

Request for Preliminary Review of Academic Background

If you do not have an academic degree (either bachelor's or master's level) in audiology, speech-language pathology or education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, you may request a review of your academic background. To request a preliminary review of your academic background, submit the Service Request Form on p.39 of this handbook and send it with a copy of your degree, transcripts and course descriptions from your coursework.

Upon receipt of your transcripts and course descriptions, the Academy's Certification Committee will determine whether your academic background meets the eligibility requirements for LSLS certification, or whether further evaluation from a third party agency is warranted to make a determination. The charge for a preliminary review of your academic background is \$40.*

Should the Academy's Certification Committee determine the need for a third party review, names of reputable agencies will be provided to the candidate who would then pursue and pay for that review according to the requirements of the chosen agency.

**Professionals whose education has been pursued in a non-U.S. institution typically are referred directly for a third party review*

Credentials

A professional seeking certification must hold a current license or credential to practice audiology, speech-language pathology or education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing in their geographic locale. To meet this requirement, the professional seeking certification must show documentation of a current license, certificate or other credential required by the state, province or country in which they practice. The most common credentials used to meet this requirement are a Certificate of Clinical Competence in audiology or speech-language pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), a state/provincial license in audiology or speech-language pathology, or a state/provincial diploma in education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Other credentials may be acceptable if they are a municipal requirement for the professional seeking certification's professional practice. Applicants practicing in a country where licensing is not available or necessary to practice, the mentee is required to submit a letter from the university indicating that the degree meets the Academy's requirements.

Continuing Education

Professionals seeking certification must complete at least 80 hours of continuing education within the nine domains of LSLS knowledge (see p. 22 for a full description) after receiving their professional degree. At least 50% (40 hours) of the 80 hours of continuing education must be completed within the 3 to 5-year application period. Continuing education hours (or CEUs) must be approved by the Academy prior to submitting the application to sit for the LSLS examination.

Continuing Education Activity Option	Minimum Required	Maximum Allowed
Attending Academy-approved educational programs	50 CEUs	70 CEUs
Development and/or presentation of an Academy-approved program		10 CEUs
Publishing a peer-reviewed article		10 CEUs
Structured observation of certified LSLS professionals – must be accompanied by a copy of the appropriate application attachment for each of the 10 hours of observation. For professional seeking AVEd certification, at least 3 of the observed sessions must be of a LSLS certified professional using parent coaching strategies while working with an individual child and the child’s parent or caregiver.	10 CEUs	

Professional Experience

Professionals seeking certification must complete a required number of clock hours of professional experience in the provision of listening and spoken language practice within a three to five year timeframe completed just prior to the submission of the application. This cannot include clock hours spent using formal visual communication systems such as Cued Speech, sign language, sign systems or formal instruction in speech reading. A portion of the professional experience hours may be in related activities, such as communication assessments, parent conferences, in-service of and consultations with school personnel, school visits, and assistance with audiologic evaluations. The total number of required hours and the minimum and maximum number of hours for each category is specified for each certification route on the LSLS application. Professionals seeking certification who were taught/supervised by a certified LSLS professional as part of their degree may apply up to 75 hours from their supervised auditory-verbal practicum to their professional experience requirements if it was within the past five years. Professionals seeking certification must submit a course outline along with the transcript and a letter from his or her supervisor to verify these hours.

Commit to the Principles of LSLS (AVT or AVEd)

All professionals seeking certification must sign their commitment to the Principles of LSLS for their intended designation.

Mentoring

The professional seeking certification must be observed and evaluated by a certified LSLS mentor while conducting a series of listening and spoken language sessions. The mentor must be a certified LSLS professional with a certification in good standing. Ideally, applicants will be mentored by a LSLS of their intended designation. However LSLS mentors of either designation (LSLS Cert. AVT or LSLS Cert. AVEd) may mentor any applicant. When a LSLS professional is acting as a mentor and the mentee is NOT of the same designation, the mentor may need to seek the input of another certified professional. This may occur when the professional experience of the mentor is outside the scope of practice of the mentee. In this instance, the mentor shall collaborate with a LSLS of the mentee’s intended designation (AVT/AVEd) in order to provide an appropriate mentorship.

The mentor should observe the professional seeking certification providing listening and spoken language sessions or classes and provide the professional seeking certification with appropriate feedback via the forms included in the LSLS applications. The professional seeking certification must provide the mentor with documentation of case history, audiologic information (including speech perception scores), diagnostic