

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT 56 OF 1974

## RULES RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF SPEECH THERAPY AND AUDIOLOGY STUDENTS AND MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE TRAINING OF SPEECH THERAPISTS, AND/OR AUDIOLOGISTS

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The South African Medical and Dental Council has in terms of [section 32](#) (1) of the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Service Professions Act, (Act 56 of 1974), made the rules set out in the Schedule hereto.

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### DEFINITIONS

1. In this Schedule, unless the context otherwise indicates -

“**the Act**” means the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Service Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) and unless the context otherwise indicate any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear that meaning -

“**section**” a section of the Act.

### REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS IN SPEECH THERAPY AND AUDIOLOGY

2. A student in speech therapy and audiology at a university in the Republic, offering a qualification in speech therapy and audiology which qualification is recognised by the council under the provisions of the Act, shall submit to the registrar an application for registration as a student in speech therapy and audiology in accordance with the provisions of rule 3 hereof -

- (a) in the case of a student commencing attendance at such university in the first year of study, within two months following such commencement; or
  - (b) in the case of a student who has been exempted from the first, second or third year of study, within two months following his commencement of attendance in the second, third or the fourth year of study, respectively; or
  - (c) in the case of a student who on the date of publication of these regulations, has already commenced attendance of courses at a university within two months of the date of publication of these regulations.
- 3.** An application for registration as a student in speech therapy and audiology shall be accompanied by -
- (a) a birth certificate; or, if the student is unable to furnish a birth certificate, a baptismal certificate or such other evidence with regard to his age and correct names as may be to the satisfaction of the registrar;
  - (b) a matriculation certificate of the Joint Matriculation Board or a certificate of exemption from the matriculation examination granted by that board;
  - (c) a certificate indicating that a student commenced study for a qualification in speech therapy and audiology at a university approved by the council, which certificate shall indicate the year of study in which the student is enrolled and the date on which he was so enrolled;
  - (d) a registration fee of R10:

Provided that every application by a student in speech therapy and audiology who has been admitted to a university in South Africa in a temporary capacity not exceeding one academic year and not for degree purposes, need be accompanied only by a certificate of having commenced study of a subject or subjects in a year of study for a qualification in speech therapy and audiology, and proof that he is registered as a speech therapy and/or audiology student by a registering authority recognised by the council for this purpose in a country or state other than the Republic of South Africa.

- 4.** A student in speech therapy and audiology who resumes study after having interrupted such study for a period of at least one year, shall submit an application for reregistration within two months of resumption of study in speech therapy and audiology; such application shall be accompanied by a certificate of having resumed study in speech therapy and audiology, his original certificate of registration, and a fee of R1 : Provided that, in cases where a student interrupts his studies for a period of more than one year but annually states in writing his intention of continuing with his studies, the name of such student shall not be erased from the register of students in speech therapy and audiology.

5. Every student who applies for registration in terms of rule 4, and who is not able to submit his original certificate of registration, shall apply for a certified copy of his original certificate of registration for which a fee of 50c shall be payable.
6. An application for registration of reregistration together with the documents and fees mentioned in rule 3 or 4, as the case may be, submitted after the date mentioned in rule 2 or 4, respectively, shall be subject to an additional registration fee of 50c in respect of each month or portion of a month it is submitted after such date.
7. The Registrar issues a registration certificate to a student who is registered under this rule which certificate for the purpose of rule 9 may indicate the date of registration of such a student -
  - (a) In the case of a student who obtains recognition for subjects prescribed for a qualification in speech therapy and audiology, which subjects he took and in which he passed examinations at a university or training institution approved by the council; with the exception of the university or training institution where he is admitted as a speech therapy and audiology student, the date of his registration as a speech therapy and audiology student may be antedated for a period equivalent to that for which he obtained recognition: Provided that recognition shall not be granted for a period of more than three years of study; or
  - (b) the date on which the student commenced his studies in speech therapy and audiology at an approved university where he is registered.
8. The name of a student in speech therapy and audiology shall be erased from the register as soon as he has been registered as a speech therapist and audiologist, or as soon as proof is given to the satisfaction of the registrar that such student had discontinued his studies in speech therapy and audiology within the Republic.
9. No person shall be eligible for registration as a speech therapist and audiologist until a period of four years have elapsed since the date of his registration as a speech therapy and audiology student.

## **10. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE TRAINING OF SPEECH THERAPISTS AND/OR AUDIOLOGISTS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Speech Therapy and/or Audiology comprise paramedical professions established to treat the communication-impaired. These professions are concerned with the habilitation and rehabilitation of those who suffer from communication disorders.

Disorders can be divided into those of speech (e.g. stuttering, defects of articulation or voice, speech patterns associated with cleft palate or cerebral palsy); of language (e.g. language delay or impairment in the child, or loss of acquired language due to specific

cerebral lesion); of hearing, with its receptive difficulties and consequent speech and language disorders.

While the speech therapist and audiologist deals with all the above disorders, the speech therapist concentrates on disorders of speech and language, and the audiologist on disorders of hearing, although each of these professionals must have an awareness of the entire field and the effects of all aspects of communication on each other.

The aim of undergraduate education in these areas is to train the student to assess and treat the types of communication disorders relevant to his profession. It is necessary for him to have a sound knowledge of the processes underlying normal communication and of the disorders which can occur. By the very nature of the field of communication disorders, it utilises information and principles from other disciplines; as it is essentially an applied science, training should include study of topics in related areas in varying depths. A clinical and creative attitude towards knowledge must be imbued in the student. He must learn to evaluate contributions of authorities by approaching his studies with a scientific attitude; he must also be encouraged to contribute sound, well-supported data to the growing field of knowledge in this relatively new applied area. Because therapy is an art as well as a science, training must be concerned with the establishment and refinement of skills and attitudes necessary for working with people. The student must learn to respect the individuality of the person to whom he is giving therapy; he must become proficient in perceiving and dealing with feelings and attitudes which are often the direct concomitants of disordered communication.

All aspects of training must emphasize an awareness of ethical behaviour-the student must realise his academic, personal and professional obligations and be totally committed to further the well-being of his patient. He must know how to learn from and to teach others in the rehabilitative team and to work in meaningful co-operation with others. He must be sensitively aware of the larger needs of the community and be willing to do everything possible to prevent, as well as treat, communication disorders.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

The courses of study shall consist of systematic instruction and clinical training. They shall comprise formal academic work, teaching by using clinical patients and seminars and demonstrations, which will serve to integrate academic and clinical teaching. Students should also be instructed in the principles of research protocol.

A university in the Republic which offers a qualification in Speech Therapy and/or Audiology which qualification to be recognised by Council, shall offer students the following courses:

## **MAJOR SUBJECTS**

- (a) Audiology as a major subject to students in speech therapy and/or audiology which will enable such students to -

- (i) determine and evaluate the range, nature and degree of hearing function of a person in relation to his auditory efficiency and communication needs.
  - (ii) be familiar with the use of electro-acoustic instrumentation;
  - (iii) assess receptive speech and language pathology associated with hearing impairment; and
  - (iv) be capable of planning, conducting, directing or participating in the habilitation and/or rehabilitation of persons with hearing disorders, including the fitting and use of hearing aids, auditory training, speech reading, signing systems, speech conversation, speech and language acquisition, counselling and guidance related to the hearing disorder concerned and hearing conservation programmes.
- (b) Audiology for students in speech therapy to enable such students to -
- (i) evaluate and determine the range, nature and degree of hearing function of a person in relation to his auditory efficiency and communication needs;
  - (ii) be aware of the intimate relationship between hearing, speech and language to be able to assess and treat speech and language pathology associated with hearing impairment; and
  - (iii) be familiar with the principles and auditory training and use of hearing aids.
- (c) Speech Pathology as a major subject for students in speech therapy and audiology and in speech therapy to enable such students to -
- (i) assess speech, voice and language disorders and the processes which contribute to their origin;
  - (ii) be capable of planning, conducting, directing or participating in the habilitation and/or rehabilitation of persons with speech, voice and language disorders including therapeutic procedures which enable such persons to acquire adequate speech, voice and language proficiency and which may include counselling and guidance of such persons.
- (d) Speech Therapy as a major subject to students in Audiology to enable such students to
- (i) be familiar with the basic areas of speech disorders, language development disorders and language disorders, particularly as they relate to hearing, and the principles of assessment and treatment of persons of such language and speech disorders; and

- (ii) have a knowledge of speech and language acquisition.
- (e) Psychology as a major subject covering the normal, abnormal and social behaviour, psychological bases of behaviour, sensory processes, perception, cognition and developmental psychology.
- (f) Phonetics and linguistics as subjects that include theoretical and work in articulatory, physiological and acoustic phonetics and instrumentation for these, phonology, morphology, linguistic theories, developmental linguistics and applied psycholinguistics.

### **ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS**

- (g) (i) Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology for Speech, Language and Hearing as additional subjects to provide the student with a knowledge of the basic structures involved in communication processes and the pathologies which could affect them.
- (ii) Neurology of Speech, Language and Hearing to provide students with a basic knowledge of the nervous system and its specific involvement in the communication process and pathologies of the nervous system which could affect this process.
- (iii) Professional ethics to instruct students on the statutory obligations of speech therapists and/or audiologists which shall be incorporated in the whole curriculum and be reviewed during the final year of study.
- (h) A subject based on educational principles which can be used by the student in the rehabilitation of those with specific communication disorders.

### **PRACTICAL TRAINING**

11. The university concerned shall provide the following facilities to students who follow courses for a qualification in speech therapy and/or audiology:
  - (a) Formal practical training to complement the academic training in Audiology and Speech Therapy, which cover all aspects of assessment and treatment of communication disorders. These clinical practicals should take place in as many of the following environments as is possible: University Speech- and-Hearing Clinics; hospital Speech-and-Hearing Clinics; primary schools; special schools such as those for the cerebral palsied, hearing-impaired, autistic; institutions for the retarded and for the geriatric population.

The following minimum hours of supervised observation, assessment and therapy, must be completed:

(a) For students of Speech Therapy and Audiology:

Audiology	200 hours
Speech Pathology	300 hours

(b) For students of Speech Therapy:

Audiology	50 hours
Speech Pathology	250 hours

(c) For students of Audiology:

Audiology	250 hours
Speech Pathology	50 hours

## **RESEARCH**

- (b) Opportunities should be available for students to become acquainted with research protocol to acquire the scientific approach necessary for research.
- (c) Opportunities should also be available to senior undergraduate students to carry out a project under supervision.

## **EXAMINATIONS**

- 12.** The examinations leading to a degree in speech therapy and audiology shall include formal examinations in all the courses for which the student is enrolled in terms of rule 10, in practical training in terms of rule 11 (a) and in research in terms of rule 11 (b): Provided that -
- (a) such examinations may take place partly by means of continuous evaluations;
  - (b) for the year of study where clinical work complements the academic subjects, both aspects of the work should be completed in the same year of study;
  - (c) In the final evaluation of every subject, at least two examiners shall take part, one of whom did not participate in the teaching of the subject to the candidate. In at least the final qualifying examination the external examiner should be from outside the teaching centre; and
  - (d) No candidate shall be considered to have passed in an examination in any subject unless he obtains at least 50 per cent, or the equivalent of 50 per cent of the maximum marks obtainable in the marking system employed by the university.

- 13.** A student shall not be admitted to qualify -
- (a) in speech therapy and audiology, unless he has completed at least four years of study as a registered speech therapy and audiology student;
  - (b) in speech therapy, unless he has completed at least three years of study as a registered speech therapy student;
  - (c) in audiology, unless he has completed at least three years of study as an audiology student.
  - (d) If such student did not successfully complete the practical training in terms of rule 11 (a) and did not pass in all the subjects in terms of rule 10.
  - (e) If such student did not obtain a satisfactory standard in the research project mentioned in subrule 11 (c).