

Frequently Asked Questions



College of
Speech and Hearing
Health Professionals of BC

The purpose of this document is to provide quick and easy reference to the most asked questions. You are urged to read the bylaws. In fact, the Statutory Declaration that you are required to complete as part of your application, asks if you have read the bylaws. If you don't submit the Statutory Declaration form, your application will be incomplete and a Certificate of Registration will not be issued. Please read the bylaws.

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

FEES

How were the fees calculated?

The fees were calculated on a “cost recovery” basis. While the provincial government mandated the establishment of the College, seed funding for the start-up phase was not provided. The College had to secure a line of credit and thus has a significant debt obligation for the next four years. It is anticipated that there will be about a maximum of 1300 registrants and 150 support personnel. It is the fees of these individuals that will cover the operating costs, debt payment and contingency fund. The contingency fund covers legal and other costs associated with investigations, hearings and other unpredictable events.

Are the fees tax deductible?

Yes. You may claim these fees on your personal tax return. Receipts are issued by the College and mailed to your home address along with your initial Certificate of Registration or renewal decal.

Are there pro-rated fees for leaves (such as maternity leaves) or retirement during the registration year?

No. In order to practice as a professional “Audiologist”, “Hearing Instrument Practitioner” or “Speech-Language Pathologist” in British Columbia you MUST be registered as Active or Conditional Active with the College.

The professions regulated by the College are based on competency to practice, not on the basis of part-time or casual employment. Therefore, if you expect to practice, even for one hour, during the registration year (April 1st to March 31st of the following year), you must renew as Active or Conditional Active.

Should you retire, or commence a leave of absence anytime during the registration year, you will not receive any refund for the time that you did not practice. For professionals who retire, you may opt to renew as a “Retired” classification. However, please keep in mind that should circumstances change and you need to revert back to Active from Retired, you will need to meet the requirements of the Continuing Competency Credits and other Active registration requirements such as the CASLPA exam and pay the Active renewal fee. You may wish to consider renewing as In-Active until such time as you are certain that you will no longer practice.

For those who expect to be on leave of absence the entire 12 months of the registration year, you may renew as an “Inactive” classification. The In-Active classification is not designed for registrants who will be on a shorter leave of absence, such as maternity leaves or short term disability.

Will the fees be reduced for part-time or casual professionals?

No. The professions regulated by the College are based on competency to practice, not on the basis of part-time or casual employment. The fees are calculated on a “cost recovery” basis. The costs to register a part-time or casually employed professional are equivalent to a full-time employed professional.

Can I pay by credit card?

Yes. Payments for renewal fees are available on-line and can be paid by credit cards: VISA or MC. Each registrant is advised of their log-on information to access the secured section of the website entitled “For Registrants Only”. Initial registration fees are also available by credit card and can be arranged by contacting the Office Administrator 604-568-1568.

BCASLPA/CASLPA MEMBERSHIP

Do I need to be a BCASLPA/CASLPA member and a registrant of the College?

No. Registration with the College is mandatory should you wish to practice your profession in BC. Membership with an association, such as BCASLPA or CASLPA is voluntary. An association’s mandate is to provide benefits to the professional member. The college’s mandate is to ensure standards are met by professionals for the protection of the public.

ELIGIBILITY TO WORK IN CANADA

Do I need to provide proof of Canadian Citizenship?

Internationally trained applicants are required to provide proof. This question is asked on the Statutory Declaration form. If you are not legally eligible to work in Canada, then you must work towards obtaining the necessary documentation prior to registering with the College.

AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

I am an Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist but I did not write the CASLPA exam and I am considering re-entering the profession. Do I need to write the CASLPA exam?

Please refer to Bylaw Section 87.9

Yes. A Conditional Active classification is available to professionals who have not yet passed the CASLPA exam but meet all the other registration requirements outlined in Bylaw section 85.

I am currently employed in another province. Is my transfer to BC automatic?

Please refer to Bylaw Section 71

If you are currently regulated in another province, such as Alberta or Ontario, you must arrange to have that college provide us with verification of your registration in that province. You are also required to complete the Standard Application form and pay the applicable fees. If you are not currently regulated, then you must apply to the College under bylaw section 85 or 87.9.

AUDIOLOGISTS AND/OR HEARING INSTRUMENT PRACTITIONERS

I am an Audiologist who dispenses hearing instruments. What do I need to do?

Please refer to Bylaw Sections 82 and 85

You will be required to be registered as an “Audiologist” and as a “Hearing Instrument Practitioner” because “dispensing” is regulated exclusively for “Hearing Instrument Practitioners”. If you are currently regulated outside BC, you may transfer to the college under Labour Mobility or as an International Transfer; please refer to bylaw sections 71 or 72.

If you are not currently regulated, you must apply as an Audiologist under bylaw section 85 or 87.9 and as a Student – Hearing Instrument Practitioner under bylaw section 82. You will be required to practice dispensing under general supervision until you pass the Practical exam. Please refer to Policy R-04.

Do I have to pay two fees?

No, you are required to pay one registration fee and one application fee only even though you will be registered with the College under two professions.

What professional titles may I use?

An Audiologist may use the professional title,

- **Registered Audiologist, or RAUD**

A Hearing Instrument Practitioner may use the professional title,

- **Registered Hearing Instrument Practitioner, or RHIP**

You may NOT use the title “Hearing Instrument Specialist”.

ADVANCED COMPETENCIES

What is an advanced competency?

An advanced competency is an area of practice that is within the scope of one or more of the professions of Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology and Hearing Instrument dispensing that are considered by the Ministry of Health to be above entry level and that could pose a significant risk to the public.

What are the Advanced Competency Certificates available through the College and for which professions?

The current certificates include:

Advanced Certificate	Professional(s)
A. Vestibular Assessment & Management	Audiologists
B. Cochlear Implant Management	Audiologists
C. Cerumen Management	Audiologists; Hearing Instrument Practitioners
D. Hearing Instrument Services for Children	Hearing Instrument Practitioners * under development to be effective April 1, 2012
E. Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation and Management of Voice Disorders	Speech-Language Pathologists
F. Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation and Management of swallowing Disorders	Speech-Language Pathologists
G. Voice Restoration (Voice Prostheses)	Speech-Language Pathologists
H. Voice Restoration (Tracheostomy Tubes/Speaking Valves)	Speech-Language Pathologists
I. Videofluoroscopic Assessment of Swallowing Disorders – Adults	Speech-Language Pathologists
J. Videofluoroscopic Assessment of Swallowing Disorders - Children	Speech-Language Pathologists

Are all of the College’s restricted activities, granted to each profession, subject to an advanced certificate?

No. Only the ones that were considered to need more advanced than ‘entry to practice’ competencies and those that may pose significant risk of harm to the public or vulnerable populations.

Do Audiologists require an advanced certificate for services with children?

No the Audiology scope of practice includes services to all age groups.

How long are the certificates valid for?

All advanced competency certificates are valid for 3 years from the date of issue.

How do I know what the core competencies are for each certificate?

In addition to the College bylaws posted on the College website, each AC has a specific Acceptable Program of Study outlining the competencies required for each certificate and are available under the publications tab on the college website.

Can I perform these areas of advanced practice without having the certificate?

No. You must have a valid certificate

Can I perform all but the restricted activity involved in the advanced competency area, without a certificate? (e.g. all of the functions of voice restoration but not actually inserting the prostheses?)

Technically, that is possible however in order to ensure that your other competencies in that area are maintained, it is strongly recommended that you complete the required program of study and apply for certification.

If I am studying to obtain an advanced certificate, what do I need to do and do I need supervision?

Yes. Please refer to Policy QA-04 and the specific “Acceptable Programs of Study” for the advanced competency you are working towards.

How much does a certificate cost?

The cost is \$45 each for the first two certificates applied for with no additional cost for subsequent ones (i.e. A maximum of \$90). The renewal fee is \$25 for each of the first two renewals (i.e. \$50 maximum).

How do I maintain my competencies in order to renew my advanced certification?

You must collect and record continuing competency credits in each of the advanced areas in which you hold a certificate and you must provide proof of currency of practice for this advanced competency prior to renewal. The CCCs for the AC are part of your total CCCs required for registration renewal and are specific to your area(s) of advanced practice. You must keep track of those credits you have

achieved that pertain to your certification(s). A CCC reporting form is available to assist you – posted on the college website under the Forms tab.

What is the cycle for reporting CCCs?

Please refer to the Reporting Form for CCCs posted on the college website under the Forms tab. The first cycle begins April 1, 2010 and ends March 31, 2013. A total of 45 CCCs are required for registrants who applied as at April 1, 2010. Others are pro-rated at 1.25 credits per month of registration within the cycle. In order to meet the renewal requirements for April 1, 2013, registrants must report their total number of CCCs. You can report CCCs on-line through the “Registrant’s Only” section of the website or complete the form under the forms tab and fax or mail to the college prior to March 31, 2013. If you have been issued an Advanced Competency Certificate, CCCs must be reported prior to the expiration of the Advanced Competency in order to meet the renewal requirements for the Advanced Competency.

PART 12 – SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Are all Support Personnel required to be certified?

No. Only individuals who perform one or more restricted activities as outlined in the Speech and Hearing Health Professionals Regulations or as stipulated in the College bylaws must be certified. A link is provided to the Regulations under the Home Tab of the college website.

An assistant classification for each profession will be developed for individuals who do not perform any restricted activities but who will be required by policy to attain a base level of competency in order to assist the registrants. The assistants or their employers may wish to apply for and/or require certification of assistants who have fulfilled the necessary requirements.

Why are support personnel reporting to Hearing Instrument Practitioners being developed separately from Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology support personnel?

Many of the support personnel in Audiology and SLP have been performing and are currently performing part or all of certain restricted activities. They will need to apply for time limited grand-parenting.

Historically, HIPs were unable to delegate restricted activities to their support personnel to perform relatively independently. This work is “in development” and will be reviewed by the appropriate committees for bylaw development and subsequently Acceptable Programs of Study will need to be developed.

In addition, all three professions have different scopes of practice and therefore the requirements and competencies will be different for support personnel supporting each of the professions.

What are the timeframes for the certification process?

The college is working towards having Part 12 in force by February 1st at which time the application forms will be available for Audiology and SLP support personnel. A time limited grand-parenting provision will be provided for applicants currently employed in the appropriate classification. The application process will require a registrant’s signature on a statutory declaration form attesting to the fact the applicant is generally competent and has obtained the core competencies.

For those individuals who have not obtained the core competencies, they would be required to meet the requirements of the Acceptable Program of Study prior to granting certification and thus would be considered a Support Personnel in Training and therefore would not be eligible for the grand-parenting provisions.

The earliest effective date for certification is April 1, 2012 with an expiry date of March 31, 2014 for all Audiology and SLP certificates. The dates for HIP support personnel are under development.

What types of supervision are involved?

The definitions of delegation and supervision are outlined in the bylaws. In addition the college has developed a policy “QA-06 Definitions and Applications of Supervision by Registrants” which outlines the various types of supervision.

Each program of study addresses the levels of supervision required for support personnel in training. Once they have attained certification they will require general supervision only unless they are learning a new skill or need a refresher.

Do Support Personnel have to be members of CASLPA to apply for grand-parenting?

No. Membership in CASLPA is voluntary.

For further information please contact the College at: info@cshhpbcc.org