

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR  
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (BIRTH THROUGH GRADE 12)**

**I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

The speech and language pathologist, initial student services certificate, valid for a period of four (4) years from the effective date of the certificate, will be issued to those persons meeting the following requirements:

- A.** Possess a master's degree or higher in speech pathology from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B.** Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C.** Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D.** Must achieve a score equal to or in excess of the qualifying score of the exit assessment(s), as designated by the State Board of Education; and
- E.** Completion of professional requirements as determined by the recommending college or university, which may exceed these minimum requirements.

**II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS** (Minimum requirement of eighteen (18) semester hours):

- A.** Foundations of Teaching:
  - 1. Foundations of Education;
  - 2. Child Psychology or Child Growth and Development;
  - 3. Adolescent Psychology;
  - 4. Counseling Techniques;
  - 5. School Organization and Management; and
  - 6. Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted).

**III. SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS** (Minimum requirement of sixty (60) semester hours):

- A.** Basic Communication Processes (Minimum requirement of twelve (12) semester hours):
  - 1. Anatomic and Physiologic Bases of Speech, Language, and Hearing (two (2) semester hours);
  - 2. Physical Bases of Speech, Language and Hearing (two (2) semester hours);
  - 3. Linguistic and Psychological Variables related to normal development and use of Speech, Language, and Hearing (two (2) semester hours); and
  - 4. Electives from 1, 2, and 3 above (six (6) semester hours);
  
- B.** Professional Course Content in Speech Pathology (Minimum requirement of thirty-six (36) semester hours):
  - 1. Language Disorders (six (6) semester hours);
  - 2. Audiology, Speech Science or related minor fields (six (6) semester hours);
  - 3. Linguistics (two (2) semester hours);
  - 4. Teaching of Reading (two (2) semester hours); and
  - 5. Electives in Speech Pathology and Supplementary Areas (twenty (20) semester hours); and
  
- C.** Clinical Practicum (three hundred (300) total clock hours amounting to twelve (12) semester hours):
  - 1. Evaluation: Speech disorders in children (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
  - 2. Evaluation: Speech disorders in adults (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
  - 3. Evaluation: Language disorders in children (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
  - 4. Evaluation: Language disorders in adults (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
  - 5. Treatment: Speech disorders in children (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);

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SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (BIRTH THROUGH GRADE 12)**

6. Treatment: Speech disorders in adults (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
7. Treatment: Language disorders in children (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours);
8. Treatment: Language disorders in adults (minimum of twenty (20) clock hours); and
9. Audiology: thirty-five (35) clock hours with a minimum of
  - a. Fifteen (15) clock hours in evaluation/screening; and
  - b. Fifteen (15) clock hours in habilitation/rehabilitation.

**OR**

**IV. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

An Initial student services certificate of license to teach as a speech-language pathologist valid for a period of four (4) years from the effective date on the certificate, will be issued to those persons meeting the following requirements:

- A. Possess a master's or higher degree from a state-approved program for speech-language pathologists;
- B. Possess a valid, unencumbered, undisciplined Missouri license as a Speech-Language Pathologist from the Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts; and
- C. Complete the PRAXIS II Specialty Area Test titled Speech-Language Pathology designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score.

**V. RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATE**

The speech language pathologist student services certificate may be renewed by persons meeting the following requirements:

**A. State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts**

1. Written request for renewal, every two (2) years; and
2. Verification of a valid, unencumbered and undisciplined Missouri license as a speech-language pathologist from the Missouri Board of Registration for Healing Arts;

**OR**

**B. Teacher Preparation Program – Career Continuous Student Services**

1. The speech and language pathologist, career continuous student services certificate will be issued upon completion and verification of the following:
  - a. Four (4) years of state-approved school speech and language pathology experience;
  - b. Participation in two (2) years of district-provided mentoring (during the first two (2) years of student services experience), the first of which may be an internship;
  - c. The development, implementation and completion of a professional development plan of at least forty (40) contact hours of professional development, or three (3) semester hours of graduate credit toward an advanced degree; and
  - d. Successful participation in an annual performance-based evaluation.
2. The speech and language pathologist, career continuous student services certificate will remain valid upon verification of the following:
  - a. Participation in a performance-based system of evaluation; and
  - b. Participation in twenty (20) contact hours of professional development annually.

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- 3.** The speech and language pathologist, career continuous student services certificate holder is exempt from additional professional development if the holder has a local professional development plan in place with the school and meets at least two (2) of the following:
- a.** Ten (10) years of state-approved speech/language pathologist experience;
  - b.** An education specialist's or higher degree in speech and language pathology; and/or
  - c.** Certification from a board-approved nationally recognized professional speech and language pathology organization.