



Alberta College of
Speech-Language Pathologists
and Audiologists

ACSLPA INSIGHTS

Introduction to Registration & Renewal

Renewal season is upon us once again! Read on for a brief explanation of why we have registration, why renewal season is so important, and what our guiding legislation, the Health Professions Act (HPA), has to say about registration processes.

Registration

ACSLPA is a health profession regulatory college established by Alberta's Health Professions Act. The HPA requires that individuals who provide speech-language pathology or audiology services (paid or as a volunteer) and anyone who teaches, manages, or conducts research in these areas must be registered with ACSLPA and have an active practice permit. Anyone using the title of speech-language pathologist, speech therapist, speech pathologist or audiologist in Alberta, must be registered with ACSLPA. Health colleges must also maintain a list (or register) of all registered members that is available to the public. Information to be included on the public register, as well as on ACSLPA practice permits, is also outlined in the HPA.

To make sure registration is relevant and meaningful the legislation requires the College to establish, maintain, and enforce certain standards for registration. For example, ACSLPA must require applicants to provide professional liability insurance, English language proficiency, and whether applicants have had any current investigations or previous discipline by a regulatory body. In addition to outlining requirements, the HPA allows ACSLPA to develop registration standards, policies, and processes.

The ACSLPA Council, Registrar, staff, and the Registration Committee each have roles in registration. Staff initially review all applications and contact the applicant if more information is needed. Then the registrar, or someone assigned by the registrar, reviews the complete application.

In some cases, such as with applicants who are educated outside of a Canadian accredited university training program, the application is referred to the Registration Committee for further review. This committee may approve the application, defer the application with an interim decision until the applicant successfully completes additional tasks (e.g., an examination, additional training, supervised practice), or they can refuse the application. The HPA allows applicants who are not pleased with the committee's decision and reasons to request a review by Council.

Sometimes an application will be approved but the member will have conditions on their practice permit. For example, a common condition you will see on the practice permit of a new registrant is the requirement to complete the jurisprudence exam. A common initial condition you will see on the practice permit of an individual who was trained outside of a Canadian accredited university program is that they can only practice under supervision until they successfully meet supervised practice requirements.

Renewal

After initial registration with ACSLPA, the *HPA* requires regulated members to renew their practice permit periodically. In the case of ACSLPA members, our Bylaws specify that renewal is done on an annual basis. This means that practice permits for speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Alberta are active from January 1st to December 31st of each year. December 1st is ACSLPA's renewal deadline.

To qualify for renewal, the *HPA* specifies that registration needs to be active (not suspended or cancelled), and that the regulated member meet certain requirements, including continuing competence and evidence of professional liability insurance. The *HPA* gives the Registrar the ability to suspend and cancel practice permits if an application for renewal and the associated fees are not received on time. In the case that a practice permit is cancelled, previous members can no longer go through a renewal process but must re-register with ACSLPA as if they were a new member—which means that renewal season is important!

We hope this helps you understand a little more about regulation and where many ACSLPA registration and renewal requirements come from. If you have any further questions or concerns please email feedback@acslpa.ca.