

Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators Approves National Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Competency Profiles

The Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators (CAASPR) is proud to announce that the National Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Competency Profiles, in both official languages, were approved by the CAASPR Board at their meeting in Edmonton, Alberta on April 29, 2018.

Purpose of the National Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Competency Profiles

The National Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Competency Profiles are a key component of CAASPR's Centralization and Capacity Building Project, a project funded by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The goal of this ambitious project is to harmonize the registration processes of audiologists and speech-language pathologists across the regulated jurisdictions in Canada to provide standardized outcomes, enhanced public safety, and improved labour mobility. Each competency profile includes a preamble to the profession as well as a set of *essential competencies* and their related *sub-competencies*. Together, the components of the competency profiles detail the professional competencies required of each clinician upon entry-to-practice in Canada, with the goal of safe and effective practice.

Background of the Project

Work began on the competency profiles in September, 2016, and was completed in April, 2018. In the developmental phase, the process involved the extensive participation of 22 Subject Matter Experts (SME) from across the country, who represented a regional diversity of years of experience, work with different client populations, care settings, and areas of practice. Included among the SMEs were representatives from all CAASPR member jurisdictions¹, Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC), the Canadian Academy of Audiology (CAA), the Canadian Council of University Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CCUP – CSD), and the Canadian Academic Coordinators of Clinical Education (CACCE).

The validation phases of this work included the participation of almost 2,000 clinicians and academics from across the country, who responded to a survey in July, 2017 regarding the essential competencies.

Additionally, in February and March, 2018, an estimated 150+ individuals, including clinicians, academics, and regulatory board and staff members from across the country provided feedback regarding the sub-competencies through focus groups or written feedback.

Thank you to consultants at Directions Evidence and Policy Research Group for their work on the essential competencies and to Jennifer Cupit for her work on the sub-competencies.

Next steps

CAASPR, in partnership with SAC, is now working on the development of a national competency-based entry-to-practice (CETP) examination.

¹ No SMEs from NL were included as the Newfoundland and Labrador Council of Health Professionals was not a member of CAASPR when the SME Groups were formed.

We would like to thank all those individuals and organizations who participated in this important work. We are grateful to the time, effort, and expertise they dedicated to this process.