Welcome to the Field Clinical Fellows!
Your hard work and dedication has paid off—you’re ready to enter the field of speech pathology! This handout was designed by our SLP owners as a quick guide to selecting a superior clinical fellowship. In addition, we’ve answered the most common questions CFs ask about licensing, credentials, and ASHA certification.

Job Search Tips and Strategies
Here are some of the topics we address on our website’s Clinical Fellows section:

- Researching positions
- Resume preparation
- Pros and cons of contract work
- Email correspondence
- Before signing a contract
- Determining quality of supervision
- Interview etiquette
- Pros and cons of district work

Fast Answers to Common Career Start-up Questions

How long does it take to get a temporary license to do my CA RPE?
Usually about 6-8 weeks. You can work in a school, but not as a speech pathologist in a clinic, hospital, or other non-school setting until you receive your temporary license.

Can I start a job while my application for the CA RPE is being approved?
Yes, but only in a school and only if you have a credential or a waiver. You can’t work as a speech pathologist in any other setting until you get your temporary license.

Can I submit my CA RPE application before I graduate?
Yes, but your application will not be considered complete until all required elements are present, including sealed transcripts.

Is there any way to "speed up" the CA RPE approval process?
No. Keep copies of your application and send everything certified mail. Write a cover letter if your name changed. Approval is registered online.

When is the best time to take the Praxis exam?
Before graduation. Stay calm; you’ve got this!

Do I need to submit any paperwork to start my clinical fellowship for ASHA?
No. However, once you are assigned a supervisor, verify his/her Certificate of Clinical Competence at www.asha.org.

I started my clinical fellowship/RPE, and it's not a good fit. Can I change jobs midway through?
Yes. Ask your current supervisor to complete CF and RPE evaluations for the period worked, and then submit a change of supervisor form to the SLPAB.

If I change supervisors or settings, does it affect my RPE/CF completion date?
No. A clinical fellowship/RPE ends when your final supervisor decides you are competent, which usually occurs after nine months of total supervision. Sometimes a placement change is a critical investment in your future.

I'm done with my CFY, but I still have two months remaining on my RPE. Do I still need to be supervised?
Yes. This is very common because of the need for pre-approval of your RPE.

Should I still apply for a full credential if I am going to be licensed?
Absolutely. Many districts in California and most out-of-state districts require a credential even if a clinician is licensed. Make a note of your credential expiration date as you will not be reminded by the CTC.

Quick Links for Information on Licensing, Credentialing, and Certification

California requirements for the RPE
https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/forms_pubs/combined_slp_app_pack_rpe.pdf

CF requirements by ASHA http://www.asha.org/certiﬁcation/Clinical-Fellowship/

Credentials requirements https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/req-services

CF Supervision and Support
Here are questions you could ask yourself to judge the quality of support when choosing a site and supervisor:

• Was a speech pathologist involved in your interview?
• Were you asked about your strengths as well as growth areas?
• Were suggestions made to help you better prepare to begin a position?
• Were you encouraged to connect with current clinical fellows or supervisors? Were their comments consistent with the interviewer’s comments?
• When previous CFs and supervisors were discussed, could interviewers identify speciﬁc personal or clinical strengths?
• How would your supervisor be selected?
• How do supervisors carve out their supervision time? Are their caseload responsibilities reduced? Can they be present during your treatment day if necessary?
• When you were interviewed, was there personal interest in your experiences and background? How much time was taken to determine if you were a good ﬁt for their site? Did they invite questions?
• Was the focus of the interview more on the clinical ﬁt or the beneﬁts and salary?

Remember, this is the last time that you will have the opportunity to be supervised in an organized format, and the ﬁrst time you are absorbing a full caseload independently. Quality of supervision must be on the top of your list of criteria for job choice.

What Else Can PCSS Do For You?
• Contact Paciﬁc Coast Speech Services to discuss clinical fellowships with superior supervision and support.
• Refer an SLP seeking an excellent school-based position and earn a bonus, whether you work for us or not.
• Subscribe to our school-based e-newsletter for SLPs. It’s free and extremely practical.
  http://paciﬁccoastspeech.com/newsletter-signup.html
• Get a copy of our bell curve designed speciﬁcally for new grads to counsel parents. You can download it at http://www.paciﬁccoastspeech.com/resources.html or pick up a high-resolution copy at Table Top 12.

“I could not have asked for a better company to work with. I have a great supervisor and my bosses are very supportive! Not once, have I felt lost or overwhelmed. As SLPs themselves, they know what I am going through.”

-Paciﬁc Coast Speech Services, 2017-18 Clinical Fellow