimum of 31.5 of the 45 quarter credits or 21 of the 30 semester credits must be in the professional area for which registration is sought.

E. Applicants seeking registration as speech-language pathologists must complete the following professional coursework:

(1) 45 quarter credits of the 54 quarter credits of the professional coursework or 30 semester credits of the 36 semester credits of the professional coursework or their equivalent must be in courses pertaining to speech-language pathology and nine quarter credits of the 54 quarter credits or six semester credits of the 36 semester credits or their equivalent in courses in the area of audiology.

(2) The 45 quarter credits or 30 semester credits or their equivalent pertaining to speech-language pathology must include at least nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in speech disorders and nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in language disorders. The nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent in the area of audiology must include at least 4.5 quarter credits or three semester credits or their equivalent in hearing disorders and hearing evaluation and 4.5 quarter credits or three semester credits or their equivalent in habilitative and rehabilitative procedures.

F. Applicants seeking registration as an audiologist must complete professional coursework as follows:

(1) 45 quarter credits of the 54 quarter credits or 30 semester credits of the 36 semester credits or their equivalent of coursework must be in audiology. At least nine quarter credits of the 45 quarter credits or six semester credits of the 30 semester credits in audiology must be in hearing disorders and hearing evaluation and at least nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent must be in habilitative or rehabilitative procedures with individuals who have hearing impairment; and

(2) nine quarter credits of the 54 quarter credits or six semester credits of the 36 semester credits or their equivalent in the area of speech-language pathology. At least 4.5 quarter credits of the nine quarter credits or three semester credits of the six semester credits must be in speech disorders and at least 4.5 quarter credits of the nine quarter credits or three semester credits of the six semester credits must be in language disorders. This coursework in speech-language pathology must concern the nature, prevention, evaluation, and treatment of speech and language disorders not associated with hearing impairment.

G. Of the professional coursework required in items E and F, no more than nine quarter credits or six semester credits or their equivalent associated with clinical training may be counted toward the minimum of 54 quarter credits or 36 semester credits or their equivalent of professional coursework. However, those hours may not be used to satisfy the minimum of nine quarter credits or six semester credit hours in hearing disorders or evaluation, nine quarter credits or six semester credits in habilitative or rehabilitative procedures, or nine quarter credits or six semester credits in speech-language pathology.

Subp. 3. Supervised clinical training required. An applicant must complete at least 375 hours of supervised clinical training as a student that meets the requirements of this part.

A. The supervised clinical training must be provided by the educational institution or by one of its cooperating programs.

B. The first 25 hours of the supervised clinical training must be spent in clinical observation. Those 25 hours must concern the evaluation and treatment of children and adults with disorders of speech, language, or hearing.

C. All applicants must complete at least 350 hours of supervised clinical training that concern the evaluation and treatment of children and adults with disorders of speech, language, and hearing. At least 250 of the 350 hours must be at the graduate level in the area in which registration is sought. At least 50 hours must be spent in each of three types of clinical settings including, but not limited to, university clinics, hospitals, private clinics, and schools, including secondary and elementary.

D. An applicant seeking registration as a speech-language pathologist must complete clinical training as required in this item.

(1) The applicant must obtain 250 of the 350 supervised hours in speech-language pathology.

(2) The applicant must complete a minimum of 20 hours of the 250 hours in each of the following eight categories:

- (a) evaluation: speech disorders in children;
- (b) evaluation: speech disorders in adults;
- (c) evaluation: language disorders in children;
- (d) evaluation: language disorders in adults;
- (e) treatment: speech disorders in children;
- (f) treatment: speech disorders in adults;
- (g) treatment: language disorders in children; and
- (h) treatment: language disorders in adults.

(3) The applicant must complete a minimum of 35 hours in audiology including:

- (a) 15 hours in the evaluation or screening of individuals with hearing disorders; and
- (b) 15 hours in habilitation or rehabilitation of individuals with hearing impairment.

(4) The applicant must obtain no more than 20 hours in the major professional area that are in related disorders.

E. An applicant seeking registration as an audiologist must complete clinical training as required in this item.

(1) The applicant must obtain 250 of the 350 hours in audiology.

(2) The applicant must complete a minimum of 40 hours in each of the following four categories:

- (a) evaluation: hearing in children;
- (b) evaluation: hearing in adults;
- (c) selection and use: amplification and assistive devices for children;

and

- (d) selection and use: amplification and assistive devices for adults.

(3) The applicant must complete a minimum of 20 hours in the category of the treatment of hearing disorders in children and adults.

(4) The applicant must complete a minimum of 35 hours of the 350 hours in speech-language pathology unrelated to hearing impairment as follows:

- (a) 15 hours in evaluation or screening; and
- (b) 15 hours in treatment.

(5) The applicant must obtain no more than 20 hours in the major professional area that are in related disorders.

Subp. 4. Supervised postgraduate clinical experience required. An applicant must complete at least nine months or its equivalent of full-time supervised postgraduate clinical experience that meets the requirements in part 4750.0050, subpart 4.

Subp. 5. Qualifying examination score required. An applicant must achieve a qualifying score on the National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology (NESPA), administered by NTE Programs, Educational Testing Service, as required in part 4750.0050, subpart 5.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0070 REGISTRATION BY EQUIVALENCY.

An applicant who applies for registration by equivalency must show evidence of possessing a current certificate of clinical competence issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and must meet the requirements of part 4750.0040.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0080 REGISTRATION BY RECIPROCITY.

Subpart 1. **Applicability.** An applicant who applies for registration as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist by reciprocity must meet the requirements of subparts 2 and 3.

Subp. 2. **Current credentials required.** An applicant applying for registration by reciprocity must provide evidence to the commissioner that the applicant holds a current and unrestricted credential for the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology in another jurisdiction that has requirements equivalent to or higher than those in effect for determining whether an applicant in this state is qualified to be registered as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist. An applicant who provides sufficient evidence need not meet the requirements of part 4750.0050 or 4750.0060, provided that the applicant otherwise meets all other requirements of part 4750.0040.

Subp. 3. **Verification of credentials required.** An applicant for registration by reciprocity under subpart 2, must have the appropriate government body in each jurisdiction in which the applicant holds a credential submit letters of verification to the commissioner. Each letter must state the applicant's name, date of birth, credential number, date of issuance, a statement regarding disciplinary actions, if any, taken against the applicant, and the terms under which the credential was issued.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0090 REGISTRATION FOLLOWING LAPSE OF REGISTERED STATUS.

Subpart 1. **Lapse of three years or less.** For an applicant whose registered status has lapsed for three years or less, the applicant must:

A. apply for registration renewal according to part 4750.0300 and document compliance with the continuing education requirements of part 4750.0400 since the applicant's registration lapsed; or

B. fulfill the requirements of part 4750.0080.

Subp. 2. **Lapse of more than three years.** For an applicant whose registered status has lapsed for more than three years, the applicant must:

A. apply for registration renewal according to part 4750.0300 and fulfill the requirements for registration in part 4750.0050, subparts 4 and 5, or 4750.0060, subparts 4 and 5, whichever is applicable. A qualifying score on the examination described in part 4750.0050, subpart 5, or 4750.0060, subpart 5, whichever is applicable, must be obtained within one year of the application date for registration renewal; or

B. fulfill the requirements of part 4750.0080.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0100 TEMPORARY REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

Subpart 1. **Temporary registration requirements.** An applicant for registration need not comply with the requirements of part 4750.0050 or 4750.0060 for two years after the effective date of parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700 if, at the time of application, the applicant provides the commissioner with evidence that the applicant has:

A. a master's degree or an equivalent to a master's degree as described in part 4750.0050, subpart 2, in speech-language pathology, audiology, communication disorders, or their equivalent as determined by the commissioner; or

B. a current or expired certificate of clinical competence issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; and

C. engaged in active practice of speech-language pathology or audiology immediately preceding the effective dates of parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700. Active practice includes the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology as defined in part 4750.0020, subparts 7 and 17, for a minimum of 750 hours a year for three of the last five years. Active practice may include the required postgraduate clinical experience described in part 4750.0050, subpart 4, or 4750.0060, subpart 4, or experience equivalent to the postgraduate clinical ex-

perience described. However, clinical experience gained as a student or as described in part 4750.0050, subpart 3, or 4750.0060, subpart 3, shall not count toward active practice.

Subp. 2. Permanent registration requirement. After the time for temporary registration has expired, an applicant for initial registration must meet the requirements of part 4750.0050, 4750.0060, 4750.0070, or 4750.0080.

Subp. 3. Notification of applicants. The commissioner shall notify applicants for registration of the effective date of parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700 and the date on which registration by meeting the requirements of part 4750.0050, 4750.0060, 4750.0070, or 4750.0080 is required.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0200 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.

Subpart 1. Applications for registration. An applicant for registration must:

A. Submit a completed application for registration on forms provided by the commissioner. The application must include the applicant's name, permit number under chapter 4692, if applicable, business address and phone number, or home address and phone number if the applicant practices speech-language pathology or audiology out of the home, and a description of the applicant's education, training, and experience, including previous work history for the five years immediately preceding the date of application. The commissioner may ask the applicant to provide additional information necessary to clarify information submitted in the application.

B. Submit a transcript showing the completion of a master's degree or its equivalent meeting the requirements of part 4750.0050, subpart 2, or 4750.0060, subpart 2.

C. Submit documentation of the required hours of supervised clinical training meeting the requirements of part 4750.0050, subpart 3, or 4750.0060, subpart 3.

D. Submit documentation of the postgraduate clinical experience meeting the requirements of part 4750.0050, subpart 4, or 4750.0060, subpart 4.

E. Submit documentation of receiving a qualifying score on an examination meeting the requirements of part 4750.0050, subpart 5, or 4750.0060, subpart 5.

F. Sign a statement that the information in the application is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief.

G. Submit with the application all fees required by part 4750.0500.

H. Sign a waiver authorizing the commissioner to obtain access to the applicant's records in this or any other state in which the applicant has engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology.

Subp. 2. Action on applications for registration. The commissioner shall act on an application for registration according to items A to C.

A. The commissioner shall determine if the applicant meets the requirements for registration. The commissioner or advisory council may investigate information provided by an applicant to determine whether the information is accurate and complete.

B. The commissioner shall notify an applicant of action taken on the application and of the grounds for denying registration if registration is denied.

C. An applicant denied registration may make a written request to the commissioner, within 30 days of the date of notification to the applicant, to appear before the advisory council and for the advisory council to review the commissioner's decision to deny the applicant's registration. After reviewing the denial, the advisory council shall make a recommendation to the commissioner as to whether the denial should be affirmed. An applicant is allowed no more than one request for a review of denial of registration in any one registration renewal period.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0300 REGISTRATION RENEWAL.

Subpart 1. Renewal requirements. To renew registration, an applicant must:

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A. annually complete a renewal application on a form provided by the commissioner and submit the annual renewal fee;

B. meet the continuing education requirements of part 4750.0400 and submit evidence of attending continuing education courses, as required in part 4750.0400, subpart 6; and

C. submit additional information if requested by the commissioner to clarify information presented in the renewal application. The information must be submitted within 30 days after the commissioner's request.

Subp. 2. **Late fee.** An application submitted after the renewal deadline date must be accompanied by a late fee as provided in part 4750.0500, subpart 4.

Subp. 3. **Registration renewal notice.** Registration renewal is on an annual basis. At least 30 days before the registration renewal date in subpart 4, the commissioner shall send out a renewal notice to the registrant's last known address. The notice shall include a renewal application and notice of fees required for renewal. If the registrant does not receive the renewal notice, the registrant is still required to meet the deadline for renewal to qualify for continuous registered status.

Subp. 4. **Renewal deadline.** The renewal application and fee must be postmarked on or before the date registration must be renewed according to items A to E. Registration must be renewed according to the following schedule:

A. for registrants whose last name begins with the letters A to E, February 1;

B. for registrants whose last name begins with the letters F to L, April 1;

C. for registrants whose last name begins with the letters M to P, June 1;

D. for registrants whose last name begins with the letters Q to U, August 1; and

E. for registrants whose last name begins with the letters V to Z, October 1.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0400 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

Subpart 1. **Number of contact hours required.** An applicant for registration renewal must meet the requirements for continuing education according to this subpart.

A. An applicant for registration renewal as either a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist must provide evidence to the commissioner of a minimum of 30 contact hours of continuing education offered by an approved continuing education sponsor within the two years immediately preceding registration renewal. A minimum of 20 contact hours of continuing education must be directly related to the registrant's area of registration. Ten contact hours of continuing education may be in areas generally related to the registrant's area of registration.

B. An applicant for registration renewal as both a speech-language pathologist and an audiologist must attest to and document completion of a minimum of 36 contact hours of continuing education offered by an approved continuing education sponsor within the two years immediately preceding registration renewal. A minimum of 15 contact hours must be received in the area of speech-language pathology and a minimum of 15 contact hours must be received in the area of audiology. Six contact hours of continuing education may be in areas generally related to the registrant's areas of registration.

C. If the registrant is licensed by the Board of Teaching:

(1) activities that are approved in the categories of part 8700.1000, subpart 3, items A and B, and that relate to speech-language pathology, shall be considered:

(a) offered by an approved sponsor of continuing education; and

(b) directly related to speech-language pathology;

(2) activities that are approved in the categories of part 8700.1000, subpart 3, shall be considered:

(a) offered by an approved sponsor of continuing education; and

(b) generally related to speech-language pathology; and

(3) one clock hour as defined in part 8700.1000, subpart 1, is equivalent to 1.2 contact hours of continuing education.

D. Contact hours cannot be accumulated in advance and transferred to a future continuing education period.

Subp. 2. Preapproved continuing education sponsors. The commissioner will accept continuing education approved or sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the American Academy of Audiology, the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiologists, the Acoustical Society of America, Twin Cities Clinical Speech-Language Pathologists, Minnesota Foundation for Acoustical Education and Research, or universities accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Subp. 3. Approval of continuing education sponsors. Continuing education sponsors, unless preapproved under subpart 2, must be approved by the commissioner according to items A to D.

A. Applications for approval must be submitted to the commissioner at least 60 days before the date of the first continuing education activity. Applications must be made in writing by the person or officer of the organization sponsoring the program. On receiving the commissioner's approval, continuing education activities of the sponsor related to speech-language pathology or audiology are approved for two years following the date of the commissioner's approval. To obtain approval, continuing education sponsors must submit the information described in subitems (1) to (5) on an application provided by the commissioner:

(1) The continuing education sponsor must describe the content of courses to be offered. The course content must contribute directly to the professional competency of the speech-language pathologist or audiologist, must be beyond the basic educational program leading to a degree in speech-language pathology or audiology, and must include subject matter related to current developments in speech-language pathology and audiology.

(2) The continuing education sponsor must describe the method of instruction for each course offered. The continuing education sponsor must describe for each course offered the teaching methods to be used, such as lecture, seminar, audiovisual, or simulation.

(3) The continuing education sponsor must outline specific written objectives that describe expected outcomes for the participants.

(4) The continuing education sponsor must state the number of contact hours of continuing education which may be obtained by completing a specified course, which must be a minimum of one hour.

(5) The continuing education sponsor must provide a resume of each instructor's qualifications with the application for approval by the commissioner. Instructors must be qualified to teach the specified course content based on their prior education, training, or experience.

B. The continuing education sponsor must report to the commissioner, on a timely basis, any change in the course content or instructor.

C. Continuing education sponsors must maintain, for a minimum of three years, a record of attendance for each course offered.

D. To maintain approval as a continuing education sponsor, a continuing education sponsor must continue to comply with this part.

Subp. 4. Earning continuing education contact hours through contact hour equivalents. A registrant who teaches continuing education courses may obtain contact hour equivalents according to items A to C.

A. The sponsor of the course must be approved by the commissioner.

B. A registrant may not obtain more than six contact hours in any two-year continuing education period by teaching continuing education courses.

C. A registrant may obtain two contact hours for each hour spent teaching a course if the course is sponsored by an approved continuing education sponsor. Contact hours may be claimed only once for teaching the same course in any two-year continuing education period.

Subp. 5. Continuing education activities offered by a sponsor not approved by the commissioner. A registrant may seek approval of a continuing education activity offered by a sponsor who is not approved by the commissioner. The registrant must seek approval according to items A and B.

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A. The registrant's request for approval must be made in writing to the commissioner, on forms available from the commissioner. A request for approval before the continuing education activity is attended must be made a minimum of 45 days before the first day of the continuing education activity. A request for approval after the continuing education activity is attended must be made within 45 days of the last day of the continuing education activity and must include verification of attendance. A registrant not complying with this subpart will not receive approval for the continuing education activity.

B. A registrant denied approval of a continuing education activity may make a written request to the commissioner, within 30 days of the commissioner's decision, that the advisory council review the commissioner's decision to deny the registrant's request for approval of continuing education. After reviewing a denial, the advisory council shall submit its recommendation to the commissioner.

Subp. 6. Evidence of attendance. A registrant must maintain records of attending the continuing education contact hours required for registration renewal. An applicant for registration renewal must submit the following information on a form provided by the commissioner: the sponsoring organization, the dates of the course, the course name, the number of contact hours completed, and the name and signature of the registrant. The form must be submitted with the renewal application under part 4750.0300, subpart 1.

Subp. 7. Verification of continuing education reports. The commissioner may request a registrant or continuing education sponsor to verify the continuing education to which the registrant attested. Documentation may come directly from the registrant, the continuing education sponsor, or from a national accrediting or certifying organization which maintains the records.

Subp. 8. Waiver of continuing education requirements. The commissioner may grant a waiver of the requirements of this part in cases where the requirements would impose an undue burden on the registrant. A registrant must request in writing a waiver of the requirements of this part. The request for a waiver must cite part 4750.0400, the reasons for requesting the waiver, the period of time the registrant wishes to have the continuing education requirement waived, and the alternative measures that will be taken if a waiver is granted. The commissioner shall set forth, in writing, the reasons for granting or denying the waiver. Waivers granted by the commissioner shall specify in writing the time limitation and required alternative measures to be taken by the registrant.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0500 FEES.

Subpart 1. First time registrants and applicants for registration renewal. The commissioner shall prorate the registration fee for first time registrants and applicants for registration renewal according to the number of months that have elapsed between the date registration is issued and the date registration must be renewed under part 4750.0300, subpart 4.

Subp. 2. Annual registration fee. The fee for initial registration and annual registration renewal is \$80.

Subp. 3. Annual registration fee for dual registration as a speech-language pathologist and audiologist. The fee for initial registration and annual registration renewal is \$80.

Subp. 4. Penalty fee for late renewals. The penalty fee for late submission of a renewal application is \$15.

Subp. 5. Surcharge. In addition to the other applicable fees, an applicant must pay a surcharge fee of \$21. The surcharge fee applies to all registrants during the first five years following February 11, 1991.

Subp. 6. Nonrefundable fees. All fees are nonrefundable.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0600 INVESTIGATION PROCESS AND GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Subpart 1. Investigations of complaints. The commissioner or advisory council may initiate an investigation upon receiving a complaint or other oral or written communication that alleges or implies that an individual has violated parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700. The investigation may proceed on an oral complaint but disciplinary action may proceed only on a signed complaint. According to Minnesota Statutes, section 214.13, subdivision 6, in the receipt, investigation, and hearing of a complaint that alleges or implies an individual has violated parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700, the commissioner shall follow the procedures in Minnesota Statutes, section 214.10.

Subp. 2. Rights of applicants and registrants. The rights of an applicant denied registration are stated in part 4750.0200, subpart 2, item C. A registrant shall not be subjected to disciplinary action under this part without first having an opportunity for a contested case hearing under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 14.

Subp. 3. Grounds for disciplinary action by commissioner. The commissioner may take any of the disciplinary actions listed in subpart 4 on proof that the individual has:

A. intentionally submitted false or misleading information to the commissioner or the advisory council;

B. failed, within 30 days, to provide information in response to a written request by the commissioner or advisory council;

C. performed services of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist in an incompetent or negligent manner;

D. violated parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700;

E. failed to perform services with reasonable judgment, skill, or safety due to the use of alcohol or drugs, or other physical or mental impairment;

F. violated any state or federal law, rule, or regulation, and the violation is a felony or misdemeanor, an essential element of which is dishonesty, or which relates directly or indirectly to the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology. Conviction for violating any state or federal law which relates to speech-language pathology or audiology is necessarily considered to constitute a violation, except as provided in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 364;

G. aided or abetted another person in violating any provision of parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700;

H. been or is being disciplined by another jurisdiction, if any of the grounds for the discipline is the same or substantially equivalent to those in parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700;

I. not cooperated with the commissioner or advisory council in an investigation conducted according to subpart 1;

J. advertised in a manner that is false or misleading;

K. engaged in conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public; or demonstrated a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare, or safety of a client;

L. failed to disclose to the consumer any fee splitting or any promise to pay a portion of a fee to any other professional other than a fee for services rendered by the other professional to the client;

M. engaged in abusive or fraudulent billing practices, including violations of federal Medicare and Medicaid laws, Food and Drug Administration regulations, or state medical assistance laws;

N. obtained money, property, or services from a consumer through the use of undue influence, high pressure sales tactics, harassment, duress, deception, or fraud;

O. performed services for a client who had no possibility of benefiting from the services;

P. failed to refer a client for medical evaluation or to other health care professionals when appropriate or when a client indicated symptoms associated with diseases that could be medically or surgically treated; or

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Q. if the individual is a seller of hearing instruments as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 153A.13, subdivision 5, had the permit required by Minnesota Statutes, chapter 153A, denied, suspended, or revoked according to chapter 4692.

Subp. 4. **Disciplinary actions.** If the commissioner finds that an individual should be disciplined according to subpart 3, the commissioner may take any one or more of the following actions:

- A. refuse to grant or renew registration;
- B. suspend registration for a period not exceeding one year;
- C. revoke registration; or

D. take any reasonable lesser action against an individual upon proof that the individual has violated parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700.

Subp. 5. **Consequences of disciplinary action.** Upon the suspension or revocation of registration, the speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall cease to use titles protected by parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700 and shall cease to represent to the public that the speech-language pathologist or audiologist is registered by the commissioner.

Subp. 6. **Reinstatement requirements after disciplinary action.** A speech-language pathologist or audiologist who has had registration suspended may petition on forms provided by the commissioner for reinstatement following the period of suspension specified by the commissioner. The requirements of part 4750.0300 for renewing registration must be met before registration may be reinstated.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*

4750.0700 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AND AUDIOLOGIST ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Subpart 1. **Membership.** The commissioner shall appoint seven persons to a Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Advisory Council. The seven persons must include:

A. Two public members, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 214.02. The public members shall be either persons receiving services of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, or family members of or caregivers to such persons.

B. Two speech-language pathologists registered under parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700, one of whom is currently and has been, for the five years immediately preceding the appointment, engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology in Minnesota and each of whom is employed in a different employment setting including, but not limited to, private practice, hospitals, rehabilitation settings, educational settings, and government agencies.

C. One speech-language pathologist registered under parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700, who is currently and has been, for the five years immediately preceding the appointment, employed by a Minnesota public school district or a Minnesota public school district consortium that is authorized by Minnesota Statutes and who is licensed in communication disorders by the Minnesota Board of Teaching.

D. Two audiologists registered under parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700, one of whom is currently and has been, for the five years immediately preceding the appointment, engaged in the practice of audiology in Minnesota and each of whom is employed in a different employment setting including, but not limited to, private practice, hospitals, rehabilitation settings, educational settings, industry, and government agencies.

Subp. 2. **Organization.** The advisory council shall be organized and administered under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059.

Subp. 3. **Duties.** The advisory council shall:

A. advise the commissioner regarding speech-language pathologist and audiologist registration standards;

B. advise the commissioner on enforcement of parts 4750.0010 to 4750.0700;

C. provide for distribution of information regarding speech-language pathologist and audiologist registration standards;

D. review applications and make recommendations to the commissioner on granting or denying registration or registration renewal;

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E. review reports of investigations relating to individuals and make recommendations to the commissioner as to whether registration should be denied or disciplinary action taken against the individual;

F. advise the commissioner regarding approval of continuing education sponsors using the criteria in part 4750.0400, subpart 3; and

G. perform other duties authorized for advisory councils by Minnesota Statutes, chapter 214, or as directed by the commissioner.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 214.13*

History: *15 SR 1755*