

Professional Credentials in Speech- Language Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology

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The requirements for obtaining a professional license as a speech-language therapist and speech-language pathologist in Puerto Rico, as established by Law No. 77 of 1983, are outlined below.

Professional License in Puerto Rico

Academic Requirements:

- **Speech-Language Therapist:** Hold a bachelor's degree in speech therapy or its equivalent from an accredited university.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist:** Hold a master's or doctoral degree in speech-language pathology from an accredited institution.

Exam Requirements

- Pass the exams required by law
 - Submit the [exam application](#) to the Board of Examiners of Speech-Language Pathologists.
- Pay the exam and license fee
- Submit documents verifying identity and legal age
- Submit medical evidence from the healthcare professional treating the applicant

Other Requirements

- Have resided in Puerto Rico for the last six (6) months prior to the license application date, excluding occasional absences for professional, business, leisure, or study reasons.
- Provide satisfactory proof of good moral character (criminal record certificate)
- Complete one year of public service

More Information

For more information, refer to the following sources:

- Ley Núm. 77 de 1983: <https://bvirtualogp.pr.gov/ogp/bvirtual/leyesreferencia/pdf/77-1983.pdf>
- Patólogos, Audiólogos y Terapistas del habla (Puerto Rico Department of Health): <https://www.salud.pr.gov/CMS/338>
- Junta Examinadora de Patólogos del habla-lenguaje, Audiólogos, Terapistas del habla: Próximos exámenes: <https://www.didaxispr.com/juntas-examinadoras/patologos>

ASHA Certifications

Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP)

The **Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP)** or ASHA certification is a nationally recognized professional credential that ensures a speech-language pathologist has met high academic and clinical standards. Obtaining this certification signifies that the professional possesses the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to provide high-quality services in the field.

This certificate may be a requirement for certain job opportunities in the U.S., facilitates professional mobility between states, and requires ongoing education, ensuring that professionals stay up to date.

General Requirements for CCC-SLP Certification

To obtain certification, candidates must:

1. Complete a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from an accredited program.
2. Pass the Praxis national exam in Speech-Language Pathology.
3. Complete a supervised clinical fellowship period.
4. Comply with ASHA's Code of Ethics.

Timelines and Costs

The certification process follows a set timeline and requires the payment of fees, which may vary. It is recommended to check the most up-to-date information directly on the [ASHA website](#) or the relevant certifying authority.

More Information

For more information, visit the official ASHA:

- [Information about ASHA Certification for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology](#)

Certification for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (C-SLPA) according to ASHA

The **Assistants Certification Program** allows Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) to obtain a credential that validates their education, training, and ongoing competency assessment. This ensures that certified assistants are qualified professionals who can support service delivery in the field.

In **Puerto Rico**, this certification corresponds to **Speech-Language Therapists**. It is **not required** to practice the profession in Puerto Rico but serves as a credential granted by ASHA.

The **SLPA certification** validates the competencies of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) and ensures they meet professional and ethical standards (ASHA, n.d.). To obtain this certification, candidates must meet ASHA's established requirements, detailed below:

1. ASHA Offers Three Educational Pathways to Obtain SLPA Certification:

- **Associate degree in SLPA (2 years)** + courses and clinical practice.
- **Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders** + ASHA modules, courses, and clinical practice.
- **University degree + SLPA certification** or specific courses, ASHA modules, courses, and clinical practice.

2. Meet the Mandatory Requirements:

- **100 hours of clinical practice** supervised by an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist.
- **Mandatory Courses:**
 - 1 hour in **ethics**
 - 1 hour in **universal safety precautions**
 - 1 hour in **patient confidentiality**
- **Online educational modules** (if applicable).

3. Submit the Application:

- **Payment** of the current certification fee.
- **Submission of transcripts and certificates** within 60 days of application.

4. Certification Exam:

- Once the application is approved, an **eligibility ID** is issued to take the exam within **365 days**, with **up to two additional attempts** if not passed on the first try.
- If the **exam is passed**, the **C-SLPA certification** is awarded, and the **official ASHA credential** is received.

5. Certification Maintenance:

- It must be **renewed every 3 years** by:
 - Completing the **certification maintenance assessment**.
 - Adhering to **ASHA's Code of Ethics**.
 - Paying **annual fees**.

More Information

For more information, visit the official ASHA:

-  [ASHA Assistants Certification Program](#)

To learn about the specific requirements for individual states, you can visit the ASHA website:

-  [ASHA State by State](#)