

American Board of Audiology (ABA) Certification Update

**CAPCSD
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Current ABA Certifications

Board Certified in Audiology

Cochlear Implant Specialty Certification (CISC)

Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification (PASC)



The Concept of Board Certification

“ The concept of Board Certification was **first proposed in 1908** by Dr. Derrick T. Vail in his presidential address to the **American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology**. He stated that the purpose was to define specialty qualifications, to supervise examinations that test the preparation of those who desire to practice, and to **issue credentials that would assure the public of the specialist's qualifications**. His suggestion was approved, and other disciplines soon followed.”

From: Beauchamp, J.A. (2011). Certified audiology:
The ins and outs of board certification.
The Hearing Journal, 64 (3), 10, 12-14.


American Board of Audiology

- The ABA was established in 1999
- Autonomous organization with an 11-member Board of Governors
- Focus is on certifying audiologists according to guidelines and best practices developed by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

The NCCA's mission is to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the public through the accreditation of a variety of individual certification programs that assess professional competency.

American Board of Audiology


- ABA Board of Governors
 - 9 voting members: Seven audiologists elected by board certified audiologists, one public member appointed by the Chair, and one liaison from the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Audiology
 - Immediate past Chair and ABA Managing Director are non-voting members
 - Liaison appointed by Student Academy of Audiology (SAA)



“Board Certification in audiology is vital to the ultimate emergence of audiology as an independent profession....There can be no compromise on this point.

James Jerger, PhD.

Jerger, J. (1998). Editorial. *Audiology Today*. 10(6), .



Board Certified in Audiology

- Doctoral degree in Audiology from an accredited college/university
- Current state license in good standing
- **Passing score on a national examination of audiology**
- Complete 2,000 hours of mentored professional practice in a 2 year period (post degree)
- Uphold ethical standards set forth by ABA

Board Certified in Audiology

- 60 hours of continuing education required every 3 years (certification valid for a 3 year period)
 - 15 hours of this must be Tier 1 or Tier 1 Interactive;
3 hours must to be focused in ethics

What is the Tier 1 program?

- More in-depth continuing education in a specific topic
- Three hours of intermediate or advanced content in a specific topic
- Assessment at conclusion of each course

What is the Tier 1 program?

- Currently, looking at aspects of Tier 1 in relation to how to enhance the program...even better alignment of more in-depth education with principles of adult learning
 - Focus has been to address principles of adult learning in Tier 1 Interactive
 - Cooperative learning
 - Consistent with other professions
 - Interactive approach

Tenets of ABA Board Certification

1. Voluntary
2. Not tied to membership in any professional organization
3. Students not tied to clinical supervision by an audiologist who holds ABA Board Certification in Audiology or ASHA CCC's
4. High level of professional development and ethical practice



ABA Specialty Certifications

Cochlear Implant Specialty Certification
(CISC) – Established 2004

Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification
(PASC) – Established 2011



Tenets of ABA Specialty Certification

1. Must be based upon an in-depth Practice Analysis
2. Examinations must be rigorous and valid -- developed in concert with Subject Matter Experts and a Psychometrician (*person who practices the science of measurement of an individual's psychological attributes, including the knowledge, skills, and abilities a professional might need to work in a particular job or profession.*)
3. Intent to validate one's knowledge in a specific area
4. Provide guidelines to consumers in decision-making; signifies a higher level of knowledge and commitment to ongoing education in this area
5. Not tied to any Board Certification requirement
6. Practice Analysis frequently updated (at least once every five years) to assure that the knowledge being assessed is "cutting edge" and that information and content reflect current practice

KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification (PASC)

D1: Laws and Regulations

D2: General Knowledge about Hearing and Hearing Loss

D3: Child Development

D4: Screening and Assessment Procedures

D5: Counseling

D6: Communication Enhancement Technology

D7: Habilitation/Rehabilitation Strategies,
Educational Supports

Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification (PASC)

- In addition to other requirements, must document 550 direct pediatric patient post-graduate contact hours and 50 hours of case management within a 2-year period during the past 5 years.
- Must pass a 100-question examination; 2.5 hours
- 60 hours of continuing education required every 3 years (certification valid for a 3 year period) – 30 credits in pediatric topics
- Established in 2011, there are 66 certificants to-date and growing.
- Next PASC Exam
Cincinnati – October 5, 2013

*Hosted by the Cincinnati Children's Hospital and
the Ohio Academy of Audiology*

KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

Cochlear Implants Specialty Certification (CI)

D1: Candidacy Considerations

D2: Counseling/Expectations

D3: Surgical Considerations

D4: Programming Principles/Speech Coding

D5: Device Operation

D6: Trouble Shooting

D7: Rehabilitation

D8: Outcomes

Cochlear Implant Specialty Certification (CISC)

- In addition to other requirements, must document 450 direct cochlear implant patient post-graduate contact hours and 50 hours of case management within a 2-year period during the past 5 years.
- Must pass a 100-question examination; 2 hours
- 60 hours of continuing education required every 3 years (certification valid for a 3 year period) – 30 credits in cochlear implant topics
- Established in 2004, there are 40 certificants to-date
- Next CISC Exam
Cincinnati – October 5, 2013


*Hosted by the Cincinnati Children's Hospital
the Ohio Academy of Audiology*

On the horizon....

- Working toward accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies
- Exploring options to expand number of specialty certifications (including interest in the profession, number of SMEs available, and budgetary aspects)
- Streamlining application processes
- For updates, check ABA website at <http://www.americanboardofaudiology.org/>

Mentoring program: “Meet and greet” at AudiologyNOW

- Students are paired with board certified mentors; begin their mentoring relationship with a luncheon at AudiologyNOW
- Opportunities to learn about all aspects of the profession
- Often have a long term relationship that is initiated at the Meet and Greet



Certification is an added-value
credential that defines us as
professionals—not as meeting
the minimum practice standard
but rather meeting a higher
professional standard

Jim Beauchamp, AuD (2011)

