Clinical Fellowship Year

The clinical fellowship is a transition between being a student and being an independent provider of clinical services that involves a mentors professional experience after the completion of academic course work and clinical practicum.

- ASHA website
ASHA considers the CFY as an important transitional phase between supervised graduate-level practicum and the independent delivery of services.

Inherent in this transition:
  – Development of a total commitment to quality service delivery.
  – Integration and application of theoretical knowledge.
  – Development of clinical skills consistent with the current scope of practice.
Requirements:

- 36 weeks of full time experience, totaling a minimum of 1260 hours
- Mentoring by an individual holding ASHA certification in SLP
- Score of “3” or better on the core skills in the final segment of the SLP Clinical Skills Inventory Form
- 80% MUST be direct clinical contact
- Submission of an approvable CF report and rating form
CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP YEAR

- Professional experience during the CFY year includes:
  - Direct client contact
  - Consultations
  - Record keeping
  - Other relevant duties
  - Some research may be included
- NOT INCLUDED IN THE CFY EXPERIENCE:
  - Supervision
  - Academic teaching
  - Research
  - Administrative activity not related directly with patient management
All academic and practicum requirements must be completed prior to the initiation of the CFY.
It is the CF’s responsibility to seek employment in an appropriate setting where the CF supervisory requirements can be met. When applying for jobs, be sure and ask if the SLP there holds certification, and that supervision is possible. Most employment opportunities are well-aware, and it’s not a problem.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING…..

- It is your responsibility to locate a supervisor and verify their certification status BEFORE initiating the CFY and reverify throughout the DURATION of the experience
  - (a direct family member may NOT be the supervisor).

- This typically means re-verifying at the end of a calendar year when ASHA dues are paid.
  - an updated copy of the certification card is the best verification of current CCCs.
STATE LICENSURE

- Prior to the CFY, you need to determine the state licensing requirements for a CF.
- In Louisiana, a Provisional license is granted/required for the CFY.
  - For the schools, a state ancillary certificate is also required.
  - **Use the credentials “CF/SLP” to sign paperwork**
- ASHA’s Web site provides a listing of state regulatory agencies.
Length of CFY

- Defined as no less than 36 weeks of full-time employment (full time is defined as at least 35 hours/week).

- Part time equivalency:
  - 15-21 hours/week over 72 weeks
  - 22-28 hours/week over 60 weeks
  - 29-34 hours/week over 48 weeks
  - **The total CFY hours = 1,260**
  - Less than 5 hours/week does not meet the requirement
  - At least 80% of the work week must be in direct client contact.
  - Be careful about home health or other itinerant work as driving time is not counted in the 80%.
Time Line for Completing CFY

- The CFY must be completed within 4 years of the date of the initiation of the experience.
- If longer than 4 years, the applicant must reapply and meet the current standards in place at the time.
The CF experience should be divided into 3 segments.

- Each segment must include 6 hours of direct supervision and 6 additional monitoring activities
  - A total of no fewer than 36 supervisory activities during the CFY.
  - This includes 18 on-site one hour observations (a maximum of 6 in one day).
  - At least 6 of these in each of the 3 segments of the CFY.
– Other monitoring activities include
  • These other activities may be by correspondence, review of video/audio tapes, review of clinical documentation, phone conferences with the CF, evaluations by colleagues, and others.

– Requests to use alternative means of supervision must be submitted in writing to the Board detailing the activities PRIOR TO INITIATION OF THE CFY (e.g. videotapes instead of direct supervision).
EVALUATIONS

- At least once during each of the 3 segments, the supervisor must use the Clinical Fellowship Skills Inventory (SLP).

- This evaluation must be shared and discussed with the CF and signed by both supervisor and CF. All evaluations must be signed by the primary supervisor.

- A specific and regular time is set aside during each of the 3 segments to provide specific feedback, set goals, identify strengths and weaknesses.
  - The initiation of the CFY is a critical time to meet and plan the CFY with the supervisor.
**FINAL DOCUMENTATION**

- Within 4 weeks after the CFY is completed, the **CF and supervisor must sign, date, and submit the Clinical Fellowship Report and Rating Form.**

- The supervisor makes a recommendation as to whether the CF has met the requirements and should be certified.
  - The CF must receive a minimum rating of 3 on the core skills to be recommended for certification.
  - If the supervisor anticipates at any time that the CF will fail to meet the requirements, the supervisor must counsel the fellow orally and in writing and maintain records.
  - If the supervisor’s recommendation is negative, the supervisor must submit a letter of explanation and supporting documentation (which is shared with the CF) to the Board.
NEGATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- If a CF receives a negative recommendation from the supervisor, the CF has options:
  - Complete an entirely new CF or portion thereof and/or;
  - Request a Special Review by the Board.
    - The CF must submit within 30 days of the negative recommendation 1) the signed Clinical Fellowship Report and Rating Form (if not already submitted), 2) letter of explanation and supporting documentation of current clinical skills.
      - This supporting documentation must be completed by individuals with current CCCs.
CHANGING CFY SITES/COMPONENTS

- If a change is made in the CFY site, supervisor, or category of hours worked per week, the supervisor must submit the completed and signed CF Report and Rating Form for the portion of the CFY that was completed within 4 weeks of the change.

- The CF must report changes on the final CF Report with a separate report submitted for each component.
SUPERVISION OF THE CFY STATE REQUIREMENTS (LA)

- INDIVIDUAL STATES OFTEN HAVE DIFFERENT SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CFY THAN WHAT IS SPECIFIED BY ASHA.

- DEPENDS ON LEVEL OF LICENSE - CHECK WITH THE STATE BOARD
LOUISIANA SUPERVISION

- individuals who hold a license requiring supervision receive that supervision in all job settings.
- individuals holding a Provisional/Restricted Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology License have a minimum of 4 on-site, in-view supervision activities per year. The remaining activities may be alternative activities for a total of 12 monitoring activities per year.
CERTIFICATION VS. LICENSURE

- Certification is the public's assurance that an individual has met rigorous, peer-developed and reviewed standards endorsed by a national professional body.
- Employers welcome and respect certification by a national body.
- The certification agency is often used to verify credentials.
- Certification limits liability claims.
- Certification is a fundamental standard among major health professions in this country.
- Certification is important for internal professional recognition, external verification, and accountability.
Only ASHA certification allows for mobility between states and can ease the difficulty and time it takes to obtain a state license.
PRAXIS EXAM

- Applicants for CCCs must pass the PRAXIS within 2 years from date course work and practicum are approved by council.
- Passing score is 600
- May be retaken as many times as necessary within the 2 year period.
- Scores must be reported to ASHA by ETS directly: **Code for ASHA is R-5031**
- Scores must also be reported to LBESPA : **Code for LBESPA is R-7331**
  - **Reverify these numbers at registration**
WHEN TO TAKE THE PRAXIS

- The PRAXIS is designed to be the final, summative evaluation of an applicants knowledge and skills.
- Therefore, it’s not designed to be taken until the completion of graduate program.
- May be taken anytime during the CFY.
- Take it as close to graduation as possible.
Web Sites:

- asha.org
  - http://www.asha.org/certification/Clinical-fellowship.htm

- lbespa.org
  - apply for a licence
    - provisional license

- State Department of Education
  - http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/audiences/teachers.html
  - teachers>certification packets>ancillary certificate
AFTER THE CFY

- Upon completion of the CFY, you are ready to apply for ASHA certification
- You will complete and turn in:
  - application
  - transcript
    - both graduate and undergraduate
  - fees
  - SLP report and rating form
  - passing Praxis Score
    - when taking Praxis, put code for ASHA to receive scores