



Frequently Asked Questions about Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellows (ASHA) and SLP Interns (SC LLR)

Any information contained in this document should not be construed as legal advice and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter. All individuals who wish to verify legal requirements of license holders should consult the practice act and all relevant regulatory chapters for the practice of Speech-Language Pathology.

1. What is the difference between what ASHA refers to as a Clinical Fellow and what SC LLR refers to as an SLP Intern?

ASHA considers these individuals to be an SLP Clinical Fellow. The only difference is that SC LLR uses the term “SLP Intern” as opposed to Clinical Fellow.

ASHA Clinical Fellowship requirements:

<https://www.asha.org/certification/completing-the-clinical-fellowship-experience/>

2. What is a clinical fellowship year?

This is a measured period of time, after earning the graduate degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders, during which the SLP Clinical Fellow completes a mentored professional experience with supervision requirements.

3. What are the supervision requirements of the SLP Clinical Fellow (ASHA) and the SLP Intern (SC LLR)?

While these two terms are similar, there may be some differences. The person completing the clinical fellowship must follow ASHA’s requirements for completing the clinical fellowship as well as the paperwork required. This person is simultaneously working as an SLP Intern under the SC LLR licensure board and completes the SC LLR’s requirements for upgrading from the SLP Intern license to the SLP license. **These are two separate pathways that are completed at the same time.**

Supervision for the ASHA SLP Clinical Fellow:

<https://www.asha.org/certification/clinical-fellowship/>

Supervision for the SLP Intern:

https://llr.sc.gov/aud/FORMS/SLP-A_Supervisor-Intern_Agreement.pdf

SC SLP and Audiology Practice Act: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c067.php>

SC SLP and Audiology Regulations: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/Chapter%20115.pdf>

4. What is the ASHA Clinical Fellow and SC LLR Intern’s Scope of Practice?

The licensed SLP and the licensed SLP Intern in South Carolina **do not have any differences in scope of practice.** As far as ASHA and SC regulations are concerned, the SLP Clinical Fellow and the SLP with their Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) also do not have any differences in scope of practice.

ASHA Scope of Practice: <https://www.asha.org/policy/sp2016-00343/>

SC Scope of Practice, 40-67-20(14): "Speech-language pathology" or "speech-language pathology service" means screening, identifying, assessing, interpreting, diagnosing, rehabilitating, researching, and preventing disorders of speech, language, voice, oral-pharyngeal function, and cognitive/communication skills; developing and dispensing augmentative and alternative communication systems and providing training in their use; providing aural rehabilitation and counseling services to hearing impaired individuals and their families; enhancing speech-language proficiency and communication effectiveness; screening of hearing, limited to a pass-fail determination; screening of other skills for the purpose of speech-language evaluation; and identifying individuals with other communication disorders.

SC SLP and Audiology Practice Act: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c067.php>

5. Does the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) differentiate between an SLP, a Clinical Fellow (ASHA) or SLP Intern (SC LLR)?

No. A speech-language pathologist, in accordance with 42 CFR 440.110(c)(2)(i)(ii)(iii), is an individual who meets **one** of the following conditions:

- (i) Has a certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech and Hearing Association;
- (ii) has completed the necessary equivalent educational requirements and work experience to qualify for the certificate;
- **(iii) has completed the academic program and is acquiring supervised work experience to qualify for the certificate.**

6. Why is the term SLP Intern Confusing?

A. For many occupations, an internship is completed as part of their training experience while completing their degree and they are referred to as "interns". This is the case for guidance counselors, school psychologists, and others. However, this is not the case for the Speech-Language Pathologist. They complete internships during and as part of their graduate program in order to earn a specific number of clinical clock hours. Then upon graduation from their Master Level Degree program, they completed a Clinical Fellowship Year. This is not the same thing as an internship as they are able to work independently, but under the mentorship of a licensed SLP.

A. The SC Department of Education refers to anyone who has a SC LLR license as a Speech-Language Pathologist but is working in the school setting as an Intern. This is factually inaccurate as SLPs are trained to evaluate and remediate disorders across the life span in any and all settings. There is no setting specific coursework required to practice in a school. This is similar to the related disciplines of Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) sent a letter of concern to the SCDE in March 2022 outlining their concerns with this certificate. Districts have struggled to recruit qualified SLPs because of this misunderstanding of the field of speech-language pathology.