

Frequently Asked Questions about DC Licensure

Why do I need a license if I have my CCC?

A DC License is required by law in the District of Columbia. While CCC connotes competence, it does not compel a clinician to follow the laws of the District. 46 states have licensure requirements: it is best practice. Having licensure strengthens a consumer's confidence in the value of the therapist and services provided. By knowing who is licensed, the consumer is protected, but so is the clinician. We can stand by our qualifications, and the educational and professional rigor it takes to do our jobs.

Why are official transcripts needed? Can I use proof of ASHA membership?

Receiving a transcript directly ensures that the Department of Health has verified an applicant's status, rather than relying on an outside body

Why are speech language pathologists and audiologists in DCPS exempt?

Those decisions are made by local governments along with (or against) school districts. School employees are exempt from licensure requirements in a number of states, and in many places, you must take other exams/certifications.

I have a license in Maryland and I live in Maryland, but work in DC. Must I also carry a license for DC?

You must carry a license in every state in which you practice. This now includes the District.

For clinicians licensed in another state, can DC's licensure fees be reduced or waived?

You must pay the licensure fee even if you hold a license in another state. We did not find reciprocity agreements in multi-state areas that we looked at (NY-CT-NJ; PA-NJ; MD-VA)

What are the License fees?

\$264 every two years.

How was \$264 fee arrived at?

The fees are decided by the Department of Health, not the Board. The Board is not paid for its work. The DOH bases its fees on a variety of factors including but not limited to: administrative costs based on the number of practitioners and fees of other jurisdictions.

Is my licensure fee tax deductible?

Your fee may be tax deductible. You should consult your tax advisor about whether your licensure fee is tax deductible.

What are the requirements for licensure renewal (e.g., continuing education)?

Licenses must be renewed before they expire/laps by sending payment to the Department of Health. CEU requirements will be outlined in the near future. They are likely to be aligned with ASHA's requirements for CEUs. Use those as a guide.

Is a Criminal background check required?

On November 1, 2009, the District of Columbia requires a background check/fingerprinting. This is a global measure that applies to all licensees, including physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, etc. Clinicians are responsible for the \$50 fee.

Why is a Criminal background check required?

Background checks are considered best practice in order to ensure that clinicians (including all medical personnel) are acting within the law.

If a Criminal background check is required and my job has already done one on me is another one required?

Possibly. Call DOH to make sure.

What will happen if I do not obtain a license?

If it comes to the attention of the Department of Health that a therapist is practicing without a license the Department can levy a fine and/or prevent a therapist from practicing.

How will the Board know if an SLP or Audiologist is practicing in DC without a license?

Investigation is not the work of the Board. However, the Department of Health has salaried personnel whose job it is to investigate reports of licensure violations. The board may order an investigation on a licensed person, so this is not technically correct. Licensed practitioners report unlicensed practitioners.

Is there a "Grandfather Clause"?

All clinicians who practice in DC must be licensed. However, provisions have been made in the regulations for those therapists who no longer have access to certain types of documentation. Contact Fatima Abby at the DOH for more information.

Are clinical fellows in speech language pathology and audiology required to have a license?

CFs are not currently required to have a license.

Are Assistants in Speech Language Pathology required to have a license? Speech-Language Pathology Assistants do not have a licensure category yet. If Speech-Language Pathology Assistants are doing the work of an SLP, they would need a SLP license.

How will employers know that their clinicians need a license to practice in DC? What if they continue to employ them without a license?

In the next few days, letters will be sent to healthcare facilities, hospitals, universities and organizations informing them of the licensing requirement. Licensure requirements Information are also posted on the Department of Health/Health Professional Licensing Administration's website. Electronic bulletins will be posted at ASHA's (and DCSHA's) website. Employers who continue to employ unlicensed clinicians could face fines.

Will I receive a certificate or a card as proof of licensure?

You will receive both a card and a certificate as proof of licensure. Your license must be displayed at your workplace.

Why are photos needed for the application?

Your photo will be used for your wallet license.

Is there a minimum number of supervision experience required to supervise a CFY?

Yes. A supervisor must have been in practice for a minimum of two (2) years after licensure or certification.

If I am supervising a student in DC but I practice and hold a license in Maryland and/or VA, do I have to obtain my DC licensure?

If the student is practicing in the District, the supervisor must be licensed in the District.

If I am a University Professor in MD or VA and place a student in a DC facility for a student placement, am I required to hold a DC License to supervise my student?

If you are the student's supervisor of record, then you need a DC license. On an outplacement, a graduate student usually has an onsite supervisor: that supervisor must be licensed in DC.