

1 AN ACT concerning professional regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and  
5 Audiology Practice Act is amended by changing Section 8.6 as  
6 follows:

7 (225 ILCS 110/8.6)

8 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2018)

9 Sec. 8.6. Minimum requirements for speech-language  
10 pathology assistant programs.

11 (a) An applicant for licensure as a speech-language  
12 pathology assistant must have earned 60 semester credit hours  
13 in a program of study that includes general education and the  
14 specific knowledge and skills for a speech-language pathology  
15 assistant. The curriculum of a speech-language pathology  
16 assistant program must include all of the following content, as  
17 further provided by rule promulgated by the Department:

18 (1) Twenty-four ~~Thirty-six~~ semester credit hours in  
19 general education.

20 (2) Thirty-six ~~Twenty-four~~ semester credit hours in  
21 technical content areas designed to provide students with  
22 knowledge and skills required for speech-language  
23 pathology assistants, which must include (i) an overview of

1 normal processes of communication; (ii) an overview of  
2 communication disorders; (iii) instruction in  
3 speech-language pathology assistant-level service delivery  
4 practices; (iv) instruction in workplace behaviors; (v)  
5 cultural and linguistic factors in communication; and (vi)  
6 observation.

7 (3) Completion of at least 100 hours of supervised  
8 field work experiences supervised by a licensed  
9 speech-language pathologist at least 50% of the time when  
10 the student is engaged in contact with the patient or  
11 client. An applicant must obtain written verification  
12 demonstrating successful completion of the required field  
13 work experience, including a description of the setting in  
14 which the training was received and an assessment of the  
15 student's technical proficiency.

16 (b) The Department may promulgate rules that change the  
17 curriculum requirements of subsection (a) in order to reflect  
18 the guidelines for speech-language pathology assistant  
19 programs recommended by the American Speech-Language Hearing  
20 Association.

21 (c) Any applicant for licensure as a speech-language  
22 pathology assistant who applies to the Department prior to the  
23 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General  
24 Assembly or any person who holds a valid license as a  
25 speech-language pathology assistant on the effective date of  
26 this amendatory Act shall not be required to meet the new

1 minimum requirements for a speech language pathology assistant  
2 program under subsection (a) of this Section 8.6 that are  
3 established by this amendatory Act.

4 (Source: P.A. 92-510, eff. 6-1-02.)

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.