

AN ACT concerning professional regulation.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act is amended by changing Section 8.6 as follows:

(225 ILCS 110/8.6)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2018)

Sec. 8.6. Minimum requirements for speech-language pathology assistant programs.

(a) An applicant for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant must have earned 60 semester credit hours in a program of study that includes general education and the specific knowledge and skills for a speech-language pathology assistant. The curriculum of a speech-language pathology assistant program must include all of the following content, as further provided by rule promulgated by the Department:

(1) Twenty-four ~~Thirty-six~~ semester credit hours in general education.

(2) Thirty-six ~~Twenty-four~~ semester credit hours in technical content areas designed to provide students with knowledge and skills required for speech-language pathology assistants, which must include (i) an overview of

normal processes of communication; (ii) an overview of communication disorders; (iii) instruction in speech-language pathology assistant-level service delivery practices; (iv) instruction in workplace behaviors; (v) cultural and linguistic factors in communication; and (vi) observation.

(3) Completion of at least 100 hours of supervised field work experiences supervised by a licensed speech-language pathologist at least 50% of the time when the student is engaged in contact with the patient or client. An applicant must obtain written verification demonstrating successful completion of the required field work experience, including a description of the setting in which the training was received and an assessment of the student's technical proficiency.

(b) The Department may promulgate rules that change the curriculum requirements of subsection (a) in order to reflect the guidelines for speech-language pathology assistant programs recommended by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

(c) Any applicant for licensure as a speech-language pathology assistant who applies to the Department prior to the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly or any person who holds a valid license as a speech-language pathology assistant on the effective date of this amendatory Act shall not be required to meet the new

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minimum requirements for a speech language pathology assistant program under subsection (a) of this Section 8.6 that are established by this amendatory Act.

(Source: P.A. 92-510, eff. 6-1-02.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.