**CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SLP AND SLPA.**

**EDUCATIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATE CERTIFICATION:**

**Initial Certification Renewal**:

The Educational Staff Associate (ESA) may apply for an Initial ESA Renewal Certificate. The Initial ESA Renewal Certificate shall be valid for **five years**.

* Must complete 100 clock hours or equivalent college credits or PGP or a combination of any of the three options during a five-year period. **OR**  **Submit a copy of a valid Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) or Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP**) certificate issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) in lieu of clock hours, credits, or PGPs.

**Upgrade from Initial to Continuing Certification**

Must have completed 150 continuing education credits hours related to speech-language pathology, audiology, other health sciences, or education since the issuance of the Initial ESA Certificate

**What qualifies as a clock hour or (CECH)?** Minimum of one hour qualifies as a CECH. These can be earned using live and/or recorded education settings.

**CONVERSION OF CEUS TO OSPI CLOCK HOURS** An ESA can earn OSPI clock hours for courses in or out of state for workshops or conferences where other types of CEU/Professional Maintenance hours are offered. Such as ASHA, EAA AAA. For information on this please go to: . [CE Forms & Documentation](https://wslha.org/ce-forms-documentation)

**ESA WITH A STATE LICENSE -** An ESA with a Department of Health License is allowed to count any continuing education credits (CEUs) they completed to satisfy the requirements for their state professional health license to also fulfill the continuing education requirement (clock hour equivalents) for their certification renewal. [Form 4098V](https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/certification/certapp/4098v.pdf)   Please see [ESA Clock Hour Information](https://www.k12.wa.us/educator-support/continuing-education-clock-hours/department-health-license-hours-clock-hours-information) for details

**SALARY ADVANCEMENT USING OSPI CLOCK HOURS –** many school districts require **only** OSPI clock hours for salary advancement requirements, therefore an ESA is not able to use ASHA CEUs or professional development hours. The ESA must check with their HR departments to know the requirements of the district.

**WASHINGTON STATE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:**  To renew a WA State DOH license 30 hours of continuing education must be completed every three years. This is for SLPs and SLPA.

* At least one hour of infection control training must be completed.
* Courses, seminars, workshops and postgraduate programs offered by accredited educational institutions. These educational activities shall be recorded on an official transcript or certificate stating the number of continuing education units completed.
* Courses, seminars and workshops offering continuing clock or continuing educational units offered by profession-related organizations or industries. These units shall be accepted with proof of completion.
* Attendance at a continuing education program having a featured speaker(s) or panel, which has been sponsored or endorsed by a profession-related organization or industry.
* Participation as a speaker or panel member in a continuing education program which has been sponsored or endorsed by a profession-related organization or industry. A maximum of eight hours, including preparation time, may be applied to the total three-year requirement.
* Completion of a written, video, internet, or audio continuing education program which has been provided by, sponsored by, or endorsed by a profession-related organization or industry. Only programs in which proof of completion is provided or with tests that are not self-graded will be accepted.
* At the time of renewal the therapist signs a card verifying they have completed the continuing education requirement. Proof of attendance is not required, however the board will be doing random audits. If you are audited then you will need to show proof of attendance and completion of the courses. Therefore it is wise to keep track of everything you attend.

**ASHA CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE:** Individuals who hold the ASHA Certificate of Competence in Audiology and/or Speech Language Pathology are required to demonstrate participation in professional development activities every three years. The Certification Maintenance Standards require that all certificate holders must accumulate 30 hours of professional development during this time frame. The ASHA Clinical Certification Standards define professional development as an instructional activity:

* where the certificate holder is the learner;
* that is related to the science or contemporary practice of speech-language pathology, audiology, and/or the speech/language/hearing sciences;
* that results in the acquisition of new knowledge and skills or the enhancement of current knowledge and skills necessary for independent practice in any practice setting and area of practice;
* where the certificate holder is responsible for determining that the professional development activity is appropriate, relevant, and meaningful to any practice setting and area of practice; ASHA CEUs are just one way you can meet the professional development requirement for certification maintenance.

It is important if you are NOT taking a course for ASHA CEUs and/or are not on the ASHA CEU Registry that you obtain a certificate of attendance. If one is not supplied you will need to use the Verification of Attendance form (obtained on the ASHA web page), which must be signed by the authorized individual of the activity's sponsor. Activities you may choose to use but are not limited too are as follows:

* Employer-sponsored in-service activities such as grand rounds, special education workshops dealing with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, formal training sessions sponsored by manufacturers of equipment used in the evaluation or treatment of your clients, or courses addressing professional ethics, diversity issues, reimbursement, etc.
* Other continuing education activities such as state association workshops, other professional associations' workshops offered for continuing medical education (CME) units, university scientific symposia, or formal on-line, non-credit courses offered through a university.
* College or university course work from an institution that holds regional accreditation or its equivalent
* Courses offered by any provider authorized by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET)
* Supervisory and leadership content for individuals employed in supervisory or management positions.
* Teacher-oriented content that is not related to the professions but enhances your ability to better serve your clients.
* Business and management content that will help you manage your practice more effectively.