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The 2025-2026 ArSHA SLPA committee provides the following information to help prospective Arizona SLPA candidates complete their 100 hours of direct client interaction to obtain their state license.

Background

Arizona state law (Arizona Revised Statutes [\[A.R.S.\] § 36-1940.04](#)) requires individuals seeking initial licensure as Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) to complete **100 hours of supervised clinical interaction** under the direct supervision of a **licensed Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) holding a master's or doctoral degree**. Observation hours **do not** meet this requirement. Direct supervision is defined as real-time in-person/telesupervision of the individual.

Securing appropriate supervised clinical interaction can be challenging for individuals who did not complete a clinical practicum during their undergraduate coursework.

Several Arizona institutions of higher education (e.g., Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, and Estrella Mountain Community College) include supervised clinical experiences within approved SLPA training programs. However, these institutions generally limit access to clinical supervision to students formally enrolled in their programs.

The information below is intended to help prospective SLPAs identify alternative, compliant pathways to complete the required 100 hours of supervised clinical interaction in Arizona.

Important Notice: Supervised clinical interaction is typically unpaid and comparable to student teaching or an internship. While paid arrangements may exist, they are not the prevailing standard of practice.

Due to variability in supervision capacity, staffing, and regulatory requirements, this document does not list specific SLPs, schools, clinics, or employers willing to provide supervision.

Guidance for Securing Supervised Clinical Interaction Hours

- **Prepare required documentation.** Maintain a current professional resume, valid fingerprint clearance card, academic transcripts, and—when available—letters of recommendation. Supervising entities may also require CPR and First Aid certification. Supervisors are ethically and legally responsible for client care and must ensure SLPAs are appropriately screened and



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prepared.

- **Approach the experience as a professional role.** Candidates should conduct themselves as emerging professionals. Research organizational policies, procedures, and professional dress expectations before initiating contact.
- **Target settings employing SLPAs.** Private practices, contract service providers, and school districts that employ SLPAs may be more familiar with supervision requirements and open to facilitating completion of clinical interaction hours. These placements may also support future employment decisions.
- **Avoid sites at supervision capacity.** Facilities already serving as practicum sites for colleges and universities with SLPA or graduate student clinicians may be unable to assume additional supervisory responsibilities due to supervision ratio limits.
- **Maintain flexibility in supervision arrangements.** Arizona regulations do not limit the number of supervisors or practice settings used to complete clinical interaction hours. Each supervising SLP must complete **page 6 of the Arizona SLPA Initial Licensure Application**, and all documentation should be submitted concurrently.
- **Demonstrate professional contribution.** Offering assistance with materials preparation, documentation organization, or administrative support—when appropriate and within scope—may enhance placement opportunities.
- **Exercise caution with paid internship agreements.** Some employers may offer paid clinical interaction arrangements contingent upon post-completion employment contracts. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review all contractual terms carefully and conduct due diligence before signing.
- **Follow appropriate school-based protocols.** When pursuing supervision in a school setting, contact district administration, special education leadership, and the supervising SLP. Implementation timelines may be extended due to district policies, parental notification requirements, and compliance procedures.
- **Maintain permanent records.** Retain original and scanned copies of all supervision documentation. These records may be required for future state licensure, ASHA certification, or employer verification.
- **Plan for realistic completion timelines.** Completion of 100 hours of supervised clinical interaction typically requires additional time for planning, documentation, and supervisory review. Academic programs often allocate a full semester for this process. Even in optimal conditions, candidates should anticipate **one to two months** for completion.
- **Engage in self-assessment.** Utilize the [ASHA SLPA Self-Evaluation Tool](#) and the [Arizona SLPA Scope of Practice](#) to identify competencies, limitations, and learning objectives for discussion with prospective supervisors.



Supervisory Relationship Checklist

The checklist below was developed by **Alice Williams, ArSHA SLPA**, and is provided as a professional resource to support effective supervision, regulatory compliance, and clinical skill development during supervised clinical interaction.

1. Establish Roles and Scope of Practice

- Review and document duties permitted within the Arizona SLPA Scope of Practice.
- Clarify supervisory responsibilities in accordance with Arizona statute, administrative code, and ASHA guidelines.

2. Communication and Documentation

- Establish a primary method of communication (e.g., email, scheduled meetings).
- Provide regular (weekly or biweekly) updates, addressing progress, caseload activities, and concerns.

3. Review of Clinical Performance

- Identify completed tasks and service delivery activities since the prior supervision meeting.
- Discuss observed skill development and competency growth.
- Identify areas requiring additional modeling, instruction, or support.

4. Goal Setting and Professional Development

- Collaboratively establish measurable short-term and long-term goals.
- Identify continuing education or professional learning opportunities (e.g., ASHA webinars, state association trainings).
- Select one to two priority competencies for the next supervision interval.

5. Feedback and Collaboration

- Engage in reciprocal, constructive feedback aligned with professional standards.
- Address concerns using objective, respectful, and ethical communication.
- Recognize achievements and progress toward clinical competence.

6. Schedule Ongoing Supervision



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- Confirm the date, time, and format of the next supervision session.
- Document action steps and expectations before the next clinical interaction period.

Important Note: All clinical interaction hours require 100% direct supervision.

Respectfully,

Vickie S. Jones, C-SLPA
Chair 2025-2026 ArSHA SLPA Committee