



# RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

## CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: June 15, 2022

TIME: 10:00 AM

WSR 22-13-103

**Agency:** Department of Health- Board of Hearing and Speech

**Effective date of rule:**

**Permanent Rules**

31 days after filing.

Other (specify) 08/01/2022 (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

Yes  No If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** WAC 246-828-025, 246-828-075, 246-828-300 and 246-828-990. The Board of Hearing and Speech (board) and the Department of Health (department) adopted rule amendments to clarify definitions, supervision of students' requirements, and expired license requirements. The adopted rule amendments to WAC 246-828-990 establishes fees for the hearing aid specialist practical examinations and amends verification and duplicate credential fees.

The board adopted rule amendments to clarify requirements for hearing and speech professions and make the rules consistent with nationally accepted standards. The adopted rule amendments increase clarity for supervision of students and reduce license barriers for practitioners with expired licenses to reactivate their licenses.

The department adopted rule amendments to establish a fee for the practical exam required for a hearing aid specialist license. The board and the department have tracked costs of this exam since it became a legislative requirement in July 2015 and determined a fee is necessary to support the cost of the program. All other applicants under this chapter pay for their examination through their college tuition. Additional fee changes include updating verification and duplicate credential fees for consistency with other health profession programs.

**Citation of rules affected by this order:**

New: none

Repealed: none

Amended: WAC 246-828-025, 246-828-075, 246-828-300, and 246-828-990

Suspended: none

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 18.35.161 and 43.70.250

**Other authority:**

**PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 22-07-092 on 03/22/2022 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

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Other:

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

**The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:**

Federal statute:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

**The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:**

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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**The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:**

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>4</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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**The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:**

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>4</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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**The number of sections adopted using:**

Negotiated rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Pilot rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>0</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>4</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>

**Date Adopted:** 06/13/2022

**Name:** Ray Parker and Kristen Peterson, JD for Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH

**Title:** Board of Hearing and Speech Chairperson and Deputy Secretary for Policy and Planning for Secretary of Health

**Signature:**



**WAC 246-828-025 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Board-approved institution of higher education" means:

(a) An institution offering a program in audiology or speech-language pathology leading to a master's degree or its equivalent, or a doctorate degree or its equivalent, that has been accredited by the council on academic accreditation in audiology and speech-language pathology, or an equivalent program.

(b) An institution offering a speech-language pathology assistant program or a speech, language, and hearing program approved by the state board for community and technical colleges, the higher education coordinating board, or an equivalent body from another state or province.

(c) An institution((s where education was obtained)) outside of the United States or Canada offering a speech-language pathology assistant program or a speech, language, and hearing program which has an equivalency determination completed by the board. ((This)) The program must lead to an associate of arts or sciences degree, certificate of proficiency, or bachelor of arts or sciences degree.

((e)) (d) A board-approved institution must integrate instruction in multicultural health as part of its basic education preparation curriculum under RCW 43.70.615.

(2) "Direct supervision" means the supervisor is on-site and in view during the procedures or tasks.

(3) "Hearing assistive technologies" means assistive listening systems or devices, and other technologies that increase the intelligibility, improves sound quality, or clarity of speech or sounds with or without the presence of background noise where hearing instruments alone may not provide optimal comprehension including, but not limited to, telecoil and Bluetooth.

(4) "Indirect supervision" means the procedures or tasks are performed under the supervising speech-language pathologist's, audiologist's, or hearing aid specialist's overall direction and control and the supervisor is accessible, but the supervisor's presence is not required during the performance of procedures or tasks.

(5) "Place or places of business" means a permanent address open to the public, which may include an "establishment" as defined in RCW 18.35.010(6), where a licensee engages in the fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments.

(6) "Postgraduate professional work experience" means a supervised full-time professional experience, or the part-time equivalent, as defined in these rules, involving direct patient or client contact, consultations, recordkeeping, and administrative duties relevant to a bona fide program of clinical work. Applicants who obtain an Au.D. at a board-approved institution of higher education are considered to have met the postgraduate professional work experience requirement.

(7) "Purchaser" or "buyer" means a patient, client, or legally authorized representative.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-14-092, filed 6/29/15, effective 7/1/15)

**WAC 246-828-075** (~~(Supervisors of students.)~~) **Requirements when students perform duties of their profession while under supervision.**

(1) A student((s)) enrolled in a board approved program may perform hearing aid specialist, audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant duties in the course of their educational training, while under supervision according to this section. For speech-language pathology applicants, supervised experience acquired during an educational program may not be applied towards the hours of postgraduate professional work experience required in WAC 246-828-04503.

(2) Supervisors of students must meet the following licensure requirements:

(a) A speech-language pathology or speech-language pathology assistant student must be supervised by a speech-language pathologist licensed and in good standing under chapter 18.35 RCW.

(b) An audiology student must be supervised by an audiologist licensed in good standing under chapter 18.35 RCW.

(c) A hearing aid specialist student must be supervised by a hearing aid specialist or an audiologist licensed and in good standing under chapter 18.35 RCW who has practiced for at least ((thirty-six)) 36 of the last ((forty-eight)) 48 months immediately preceding the beginning of supervision.

~~((2))~~ (3) A student((s)) may only perform those activities within the scope of practice for which they are adequately trained.

~~((3))~~ (4) The student must at all times wear an identification badge readily visible to the public that identifies ((him or her)) them as a student.

~~((4))~~ (5) The licensee who is supervising hearing aid specialist students must cosign all purchase agreements for the sale of hearing instruments. A supervisor may only ((be in a supervisor/supervisee relationship with)) supervise a maximum of three students at a time.

~~((5))~~ (6) The licensee who is supervising speech-language pathology or audiology students may include simultaneous observations with the student or the submission of written reports or summaries by the student for supervisor monitoring, review and approval. At least ((fifty)) 50 percent of each student's time in each diagnostic evaluation, including screening and identification, must be observed directly by a supervisor. The observations may take place on site or by ((closed-circuit television)) an audio/visual technology system that is HIPAA compliant.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 10-15-093, filed 7/20/10, effective 7/26/10)

**WAC 246-828-300 Expired license or certification.** (1) If the license or certification has expired for three years or less, the practitioner must meet the requirements ((of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2)) for renewal credentialing of practitioners in WAC 246-12-020 through 246-12-051.

(2) If the license or certification has expired for over three years, and the practitioner has been in active practice in another United States jurisdiction, the practitioner must:

(a) Submit verification of active practice from any other United States jurisdiction; and

(b) Meet the requirements (~~(of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2)~~) for renewal credentialing of practitioners in WAC 246-12-020 through 246-12-051.

(3) If the license (~~(or certification)~~) for a hearing aid specialist has expired for over three years, and the practitioner has not been in active practice in another United States jurisdiction, the practitioner must:

(a) Successfully pass the examination as provided in (~~RCW 18.35.050~~) WAC 246-828-020; and

(b) Meet the requirements (~~(of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2)~~) for renewal credentialing of practitioners in WAC 246-12-020 through 246-12-051.

(4) If the license for an audiologist or speech language pathologist has expired for over three years, and the practitioner has not been in active practice in another United States jurisdiction, the practitioner must:

(a) (i) Successfully pass the examination as provided in WAC 246-828-020; or

(ii) Provide verification of maintenance of Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) or be board certified in audiology by the American Board of Audiology; and

(b) Meet the requirements for renewal credentialing of practitioners in WAC 246-12-020 through 246-12-051.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-07-087, filed 3/17/16, effective 7/1/16)

**WAC 246-828-990 Hearing aid specialist, audiologist, speech-language pathologist, and speech-language pathology assistant fees and renewal cycle.** (1) Credentials must be renewed every year on the practitioner's birthday as provided in (~~chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2~~) WAC 246-12-030.

(2) Practitioners must pay the following nonrefundable fees:

<b>Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist</b>	
<b>Fee Type:</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b>Interim permit</b>	
Application	\$165.00
Permit	140.00
<b>Initial license</b>	
Application	110.00
License	95.00
HEAL-WA* surcharge	16.00
<b>Active license renewal</b>	
Renewal	75.00

**Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist**

<b>Fee Type:</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Late renewal penalty	50.00
HEAL-WA* surcharge	16.00
Expired license reissuance	140.00
<b>Inactive license</b>	
Renewal	60.00
Expired license reissuance	90.00
<b>Verification of license</b>	((30.00))
	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Duplicate license</b>	((30.00))
	<u>10.00</u>

\* Surcharge applies to speech-language pathologists only. HEAL-WA is the health resources for Washington online library. See RCW 43.70.110.

**Hearing Aid Specialist**

<b>Fee Type:</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b>Initial license</b>	
Application	\$110.00
License	95.00
<b><u>Hearing aid specialist practical exam for Washington hearing society applicants</u></b>	<u>\$350.00</u>
<b>Active license renewal</b>	
Renewal	75.00
Late renewal penalty	50.00
Expired license reissuance	136.00
<b>Inactive license renewal</b>	
Renewal	56.00
Expired license reissuance	86.00
<b>Verification of license</b>	((30.00))
	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Duplicate license</b>	((30.00))
	<u>10.00</u>

**Speech-Language Pathology Assistant**

<b>Fee Type:</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b>Initial credential</b>	
Application	\$85.00
<b>Active credential renewal</b>	
Renewal	45.00
Late renewal penalty	45.00
Expired credential reissuance	50.00
<b>Inactive credential renewal</b>	
Renewal	50.00
Expired credential reissuance	50.00
<b>Verification of credential</b>	((15.00))
	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Duplicate credential</b>	((15.00))
	<u>10.00</u>