



American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders

Standards for Board Certification in Fluency

The Standards for Certification are presented below.

There are two standards, A and B:

Standard A involves eligibility for candidacy. It includes two parts: 1) Criteria necessary in order to be eligible to submit an application to become a candidate for BCS-F, and 2) Components of submitting an application

Standard B involves Active Candidate Portfolio Submission.

Once a speech-language pathologist submits an application and is approved, he or she becomes an active candidate and prepares and submits a portfolio including three case studies for approval by the American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders. Upon approval by the ABFFD portfolio review team, the individual is granted certification as a specialist in fluency and fluency disorders (BCS-F).

STANDARD A

Part One: Eligibility for Application

In order to submit an application to become a candidate for Board Certification in Fluency, a speech-language pathologist is required to meet four criteria:

- 1) **Hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence** awarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- 2) Be employed as a speech-language pathologist for 5 years (or full time equivalent) **after** obtaining the CCC
- 3) **Document 450 hours of Direct Clinical Contact Service** within the area of fluency disorders.

Specific guidelines for Direct Clinical Contact Service include:

- Providing services in identification, prevention, assessment, and intervention
- Obtaining a minimum of 25 such hours across each of the following three age ranges:

- a. 2-6 years of age (Preschool)
- b. 7-15 years of age (School-Age)
- c. 16 – adult (Adolescent/Adult)

- Up to 135 of the 450 direct contact hours may be supervision of student clinicians or certified clinicians who are working under your guidance.

Supervisory hours constitute your direct observation of another clinician or student providing services to a client who has a fluency disorder.

As a supervisor, you most likely are also providing direct services yourself. These should be counted toward the 315 direct clinical contact hours and NOT as supervisory hours.

These would include:

- a. Providing demonstration therapy for the client to assist the student/clinician in skill development,
- b. Co-treating with the student or clinician;
- c. Counseling provided directly to the client and/or their family members or other relevant individuals. This may include obtaining information from these individuals, providing information to them or engaging in problem-solving or other counseling activities.

Very important note: *During the five years post your CFY, you may accrue the clinical hours required to submit an application. In addition, you may utilize cases seen during this period of time for portfolio submission pending application acceptance. If you have been employed longer than five years post CFY, you may utilize cases for your portfolio within the last five years.*

- 4) **Document 10 CEUs** (or 100 hours) of **intermediate to advanced training** in fluency disorders. These CEUs *may begin to accrue after the CCC is obtained* and within the three years preceding the application.

Guidelines for obtaining CEUs include:

- Continuing Education must come from a ***variety of sources*** (direct participation in conferences/workshops; Journals; DVDs; Web-based CEUs) with **no more than 5 CEUs (50 hours)** derived from DVDs and Journals. Please note: live based/interactive webinars and virtual seminars are considered “live hours.”
- Continuing Education must include a ***variety of topics***, with a minimum of 80 hours specifically related to Fluency and Fluency Disorders; 20 hours may be from other topics related to diagnosing and treating fluency disorders (e.g., speech, language, motor learning, cognitive, behavioral therapy, sensory processing, executive functioning, autism, counseling, other related disorders)

Very Important note: *During the five years post your CFY, you may accrue your CEUs required to submit an application. If you have been employed longer than five years post CFY, you may utilize CEUs obtained up to five years prior to your application.*

Part Two: Submitting an Application Packet

Once the aforementioned requirements are completed, the speech-language pathologist submits an Application Packet for approval to become a candidate for certification. This packet includes *four components*:

Component 1: Application and required fee (*see Board Certified Specialist-Fluency Application*)

Component 2: Completion and documentation of required clinical hours (*see BCS-F Application Verification of Direct Clinical Activity Form*)

Component 3: Copy of Official CEU transcripts from ASHA and a completed *BCS-F Application Continuing Education Form*

Component 4: Three recommendation letters attesting to the candidate's knowledge and skills in the area of fluency disorders (*see BCS-Fluency Application Recommendation Letter Form*)

Guidelines for recommendation letters include:

- Obtaining three letters, one from each of the following:
 - a. Personal client or parent of client
 - b. Supervisor, Professor, or Colleague
 - c. Professional in the field who is currently a BCS-F

An **approval letter to become an active candidate for BCS-F** will be sent via email within 30 days of receipt of the completed Application Packet.

STANDARD B

Portfolio Submission to the ABFFD for approval

Upon acceptance, a *Portfolio Template Guide* is emailed to the candidate. The information is also available on the ABFFD website. Submission of a portfolio of case studies must be provided to the American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders for review at any time within a 3-year time period following acceptance as an active candidate.

Guidelines for the portfolio are as follows:

- The portfolio must contain three cases
- One case must be presented for each of the following age ranges:
 - a. 2-6 years of age
 - b. 7-15 years of age
 - c. 16 – adult

Once the Portfolio is submitted, notification of results of the review by the ABFFD will be sent by email and letter within 60 days of submission. If approved, the candidate will begin to utilize the designator of Board Certified Specialist-Fluency (BCS-F). A certificate will also be mailed to the newly certified specialist.

See *BCS-F Annual Maintenance and Dues Form* and *BCS-F Five-Year Renewal and Dues Form* for information regarding maintenance and renewal of certification.