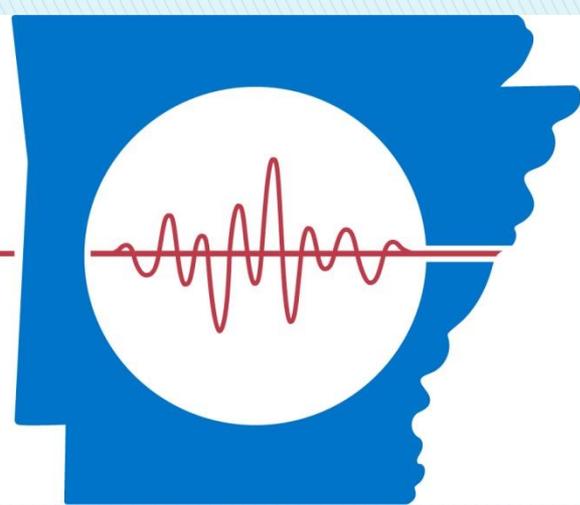


Arkansas Board  
of Examiners

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Speech-Language  
Pathology and Audiology



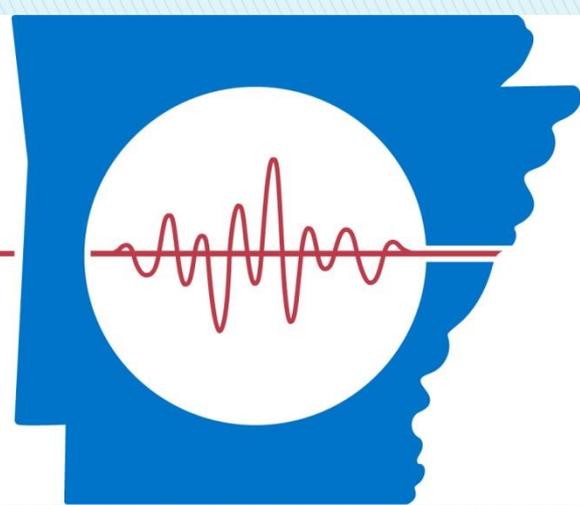
**ABESPA**

**Applying for State Licensure in  
Audiology and Speech  
Pathology**

**Graduate Student Presentation**

# Arkansas Board of Examiners

Speech-Language  
Pathology and Audiology



## What is ABESPA?

- ▶ The state board that regulates and governs all licensed practice for audiology and speech pathology in the state of Arkansas.
- ▶ [www.abespa.com](http://www.abespa.com)

# What is ABESPA's Purpose?

- ▶ To protect consumers and to ensure the highest quality of services to consumers
- ▶ To issue license/registration to Speech–Language Pathologists, Audiologists and SLP Assistants who meet the qualifications set forth in the law
- ▶ To ensure compliance with the law and with the rules and regulations of the board
- ▶ To investigate complaints

# It's the Law

- ▶ Established Practice Act:
  - 1975 – Act 277
  - 1993 – Revised – Act 121
  - 1995 – Revised to add SLPAs
  - 2013 – Revised – Act 219
  - 2015 – Revised to include Telepractice
- ▶ Statute number 17-100-101
- ▶ [http://www.abespa.com/rules\\_regs/rules\\_regs.html](http://www.abespa.com/rules_regs/rules_regs.html)

# Arkansas Board of Examiners

Speech-Language  
Pathology and Audiology



## Who is ABESPA?

- ▶ A regulatory board consisting of:
- ▶ 7 Members – Appointed by the Governor
  - 5 Professionals
    - 2 Speech–Language Pathologists
    - 2 Audiologists
    - 1 either SLP or Audiologist
  - 1 Consumer representative
  - 1 Senior representative

# When does ABESPA Meet?

- ▶ The Board meets every January, March, May, July, September, and November
- ▶ Meetings are open to the public
- ▶ Board is advised by an attorney from the Attorney General's office
- ▶ Communication with the Board must be in writing before official consideration can be given to any issue.

# How do I obtain a license?

- ▶ Complete an Application Packet for a provisional license
- ▶ The following must be completed and received by ABESPA *within 30 days of beginning work*
  - Application
  - Application Fee (\$140)
  - CFY Plan – signed by you and your licensed supervisor
- ▶ Additional information to be sent
  - Official UG and Graduate transcripts
  - Clinical Summary Report
  - Official copy of PRAXIS/ETS *passing* score  
(ABESPA score code R8773)

# Provisional License

Provisional licensees are entitled to *all* rights and privileges of persons holding a full license *except* that they must be supervised

Any application can be reviewed for approval for up to 3 consecutive meetings

# License Expiration

- ▶ All licenses expire by June 30 each year.
- ▶ All licenses **MUST** be renewed by June 30 each year.
- ▶ Exception: any license issued within 120 days of June 30 will expire the following year.

# Continuing Professional Education

- ▶ CPE's are required the year following your first renewal even if you have not completed your CFY. Licensure and CPE's run on the fiscal year - 7/1 through 6/30.
- ▶ Each licensee must complete 10 hours of continuing education (15 for dual licensees) with at least 5 hours being in content area I (Defined in Section 9 of the ABESPA Rules)
- ▶ When submitting CPE's **do not** just list the conference name or title of CPE session. Be detailed and describe what the session was about.

# Continuing Education–

## Content Area I

- ▶ Normal development of speech, language, hearing and balance
- ▶ Physical basis of speech, language and hearing development
- ▶ Linguistic variables related to normal development
- ▶ Technical and instrumentation information that expands knowledge in the basic communication process
- ▶ Disorders
- ▶ Diagnostics
- ▶ Principles of habilitation and rehabilitation of communication disorders and in balance and vestibular disorders

# Continuing Education– Content Area II

- ▶ Must relate to audiology or speech–language pathology
- ▶ Regulations and implementation of federal and/or state regulation programs
- ▶ Service and delivery models
- ▶ Ethical practices
- ▶ Administration and supervision issues
- ▶ Related disciplines which interface with the delivery of SLP and Audiology services
- ▶ Reimbursement issues



# ATTENTION

- ▶ Notify ABESPA within ***30 days*** of making changes.
  - Beginning Work
  - ***Completing CFY– ASHA CF Report or ASHA letter***
  - Changing Address
  - Changing work settings
  - Changing supervisors
  - Not sure? Contact ABESPA for guidance

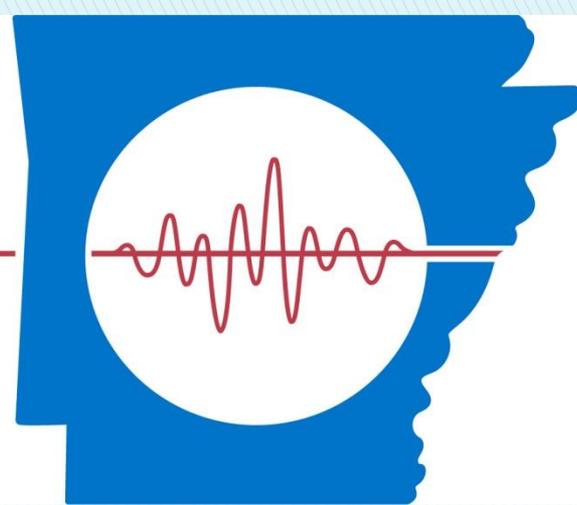
# Disciplinary Actions....

- ▶ Medicaid Fraud
- ▶ Failure to maintain & supply records pertaining to services billed
- ▶ Practiced with an expired license
- ▶ Failure to apply within 30 days of beginning practice
- ▶ Failure to substantiate CPE Hours

# Arkansas Board of Examiners

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Speech-Language  
Pathology and Audiology



## **ABESPA**

101 East Capitol, Suite 103

Little Rock, AR 72201

Tel: (501) 682-9180

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[abespa@arkansas.gov](mailto:abespa@arkansas.gov)

Contact: Lex Wallace

[www.abespa.com](http://www.abespa.com)

# Professional Organizations



AMERICAN  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
HEARING  
ASSOCIATION



ArkSHA

Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

*How's your hearing? Ask an Audiologist!*



# FAQ'S

**Q: Is ASHA membership required for state licensure?**

**A: No**

**Q: How soon must I apply for license?**

**A: Within the first 30 days of beginning practice.**

**Q: I need a Medicaid provider number, but do not have my license yet. What can I do?**

**A: When you submit your application materials to ABESPA, request that a "Medicaid letter" be sent back to you. Submit this letter and a copy of your clinical fellowship year plan with your application to Medicaid.**

# Clinical Fellowship FAQ's

▶ **Q. Must I hold a license during my CF Year?**

A. Yes, Arkansas requires a provisional license See Rules–Sections 2.5 and 2.12

▶ **Q. Can I begin my CF prior to receiving my advanced degree?**

A. No. Arkansas requires applicants for licensure hold a master's or doctoral degree in speech–language pathology or audiology. See Section 2.8 of the Rules and Regulations.

▶ **Q. Must I report changes to my CF year?**

A. Yes, within 30 calendar days of change. Changes such as the number of hours worked per week, CFY end date, or work setting can be submitted by letter, email, or fax. If your CF supervisor changes, you must complete a new CFY plan.

# Clinical Fellowship FAQ's

- ▶ **Q. Do I need to acquire continuing education during my CFY?**  
**A.** A report of continuing education is not required during the initial licensing period (7/1 to 6/30), but will be required for the next licensing period even if you have not completed your CFY. See Rules–Section 9.4
  
- ▶ **Q. How do I convert from provisional license to full license?**  
**A.** You must submit documentation of the successful completion of the clinical fellowship year **within 30 days**. This proof might consist of a photocopy of the ASHA CF Report and Rating form or other verification documents.  
There is no fee for the conversion.

**QUESTIONS?**