



AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE PROTECTED TITLE “DOCTOR” OR “DR.” BY SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST WHEN PROVIDING A HEALTH SERVICE

Revised Authorization Criteria; Approved by ACSLPA Council January 21, 2023

In order for the title “Doctor” or “Dr.” to be used:

The doctoral degree obtained must be earned in the professional practice area of the regulated member:

1. **A clinical doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology (e.g., CScD, DSLP, SLPD)** is a post-entry-level doctorate, designed for individuals who hold a master’s degree in speech-language pathology. It typically prepares a speech-language pathologist to assume advanced professional roles or to serve as collaborators of clinical research.

In order to be considered acceptable, the clinical doctorate degree must:

- a. be identified as a doctoral degree in speech-language pathology,¹
- b. be granted by a speech-language-pathology or communication-sciences-and-disorders department or program,
- c. be granted either from a government-authorized, degree-granting institution of higher education in Canada OR from an American program that meets the ASHA Guidelines for the Clinical Doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology OR by a university program outside of North America acceptable to the Registrar,² and
- d. provide indication on the academic transcript that the degree has been conferred.

2. **A PhD in Speech-Language Pathology** is also a post-entry-level degree designed for individuals who hold a master’s degree in speech-language pathology. It typically refers to a research doctoral program that prepares a person for a career as a teacher, researcher, and scholar, which may or may not include a clinical focus.

In order to be considered acceptable the PhD must:

- a. be identified as a doctoral degree in speech-language pathology OR in communication sciences and disorders OR rehabilitation science, with a concentration in SLP¹,
- b. be granted by:
 - i) a speech-language-pathology program,
 - ii) a communication-sciences-and-disorders program, or
 - iii) a rehabilitation-science department or program approved by Council.
- c. have been obtained from either a government-authorized, degree-granting institution of higher education in Canada **OR** an institution of higher education that is accredited by a U.S.-Department-of-Education-recognized accrediting agency **OR** by a university program outside of North America acceptable to the Registrar,² and
- d. provide indication on the academic transcript that the degree has been conferred.



3. **A professional Doctorate from a university program or department other than speech-language-pathology or communication-sciences-and-disorders** is also a post-entry level degree designed for individuals who hold a master's degree in speech-language pathology or a related field. It typically prepares an individual who already possesses a master's level professional degree to focus on putting theory into practice in specific professional settings. Examples of university departments that might offer a professional doctorate of relevance to a speech-language pathologist would include, but not be limited to Education or Psychology.

In order to be considered acceptable the professional doctorate degree must:

- a. be identified as a doctoral degree in a field of study related to speech-language pathology, with a concentration in speech language pathology¹,
- b. be granted by:
 - i.) a university department in a field of study related to speech-language pathology,
- c. have been obtained from either a government-authorized, degree-granting institution of higher education in Canada **OR** an institution of higher education that is accredited by a U.S.-Department-of-Education-recognized accrediting agency **OR** by a university program outside of North America acceptable to the Registrar,² and
- d. provide indication on the academic transcript that the degree has been conferred.

¹ Degrees awarded outside North America must be reviewed and confirmed by an academic credentialing body to ensure they are recognized as doctoral degrees in Canada.

² The Registrar or designate may conduct a high-level review of the course titles and may request more detailed information on course and/or dissertation content to confirm the degree was obtained in the professional practice area of the member (e.g., audiology).



APPLICATION FOR USE OF THE PROTECTED TITLE "DOCTOR" OR "DR." WHEN PROVIDING A HEALTH SERVICE

Registered audiologists and speech-language pathologists with doctoral degrees may use the title 'Doctor' or 'Dr.' alone or in combination with other words in connection with providing a health service, with written approval from ACSLPA.

To apply for approval:

1. Complete this application and forward to ACSLPA, along with any additional supporting documentation for consideration, by mail, fax or as a scanned email attachment.
2. Make arrangements for an original transcript, confirming the date the degree was conferred, to be sent to ACSLPA directly from the issuing university.

Upon receipt of the required documents, the application will be reviewed for compliance with established authorization criteria. Applicants will be notified of the decision by email.

Personal Information

Surname: _____

Given Name: _____

ACSLPA Registration Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Doctorate Degree Education

Degree Awarded: _____ Year: _____

Province/State/Country: _____

University: _____

DECLARATION

I understand that I must have written approval from ACSLPA prior to beginning use of the protected title "Doctor" or "Dr." when providing a health service.

I declare that the information provided with this application is complete and correct. I understand that a false or misleading statement may be cause for revocation of my practice permit or other disciplinary action.

Signature _____ Date _____

References

1. *Authorization Criteria for Use of the Protected Title "Doctor" or "Dr." by SL Ps When Providing a Health Service.* (2023). ACSLPA.
2. *Authorization Criteria for Use of the Protected Title "Doctor" or "Dr." by Audiologists When Providing a Health Service.* (2018). ACSLPA.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Approved / Denied _____ Authorized Signature _____