



MOVING TO CALIFORNIA WITH A CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE (CCCs)

THE BASICS OF BEING A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST IN CALIFORNIA

Many speech pathologists in California, especially those who work in a school setting, have both a speech pathology license and a school credential. Credentialing and licensing are two separate processes. Start both EARLY; 2-3 months for approval is not uncommon.

If you plan to work in a private practice, rehabilitation, or another non-school setting, you need to apply for a California License. California speech pathologists need a license to work in all settings EXCEPT public schools.

If you plan to work in a school setting, we recommend that you simultaneously apply for both a license and a credential to maximize employment options and streamline your paperwork. Most speech pathologists who work in a school setting in California maintain a clear credential as well as a California license.

You can legally work in a school setting with a license and no credential. However, there are some districts in California where a credential is still required by human resources for internal reasons.

LICENSURE PATHWAY

The California speech-language pathology license is obtained through the Speech Language Pathology and Audiology Board (SLPAB). A license is typically issued 2-3 months after all materials have been received at the SLPAB.

STEP 1

[Use this link to review overarching criteria and instructions for licensure.](#) When you open this link, you will see five options. Choose Option 2 if you have your CCCs.

STEP 2

Unless you happen to be visiting California, you will need to [request fingerprint cards from the SLPAB](#). You make this request by email, and they will mail a “hard card” to you.

STEP 3

Complete the SLPAB form and submit it with the required photo and payment. We recommend that you mail your application “Return Receipt Requested” and keep a copy for your reference. If your name has changed during your educational and clinical training, send a separate statement listing your current preferred name for their records.

STEP 4

Send an email to [ASHA requesting a verification letter](#) showing that you have a Certificate of Clinical Competence in good standing. Note that this letter must be [MAILED by ASHA](#).

STEP 5

When the SLPAB has received all of the items above, they will begin to review your file. Licenses can take between two and three months, so start early! Consider [emailing them](#) a month after your materials have been submitted to ensure that all materials have been received.

STEP 6

[Verification will show up first on the SLPAB website.](#) You will also receive an email. NOTE: This procedure is written for candidates who have their CCCs. There are different procedures for those with other circumstances such as licenses without CCCs, foreign-educated applicants, those preparing to complete a clinical fellowship, and those previously licensed in California. [Those applications can be found here.](#)

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CALIFORNIA CREDENTIAL PATHWAY

A speech-language pathology services credential is recommended if you plan to work in a public school setting. Although there is a law stating that a license is sufficient, there are some districts that still prefer a credential for internal reasons.

STEP 1

[Review overarching criteria for receiving a clear credential on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing site.](#)

If you have your Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCCs) from ASHA and satisfy the criterion, you do not need to apply for a preliminary credential, you may apply as an individual prepared out of state. However, you still [must submit the five items required for a preliminary credential](#) as noted within the attached link - test scores, transcripts, proof of out of state credential/eligibility, application and fees.

STEP 2

Unless you happen to be visiting California, you will need to request fingerprint cards from the CTC (different from the SLPAB above, so you will be receiving two separate sets of cards.) You make this [request by email](#). They will mail you a "hard card."

STEP 3

Review the CTC application form above. Complete and submit it, along with the required fees. We recommend that you mail your application "Return Receipt Requested" and keep a copy for your reference. If your name has changed during your educational and clinical training, send a separate statement listing your current preferred name for their records.

STEP 4

Review the choices for the [Basic Skills Requirement](#), linked to the application instructions. Although the most common way of meeting this requirement is to take the CBEST test, review the choices for testing against your personal files. You may find that you passed an alternative test (the GRE, an AP test in high school) with a qualifying score. Sign up for a test to meet this requirement, or send verification documentation.

STEP 5

Request transcripts from your University and send proof that you have satisfied the requirements of #1 and #3 on the [Preliminary Credential instruction sheet](#) regarding approved degree programs at accredited institutions.

STEP 6

[Credential approval will be posted online on the CTC.](#) Keep checking! Note: no renewal reminders are sent by the CTC.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

California licenses require a specific number of CEUs to maintain their validity. Be sure to complete these in advance of your renewal date. The licensing board sends renewal notices by mail near your renewal date.

A digital version of this handout with clickable links is available on our [website resources page](#). Also, on our on resources page you can find our bilingual Bell Curve of Student Skills; a CF Flow Chart with steps to obtain CCCs, a license and a credential; and a practical blog and newsletter designed for school-based clinicians.

If you are seeking a position in Southern California schools, PCSS works in the following counties: Orange, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Riverside and northern San Diego. We offer new graduates double the ASHA standard for supervision and rigorous mentoring for those new to California. Please contact Louise Valente, Director of Staffing; she'd love to speak with you.

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**WHY EXPERIENCED CLINICIANS
CHOOSE PCSS UPON MOVING
TO CALIFORNIA.**