



CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP & RPE FAQs

WELCOME TO THE FIELD CLINICAL FELLOWS!

Your hard work and dedication have paid off and you are ready to enter the field of speech pathology! This handout is designed by our SLP owners to be 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.



FAST ANSWERS

to Common Career Start-up Questions

What are the pros and cons of direct hire in a district vs working through a contracting agency?

The pros and cons are highly individualized by company and district. Your most critical questions should be about supervision and mentorship, as this training is irreplaceable.

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 your preliminary license is approved.

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 your preliminary license is registered by the state.

Can I submit my CA RPE application before I graduate?

Yes, but you must know your supervisor and site.
You will be given a timeline to submit remaining documentation.

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 changes. Approval is registered first at <https://search.dca.ca.gov/> Keep checking!

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 <https://www.asha.org/certification/cert-verify/>

ASHA moved to an online process of CF paperwork completion in 2019.
<https://www.asha.org/certification/SLPCertification/>

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?

It can. Ideally a new supervisor/setting is added to your current plan and won't delay completion. This is not always possible. Check with the SLPAB or a trusted mentor.

I'm finished with my CFY, but I still have two months remaining on my RPE. Do I still need to be supervised?

Yes. This is common in school settings 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 other states require a credential.
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

Preliminary/Full License in California: Application Packet

https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/applicants/app_pack_slp.shtml

Speech-Language Pathology Services California Credential

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl879.pdf?sfvrsn=6>

Clinical Fellow Application for Certification (CCCs) by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

<http://www.asha.org/certification>

Other Resources on Our Site

- [Link-Based Flow Chart](#) to every step from Grad School to Full License/Credential/CCCs
- [Blog/newsletter](#) on organization, management, and practice issues within a school setting

CF SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT

Questions to ask yourself to judge the quality of support when choosing a site and supervisor.

1. Was a speech pathologist involved in your interview?
2. Were you asked about your strengths as well as growth areas?
3. Were suggestions made to help you better prepare to begin a position?
4. Were you encouraged to connect with current clinical fellows or supervisors?
5. When previous CFs and supervisors were discussed, could interviewers identify specific personal or clinical strengths?
6. How would your supervisor be selected?
7. How do supervisors carve out their supervision time? Are their caseload responsibilities reduced? Can they be present during your treatment day whenever necessary?
8. 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 integrated supervision and support (guaranteed at least double the ASHA/licensing standard).
- Refer an SLP seeking an excellent school-based position and earn a bonus, whether you work for us or not.



"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, 2018-19 Clinical Fellow

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