

VOLUME 47, ISSUE
ISSUE DATE: **JUNE 15, 2015**
RULE ADOPTIONS
LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Adopted Amendment: N.J.A.C. 13:44C-6.2

Allocation of Credit

Proposed: June 2, 2014, at 46 N.J.R. 1322(a).

Adopted: October 6, 2014, by Steve C. Lee, Acting Director, **Division of Consumer Affairs**.

Filed: May 11, 2015, as R.2015 d.093, **without change**.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 45:3B-24.

Effective Date: June 15, 2015.

Expiration Date: February 17, 2016.

Summary of Public Comments and Agency Responses follows:

The official comment period ended August 1, 2014. The Acting Director received two comments from the following individuals:

1. Linda Tucker-Simpson, MS, CCC-SLP, President, New Jersey Speech and Hearing Association

2. Janet Koehnke, Ph.D., CCC-A, President, New Jersey Academy of Audiology

1. COMMENT: A commenter supports the amendments to N.J.A.C. 13:44C-6.2.

RESPONSE: The Acting Director thanks the commenter for her support.

2. COMMENT: A commenter opposes the amendments to N.J.A.C. 13:44C-6.2. The commenter contends that waiving continuing education requirements for newly licensed audiologists or speech-language pathologists provides no benefit to individuals or the profession. The commenter points out that waiving continuing education requirements could result in a licensee completing no continuing education for almost four years. The commenter contends that this is too long and does not conform to continuing education requirements in work settings or for other professions.

RESPONSE: The Acting Director disagrees with the commenter's contention that the amendments to N.J.A.C. 13:44C-6.2 do not benefit individuals or the profession. Waiving continuing education requirements for newly licensed audiologists and speech-language

pathologists, who have recently completed the initial education and passed the licensing examination, will reduce burdens on such individuals in that they will not have to allocate time to attend continuing education courses or incur financial costs for these courses. The Acting Director points out that many other professional licensing boards and committees provide a continuing education waiver for newly licensed individuals.

3. COMMENT: One commenter recommends that the Committee inform newly licensed individuals as to the number of continuing education hours they need to complete in order to renew a license. The commenter contends that this would notify a licensee and the Committee as to the individualized continuing education requirements for each renewal.

RESPONSE: Every licensee, except for those who are newly licensed, is required to complete 20 credit hours of continuing education in order to renew licensure. The Committee informs licensees of this through its website and renewal applications. There are no individualized continuing education requirements.

Federal Standards Statement

A Federal standards analysis is not required because there are no Federal laws or standards applicable to the subject matter of the adopted amendments.

Full text of the adoption follows:

SUBCHAPTER 6. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

13:44C-6.2 Allocation of credit

(a) Except as set forth in (b) below, applicants for biennial license renewal shall complete 20 credit hours of continuing education related to [page=1328] the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology in the preceding biennial renewal period.

(b) Licensees applying for their first biennial renewal are exempt from the continuing education requirements in (a) above.

(c) A licensee may obtain continuing education credit hours from the following sources:

1. Giving a new seminar, webinar, teleconference, lecture, or in-service workshop related to the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology: one credit hour per each hour of actual presentation of the seminar, lecture, or workshop, up to a maximum of 10 credit hours.

i. As used in (c)1 above, "new" means that the licensee has never presented the seminar, lecture, or in-service workshop before in any setting;

2. Teaching a new undergraduate course related to the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology at a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, or new graduate course in a college or university accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: six credit hours for each new course up to a maximum of 12 credit hours.

i. As used in (c)2 above, "new" means that the licensee has never taught the course before in any educational setting

3.-9. (No change.)