



**EDUCATIONAL COMPARISON  
BETWEEN SLP and BCBA PROFESSIONS:**

<b>Education Required:</b>	<b>SLP</b>	<b>BCBA</b>
Master's, doctoral, or other recognized post-baccalaureate degree in Speech-Language Pathology or Communication Disorders OR Master's or doctoral graduate degree in behavior analysis or a functional equivalent OR educational degree with specific documentation requirements focused on education or psychology	✓	✓
Program of study (minimum of 36 semester credit hours at graduate level) that includes academic coursework and supervised clinical experience in the following areas: -Statistics; -Biological Sciences, related to human or animal sciences: biology, human anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, human genetics, veterinary science; -Physical Sciences: physics or chemistry -Social/Behavioral Sciences: psychology, sociology, anthropology, or public health; -Human Communication: biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural bases; -Swallowing Processes: biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural bases; -Knowledge of Communication and Swallowing Disorders and Differences, including the appropriate etiologies, characteristics, and anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speech sound production, to encompass articulation, motor planning and execution, phonology, and accent modification;</li> <li>• fluency and fluency disorders;</li> <li>• voice and resonance, including respiration and phonation;</li> <li>• receptive and expressive language, to include phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics (language use and social aspects of communication), prelinguistic communication, paralinguistic communication (gestures, signs, body language), and literacy in speaking, listening, reading, and writing;</li> <li>• hearing, including the impact on speech and language;</li> </ul>	✓	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• swallowing/feeding, including structure and function of orofacial myology, oral, pharyngeal, laryngeal, pulmonary, esophageal, gastrointestinal, and related functions across the life span;</li> <li>• cognitive aspects of communication, including attention, memory, sequencing, problem solving, and executive functioning;</li> <li>• social aspects of communication, including challenging behavior, ineffective social skills, and lack of communication opportunities; and</li> <li>• augmentative and alternative communication modalities</li> </ul>		
Integrate information pertaining to normal and abnormal human development across the life span	✓	
Prevention, assessment, and intervention for persons with communication and swallowing disorders, including consideration of anatomical/physiological, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates	✓	
Ethical Conduct	✓	✓
Processes used in research and research principles into evidence-based clinical practice	✓	
Contemporary professional issues	✓	
Entry level and advanced certifications, licensure, and other relevant professional credentials, as well as local, state, and national regulations and policies relevant to professional practice	✓	
Oral and written or other forms of communication sufficient for entry into professional practice	✓	
Experiences sufficient in breadth and depth to achieve the following skills outcomes: -Evaluation -Intervention -Interaction and Personal Qualities	✓	
Supervised Clinical Experiences: interprofessional education and interprofessional collaborative practice with related professionals	✓	
Minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised clinical experience in the practice of speech-language pathology and supervised practicum must include experience with individuals: -across the life span and from culturally/linguistically diverse backgrounds -with various types and severities of communication and/or related disorders, differences, and disabilities OR	✓	



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<p>Defined Supervised Practical Experience: conducted after coursework is completed according to the related <i>BCBA Task List</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Supervised Independent Fieldwork: 1500 hours</li> <li>-Practicum: 1000 hours</li> <li>-Intensive Practicum: 750 hours</li> </ul> <p><i>BCBA Task List</i> includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Basic Behavior-Analytic Skills: measurement, experimental design, behavior-change considerations, fundamental elements of behavior change, specific behavior-change procedures, behavior-change systems</li> <li>2. Client-Centered Responsibilities: identification of the problem, measurement, assessment, implementation, management, and supervision</li> <li>3. Foundational Knowledge: explain and behave in accordance with the philosophical assumptions of behavior analysis, distinguish between the verbal operants, measurement Concepts</li> </ol>		✓
<p>Pass national examination adopted by ASHA in speech-language pathology OR Pass BCBA certification examination</p>	✓	✓
<p>Completion of Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship (CF): -36 weeks of full-time mentored professional experience or its part-time equivalent of clinical service activities that foster the continued growth and integration of knowledge, skills, and tasks of clinical practice in speech-language pathology consistent with ASHA’s current <i>Scope of Practice in Speech-Language Pathology</i></p>	✓	
<p>Maintenance of Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Speech-Language Pathology: accumulation and reporting of 30 Certification Maintenance hours (continuing education) with at least 1 hour in ethics during every 3-year maintenance interval OR Maintain BCBA Certification: ongoing continuing education (32 units within each two-year recertification cycle with 4 units in ethics and 3 units in supervision), adhere to BACB’s ethics requirements and self-reporting requirements, and submit a complete recertification application and associated fees every two years</p>	✓	✓
<p>Washington State License</p>	✓	✓
<p>Completed acceptable graduate coursework in behavior analysis by passing grade of “C” or better for graded courses or “pass” in pass/fail system with 270 classroom hours of graduate-level instruction in the following content areas: -Ethical and Professional Conduct -Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis</p>		✓



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-Research Methods in Behavior Analysis: measurement, experimental design -Applied Behavior Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fundamental elements of behavior change &amp; specific behavior change procedures,</li> <li>• identification of the problem &amp; assessment,</li> <li>• intervention &amp; behavior change considerations,</li> <li>• behavior change systems, implementation, management, and supervision</li> </ul>		
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### Resources/References:

1. 2020 Standards and Implementation Procedures for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology <https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-SLP-Certification-Standards/>
2. Behavior Analyst Certification Board BCBA <https://www.bacb.com/bcba/bcba-requirements/>
3. Behavior Analyst Certification Board Ethics <https://www.bacb.com/ethics/>
4. Washington State Department of Health Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) <https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/AppliedBehaviorAnalysis>
5. Washington State Department of Health Speech-Language Pathologist License Requirements <https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/SpeechLanguagePathologist/LicenseRequirements>