

## **Professional Development:**

SLPs are expected to maintain and update their professional knowledge on a regular basis after graduation. Many opportunities exist within local and national professional organizations to accomplish this. ASHA and other certification entities, in order to maintain continuance, require the mandatory accumulation of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). It is the responsibility of the professional to be aware of the CEU requirements, if any, for each certification and/or licensing maintenance.

### Connecticut State Teacher's Certification Continuing Education Requirements:

SLPs who have been issued the Professional Educator Teaching Certificate are subject to teacher certification continuing education requirements. The Professional Educator Teaching Certificate will be continued every five years upon the successful completion of no fewer than nine continuing education units (90 hours) or their equivalent, during each successive five-year period.

### Department of Public Health Licensing Continuing Education Requirements:

There are currently no mandatory continuing education requirements needed for continuance of the speech-language pathology/audiology license.

### American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) [Certification Maintenance](#)

All ASHA certified members are required to complete continuing education in order to maintain their certification status. Thirty hours of professional development over a three year period are required.

ASHA Continuing Education Units may be accumulated through an ASHA approved sponsor. A form must be completed and validated for each continuing education experience achieved. Professionals may obtain prior approval from ASHA to engage in independent study as a means to accumulate ASHA CEUs. Please see ASHA [Continuing Education Guidelines](#) for more details.

### [Membership in the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association:](#)

SLPs employed in the State of Connecticut are encouraged to join the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA). Membership in this organization enables SLPs to keep current regarding the Connecticut clinical community and permits participation in all CSHA activities including biannual conferences. These conferences provide an opportunity to network with other professionals and hear outstanding persons in the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology present new information. Further, members will be listed in and receive the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association Membership Directory and the CSHA Newsletter in which clinical community events are listed. Through numerous CSHA committees, members have

an opportunity to shape the role of the speech-language pathologist and audiologist in the State of Connecticut. CSHA is closely allied with ASHA through legislative participation. CSHA sends three elected legislative counselors to ASHA as participants in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's policy-making body. State legislative counselors have direct input into ASHA activities. There are three classifications of CSHA membership:

1. voting member; 2. professional affiliate; and 3. associate.

CSHA offers free membership to all speech-language pathology and audiology graduate students. Further, CSHA offers a waiver of the first year membership to recent graduates in speech-language pathology and audiology.

All materials necessary to apply for membership in CSHA may be found utilizing the following contact information or [online](#):

Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association Office  
Office Manager: Maria Parker  
213 Back Lane  
Newington, CT 06111  
Tel: (860) 666-6900  
Fax: (860) 667-0144

#### Looking for a Job:

The Department maintains a bulletin board listing all position vacancies reported to faculty and staff. Those seeking positions should check the board frequently as new notices are posted regularly.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association lists position vacancies at the national level in the Association's "ASHA Leader" newsletter. Members of the [National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(NSSLHA\)](#) and [ASHA](#) members receive this newsletter at no additional cost.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association also offers information on preparing a resume and [starting a career](#). Prospective job seekers are encouraged to take advantage of this information by utilizing this link.

#### Department of Communication Disorders Alumni Activity:

Alumni are encouraged to visit the [CMD website](#) and the [CMD Alumni Facebook](#) often. Current Department activities as well as program changes are posted on these pages.

### Alumni and Employer Surveys:

In keeping with requirements of the institution, licensing, certification, and accrediting agencies, the Department, conducts surveys of graduates and their employers on a 4-5 year cycle. The results of these surveys are used with other assessment instruments to evaluate the currency and quality of our programs. We respectfully request that our Department alumnus participate in these surveys. In the past, the return on our survey questionnaires has been excellent. We would like to continue this record. The more information we receive regarding the programs the better they will become. Please see the “**Department Evaluation**” section in this handbook for more complete information on Department evaluation processes.