

About the Praxis Exam

The Praxis Examinations in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology are integral components of ASHA certification standards. The development of the exams is commissioned by ASHA and facilitated by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to provide a system of thorough, fair, and carefully validated assessments. The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Praxis exams are owned and administered by ETS as part of The *Praxis II*®: Subject Assessments.



Why do I need to take a Praxis exam?

The Praxis exam is used as a requirement for one or more of the following:

- [ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology or Audiology](#)
- [State Professional Licensure](#)
- State Teacher Certification (see <http://www.uky.edu/Education/TEP/usacert.html> for more information)
- Praxis score reports are used as part of an academic program's self evaluation and as part of an accredited program's annual report to the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. However, **ETS recommends that academic programs not use the Praxis exams as a student summative exam for graduation clearance.**

2005 SLP Certification Standard V-B: Summative Assessment

The applicant must pass the national examination adopted by ASHA for purposes of certification in speech-language pathology.

Implementation:

Summative assessment is a comprehensive examination of learning outcomes at the culmination of professional preparation. Evidence of a passing score on the ASHA-approved national examination in speech-language pathology must be submitted to the National Office by the testing agency administering the examination.

1993 Audiology Certification Standard IV: National Examination in Audiology

Applicants must pass the national examination in the area for which the

Certificate is sought.

Implementation:

The national examination in audiology is designed to assess, in a comprehensive fashion, the applicant's mastery of knowledge of professional concepts and issues to which the applicant has been exposed throughout professional education and clinical practicum. The applicant must pass the examination in audiology within 2 years of the date the course work and practicum submitted by the applicant are approved by ASHA's Council For Clinical Certification (CFCC). The current passing score is 600.

An applicant who fails the examination may retake it. **If the examination is not successfully passed within the 2-year period, the applicant's certification file will be closed.** If the examination is passed at a later date, the individual will have to reapply for certification under the standards in effect at the time of reapplication and will be required to pay the appropriate application fees.

When should I take the exam?

It is recommended that individuals register and take the Praxis exam **no earlier** than the completion of their graduate coursework and graduate clinical practicum or during their first year of clinical practice following graduation.

How are the exams developed?

- Approximately every seven years, ASHA commissions a vendor to conduct an independent skills validation (practice analysis) study for each profession (audiology and speech-language pathology). Each practice analysis incorporates a multi-method approach that involves a number of independent expert panels and a large-scale survey of practitioners, educators, clinical supervisors, and clinic directors. This process can take up to 12 months to complete. The results of the practice analysis provide descriptive information about the tasks performed on the job and/or the knowledge, skills, and abilities thought necessary to perform those tasks by newly certified practitioners.
- The study results, along with a review of practice-specific literature (e.g., scopes of practice, profession-specific practice policy guidelines and position statements, preferred practice patterns, and publications from related professional organizations) and widespread peer review from the ASHA membership, state licensure boards, academic programs, and related professional organizations, form the basis for an evaluation of current certification standards and any recommendation for change in the standards by ASHA's Council For Clinical Certification (CFCC).
- The blueprint for the Praxis exams is derived from the certification standards and exam questions are developed based upon this blueprint.
- Standard setting studies are also performed periodically to evaluate each question for its relevance to beginning clinicians and to determine how many questions a beginning clinician should be able to answer correctly. A recommended passing score is then approved by the

Council For Clinical Certification (CFCC).

Who writes the questions?

- ASHA nominates subject matter experts to serve on Praxis committees who work with ETS to develop the exams. Subject matter experts are certified ASHA members from both academic and clinical backgrounds. The Audiology exam is developed by audiologists. The Speech-Language Pathology exam is developed by speech-language pathologists along with audiologists who write questions about hearing and hearing science.

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