

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]**

**Notice of Intended Action**

**Proposing rulemaking related to licensure of speech pathologists and audiologists and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 300, “Licensure of Speech Pathologists and Audiologists,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new chapter with the same title.

*Legal Authority for Rulemaking*

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa chapter 154F and sections 272C.3, 272C.4, and 272C.10.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapters 154F, 147, 272C, and 17A.

*Purpose and Summary*

These proposed rules set minimum standards for entry into the speech pathology and audiology professions. Iowa residents, licensees and employers benefit from the rules because the rules articulate the processes by which individuals apply for licensure as speech pathologists or audiologists in the state of Iowa, as directed in statute. These processes include initial licensure, renewal, and reinstatement. The requirements for licensure assure public safety by ensuring that any individual entering the profession has minimum competency. Requirements include the application process and exam requirements.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

*Waivers*

A waiver provision is not included in this rulemaking because all administrative rules of the professional licensure boards in the Professional Licensure Division are subject to the waiver provisions accorded under 645—Chapter 18.

*Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written or oral comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Board no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2024. Comments should be directed to:

Jessica O’Brien  
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing  
6200 Park Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321  
Phone: 515.281.6352  
Email: [jessica.o'brien@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:jessica.o'brien@dia.iowa.gov)

*Public Hearing*

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 30, 2024  
11:10 to 11:30 a.m.

6200 Park Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Video call link: [meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy](https://meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy)  
Phone number: 904.330.1060  
PIN: 744 558 427#

January 31, 2024  
11:10 to 11:30 a.m.

6200 Park Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Video call link: [meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy](https://meet.google.com/jji-jaoj-uqy)  
Phone number: 904.330.1060  
PIN: 744 558 427#

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking. In an effort to ensure accuracy in memorializing a person's comments, a person may provide written comments in addition to or in lieu of oral comments at a hearing.

Any persons who intend to attend a public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Board and advise of specific needs.

*Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 645—Chapter 300 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

*SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS*

- CHAPTER 300 LICENSURE OF SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS
- CHAPTER 301 PRACTICE OF SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS
- CHAPTER 302 RESERVED
- CHAPTER 303 CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS
- CHAPTER 304 DISCIPLINE FOR SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS

CHAPTER 300

LICENSURE OF SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS

**645—300.1(147) Definitions.** For purposes of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“*ASHA*” means the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

“*Assistant*” means an unlicensed person who works under the supervision of an Iowa-licensed speech pathologist or audiologist and meets the minimum requirements set forth in these rules.

“*Audiologist*” means a person who engages in the application of principles, methods and procedures for measurement, testing, evaluation, prediction, consultation, counseling, instruction, habilitation, rehabilitation, or remediation related to hearing and disorders of hearing and associated communication

disorders for the purpose of nonmedically evaluating, identifying, preventing, ameliorating, modifying, or remediating such disorders and conditions in individuals or groups of individuals, including the determination, selection and use of appropriate hearing devices.

“*Board*” means the board of speech pathology and audiology.

“*Full-time*” means a minimum of 30 hours per week.

“*Grace period*” means the 30-day period following expiration of a license when the license is still considered to be active.

“*Inactive license*” means a license that has expired because it was not renewed by the end of the grace period.

“*Licensee*” means any person licensed to practice as a speech pathologist or audiologist in the state of Iowa.

“*License expiration date*” means December 31 of odd-numbered years.

“*On site*” means:

1. To be continuously on site and present in the department or facility where services are being provided;

2. To be immediately available to assist the person being supervised in the services being performed; and

3. To provide continued direction of appropriate aspects of each treatment session in which a component of treatment is delegated.

“*Reactivate*” or “*reactivation*” means the process as outlined in rule 645—300.11(17A,147,272C) by which an inactive license is restored to active status.

“*Reinstatement*” means the process as outlined in 645—11.31(272C) by which a licensee who has had a license suspended or revoked or who has voluntarily surrendered a license may apply to have the license reinstated, with or without conditions.

“*Speech pathologist*” means a person who engages in the application of principles, methods, and procedures for the measurement, testing, evaluation, prediction, consultation, counseling, instruction, habilitation, rehabilitation, or remediation related to the development and disorders of speech, swallowing, fluency, voice, or language for the purpose of nonmedically evaluating, preventing, ameliorating, modifying, or remediating such disorders and conditions in individuals or groups of individuals.

**645—300.2(147) Requirements for licensure.** The following criteria will apply to licensure:

**300.2(1)** Applicants will submit a completed online licensure application and pay the required fee.

**300.2(2)** The application will include:

*a.* An official copy of a current ASHA certificate of clinical competence; or

*b.* Submission of the following:

(1) Official copies of academic transcripts sent directly from the school to the board showing proof of completion of not less than 400 hours of supervised clinical training;

(2) Verification of nine months of full-time clinical experience, or equivalent, completed after the master’s degree, under the supervision of a licensed speech pathologist or audiologist or as a part of the doctoral degree; and

(3) Results of the Praxis Examination.

**300.2(3)** An applicant who has relocated to Iowa from a state that did not require licensure to practice the profession may submit proof of work experience in lieu of educational and training requirements, if eligible, in accordance with rule 645—19.2(272C).

**300.2(4)** An applicant who has been licensed in another state will provide verification of license from the jurisdiction in which the applicant has most recently been licensed, and additional verifications if necessary to verify at least five years of an independent license as described in subrule 240.10(4), sent directly from the jurisdiction to the board office. The applicant must also disclose any public or pending complaints against the applicant in any other jurisdiction. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification direct from the jurisdiction’s board office if the verification provides:

*a.* Licensee’s name;

- b. Date of initial licensure;
- c. Current licensure status; and
- d. Any disciplinary action taken against the license.

**645—300.3(147) Educational qualifications.**

**300.3(1)** The applicant shall possess the following:

- a. A master's degree from an accredited school, college or university with a major in speech pathology; or
- b. A master's or doctoral degree from an accredited school, college or university with a major in audiology.

**300.3(2)** Foreign-trained speech pathologists and audiologists will provide an equivalency evaluation at the licensee's expense of their educational credentials by one of the following: International Education Research Foundation, Inc. Credentials Evaluation Service. The professional curriculum must be equivalent to that stated in these rules.

**645—300.4(147) Examination requirements.** The examination required by the board will be the Praxis Examination in speech pathology or audiology. This examination is administered by the Educational Testing Service. The applicant will make arrangements to take the Praxis Examination in speech pathology or audiology and pay all expenses associated with taking the examination. The applicant will have the examination scores sent directly to the board from the Educational Testing Service.

**645—300.5(147) Speech therapy and audiology compact.** The rules of the speech therapy and audiology compact commission are incorporated by reference to Iowa Code section 147F.1. A speech therapist or audiologist may practice speech therapy or audiology in Iowa without a license issued by the board if the individual has a current compact privilege to practice in Iowa issued by the speech pathology and audiology compact commission.

**645—300.6(147) Temporary clinical license.** A temporary clinical license for the purpose of obtaining clinical experience as a prerequisite for licensure is valid for one year and may be renewed at the discretion of the board. The license shall be designated "temporary clinical license in speech pathology" or "temporary clinical license in audiology."

**300.6(1)** A speech pathology applicant will submit the following to the board:

- a. Evidence of supervision by a speech pathologist with an active, current Iowa license in good standing;
- b. A completed application form and the temporary clinical license fee;
- c. An official copy of the transcript sent directly from the school to the board;
- d. Official verification of completion of not less than 400 hours of supervised clinical training in an accredited college or university; and
- e. Results of the Praxis Examination.

**300.6(2)** An audiology applicant or an applicant completing a doctoral externship must submit the following to the board:

- a. Evidence of supervision by an audiologist with an active, current Iowa license in good standing. The applicant completing an audiology doctoral externship must show evidence of on-site supervision;
- b. A completed application form and the temporary clinical license fee;
- c. An official copy of the transcript, sent directly from the school to the board;
- d. Official verification of completion of not less than 400 hours of supervised clinical training in an accredited college or university; and
- e. Results of the Praxis Examination.

**300.6(3)** The plan for supervised clinical experience must be approved by the board before the applicant starts practice and shall:

- a. Include at least nine months of full-time clinical experience, or equivalent;

b. Include supervision by an Iowa-licensed speech pathologist or audiologist, as appropriate. If the applicant is being supervised by more than one individual, each supervisor must submit a supervised clinical experience plan for approval. If there is a change in the supervised clinical experience plan at any time during the supervised clinical experience, the licensee must contact the board for approval within 30 days of the change;

c. Be kept by the supervisor for two years from the last date of the clinical experience; and

d. Include a completed supervised clinical experience report form that shall be submitted to the board of speech pathology and audiology upon the applicant's successful completion of the nine months of full-time clinical experience. If the applicant was supervised by more than one individual, each supervisor must submit a supervised clinical experience report.

**645—300.7(147) Temporary permit.**

**300.7(1)** A nonresident may apply to the board for a temporary permit to practice speech pathology or audiology:

a. For a period not to exceed three months;

b. By submitting a letter to support the need for such a permit;

c. By submitting documents to show that the applicant has substantially the same qualifications as required for licensure in Iowa;

d. By submitting the documentation prior to the date the applicant intends to begin practice; and

e. By submitting the temporary permit fee.

**300.7(2)** The applicant shall receive a final determination from the board regarding the application for a temporary permit.

**645—300.8(147) Use of assistants.** A licensee will, in the delivery of professional services, utilize assistants only to the extent provided in these rules. Such assistants will use the title provided by these rules.

**300.8(1) Duties.**

a. *Speech pathology assistant I.* A speech pathology assistant I works with an individual for whom significant improvement is expected within a reasonable amount of time.

b. *Speech pathology assistant II.* A speech pathology assistant II works with an individual for whom maintenance of present level of communication is the goal; or for whom, based on the history and diagnosis, only slow improvement is expected.

c. *Audiology assistant I.* An audiology assistant I is more broadly trained and may be given a variety of duties depending upon the individual's training.

d. *Audiology assistant II.* An audiology assistant II is trained specifically for a single task for screening.

**300.8(2) Minimum requirements.**

a. A speech pathology assistant I or II or audiology assistant I will satisfy the following minimum requirements:

(1) Reach the age of majority;

(2) Complete a high school education, or its equivalent; and

(3) Complete one of the following:

1. A three-semester-hour (or four-quarter-hour) course in introductory speech and language pathology for speech pathology assistants or in audiology for audiology assistants from an accredited educational institution and 15 hours of instruction in the specific tasks that the assistant will be performing; or

2. A minimum training period comprised of 75 clock hours on instruction and practicum experience.

b. An audiology assistant II will satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Reach the age of majority.

(2) Complete a high school education, or its equivalent.

(3) Complete a minimum of 15 clock hours of instruction and practicum experience in the specific task that the assistant will be performing.

**300.8(3) Utilization.** Utilization of a speech pathology or audiology assistant requires that a plan be developed by the licensee desiring to utilize that assistant, consisting of the following information:

- a. Documentation that the assistant meets minimum requirements;
- b. A written plan of the activities and supervision that will be kept by the licensee supervising the assistant. This supervision will include direct on-site observation for a minimum of 20 percent of the assistant's direct patient care for level I speech pathology and level I audiology assistants and 10 percent for level II speech pathology assistants. Level II audiology assistants will be supervised 10 percent of the time. At least half of that time will be direct on-site observation with the other portion provided as time interpreting results;
- c. A listing of the facilities where the assistant will be utilized; and
- d. A statement, signed by the licensee and the assistant, acknowledging the licensee and the assistant have read the rules pertaining to assistants.

**300.8(4) Maximum number of assistants.** A licensee may not utilize more than three assistants unless a plan of supervision is filed and approved by the board.

**300.8(5) Supervisor responsibilities.** A licensee who utilizes an assistant will have the following responsibilities:

- a. To be legally responsible for the actions of the assistant in assigned duties with a client;
- b. To make all professional decisions relating to the management of a client;
- c. To ensure that the assistant is assigned only those duties and responsibilities for which the assistant has been specifically trained and is qualified to perform;
- d. To ensure compliance of the assistant(s) under supervision with the provisions of these rules by providing direct observation and supervision of the activities of the assistant; and
- e. To submit to the board of speech pathology and audiology upon request a copy of the plan of activities and supervision for each assistant and documentation of the dates each assistant was utilized by the licensee.

#### **645—300.9(147) Licensure by endorsement.**

**300.9(1)** The board may issue a license by endorsement to any applicant from the District of Columbia or another state, territory, province or foreign country who has been a licensed speech pathologist or audiologist under the laws of another jurisdiction.

**300.9(2)** Verification the applicant meets the requirements of rule 645—300.2(147).

**300.9(3)** A person who is licensed in another jurisdiction but who is unable to satisfy the requirements for licensure by endorsement may apply for licensure by verification, if eligible, in accordance with rule 645—19.1(272C).

#### **645—300.10(147) License renewal.**

**300.10(1)** The biennial license renewal period for a license to practice speech pathology or audiology will begin on January 1 of an even-numbered year and end on December 31 of the next odd-numbered year. The licensee is responsible for renewing the license prior to its expiration.

**300.10(2)** An individual who was issued an initial license within six months of the license renewal date will not be required to renew the license until the subsequent renewal date two years later.

**300.10(3)** A licensee seeking renewal will:

- a. Meet the continuing education requirements of rule 645—303.2(147) and the mandatory reporting requirements of subrule 300.10(4). A licensee whose license was reactivated during the current renewal compliance period may use continuing education credit earned during the compliance period for the first renewal following reactivation; and
- b. Submit the completed renewal application and renewal fee before the license expiration date.

**300.10(4) Mandatory reporter training requirements.**

a. A licensee who examines, attends, counsels, or treats children and/or dependent adults in the scope of a licensee's professional practice will complete the applicable department of health and human

services' training relating to the identification and reporting of child abuse and/or dependent adult abuse. Written documentation of training completion should be maintained for three years. The training is not required if the licensee is engaged in active duty military service or holds a waiver demonstrating a hardship in complying with these training requirements.

*b.* The board may select licensees for audit of compliance with the requirements in paragraphs 300.11(4)“*a*” through “*b*.”

**300.10(5)** A two-year license will be issued after the requirements of the rule are met. If the board receives adverse information on the renewal application, the board will issue the renewal license but may refer the adverse information for further consideration or disciplinary investigation.

**300.10(6)** The license certificate and proof of active licensure will be displayed in a conspicuous public place at the primary site of practice.

**300.10(7)** Late renewal. The license will become late when the license has not been renewed by the expiration date on the renewal. The licensee will be assessed a late fee as specified in 645—subrule 5.20(3). To renew a late license, the licensee will complete the renewal requirements and submit the late fee within the grace period.

**300.10(8)** Inactive license. A licensee who fails to renew the license by the end of the grace period has an inactive license. A licensee whose license is inactive continues to hold the privilege of licensure in Iowa, but may not practice until the license is reactivated.

**645—300.11(17A,147,272C) License reactivation.** To apply for reactivation of an inactive license:

**300.11(1)** Submit a completed reactivation application and pay the nonrefundable application fee.

**300.11(2)** Provide verification of current competence to practice speech pathology and audiology by satisfying one of the following criteria:

*a.* If the license has been on inactive status for five years or less, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license from the jurisdiction in which the applicant has been most recently licensed and has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of 30 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation.

*b.* If the license has been on inactive status for more than five years, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license from the jurisdiction in which the applicant has been most recently licensed and has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of 60 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation; or

(3) Verification of passing the Praxis Examination in speech pathology or audiology within the last two years prior to application for reactivation.

**645—300.12(17A,147,272C) License reinstatement.** A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended, or voluntarily surrendered must apply for and receive board-approved reinstatement of

the license and must apply for and be granted reactivation of the license prior to practicing speech pathology and audiology in this state.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147 and 272C.