

Common questions asked regarding the SAC clinical certification examination

1. What are the advantages of being clinically certified with SAC?

- It is the highest professional standard set by the association of your peers.
- It indicates to your employers and clients that you have met the requirements for entry-level knowledge in the profession.
- It assures employers and those using your services that you are committed to ongoing education.
- For S-LP's, SAC clinical certification is recognized by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), the Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists (IASLT), the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association (Incorporated) (NZSTA), United Kingdom's Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists (RCSLT), and the Speech Pathology Association of Australia Limited (Speech Pathology Australia).
- SAC clinical certification is increasingly becoming a recognized standard internationally.

2. What clinical certification examinations are offered by SAC?

- SAC offers two clinical certification examinations: one for audiology and one for speech-language pathology.
- Candidates can choose to write the examination either in French or in English. The examination is marked in the language registered on the application form.
- If indicated on the application form, candidates can access both language versions of the examination for verification of wording
- These four-hour examinations are multiple choice in format.

3. Who can write the clinical certification examinations?

- Any SAC member with full membership privileges and who meets the clinical practicum requirements can write the clinical certification examinations. This includes Full Members and those in the category of Reduced Hours.
- SAC Student associates who are in their graduating year and have completed all academic coursework can write these examinations.
- Students must have their transcripts indicating 'degree conferred' and their clinical hours sent to SAC office by December 31st of the examination year.
- Professionals who have trained in countries outside North America may be required to write the examination as part of the membership assessment.

4. How do I apply for the clinical certification examinations?

- The SAC student representatives, clinical coordinators and program directors in the eleven Canadian communication disorders programs have application forms. Applications and the full information package are also available from SAC office and can be downloaded from the SAC web site www.sac-oac.ca/membership-certification/certification-exam.
- The completed application, together with a credit card number, certified cheque or money order for the required amount must be returned to SAC office at 1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1000, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7B7 by June 30th for the fall examination or by January 31st for the spring examination.
- An ‘admission letter’ indicating the site and time of the examination will be emailed approximately three weeks prior to the examination.
- The fall examination is scheduled the first Saturday following Labour Day. The spring examination is scheduled on a Saturday in late March or early April.

5. How much does it cost to write the clinical certification examination?

- Examination costs are detailed in the bottom section of the ‘application form’. Non-designated site charges, where applicable, are included. Membership fees are additional.

6. Where can the clinical certification examinations be written?

- SAC’s certification examinations are hosted at 16 designated sites:

<u>Alberta</u> Calgary Edmonton	<u>New Brunswick</u> Moncton	<u>Northwest Territories</u> Yellowknife	<u>Quebec</u> Montreal Quebec City
<u>British Columbia</u> Vancouver	<u>Newfoundland</u> St. John’s	<u>Ontario</u> London Ottawa Toronto	<u>Saskatchewan</u> Regina
<u>Manitoba</u> Winnipeg	<u>Nova Scotia</u> Halifax	<u>Prince Edward Island</u> Charlottetown	<u>Yukon</u> Whitehorse

- Non-designated sites will be considered (additional fees apply) and invigilated by a SAC approved professional. Arrangements must be approved by SAC office.

7. If I am licensed to practice speech-language pathology or audiology in a province, is that not the same as a SAC clinical certification?

- No, it is not.
- Licensing is required to practice in provinces that have a regulatory body which serves to protect the consumer.
- SAC clinical certification is recognized by many international professional associations.

8. How long before I hear about the results of my examination and receive my certificate?

- The fall examination results are sent to SAC office from the testing center in October. The spring results are sent to SAC office in May.
- The results are mailed to the candidates by the end of October (May).
- Once your documentation (transcripts and clinical hours) is received by SAC office, your certificate will be issued and sent to you by mail.
- Once you receive your certificate you may use the clinical certification designation S-LP(C) or Aud(C). The C stands for Canada.

9. What happens to the examination results?

- Results are kept confidential.
- A report is prepared, highlighting the average performance for each area tested.
- These general averages and those for each program are shared with the appropriate university so that course content can be strengthened if needed.

10. If I am unsuccessful on the examination, can I rewrite?

- Yes, you can rewrite the examination two times.
- You must apply again to write the examination. The examination fee remains the same for individuals rewriting.
- Universities are not notified of the names of students who pass/fail.

11. What is the passing rate for the examinations?

- The passing rate in September has varied from 73.5% to 95.6%
- Please refer to the SAC website www.sac-oac.ca/membership-certification/exam-prep for an historical record.

12. Can I become clinically certified in both audiology and speech-language pathology?

- Yes you can, if you meet the requirements in both areas.
- You cannot write both examinations in the same year.
- You must also collect the requisite CEEs in both areas to maintain dual clinical certification.

13. If I complete my course work to write the clinical certification examination, but continue as a student pursuing another degree, can I write the clinical certification examination?

- Yes you can.
- After successfully completing the requirements for clinical certification, apply to SAC for the certified student category.
- You can remain in this category, paying the student membership fee, if you are not employed, until you complete your further degree.

14. How do I maintain my SAC clinical certification?

- To maintain your clinical certification, you must keep your SAC membership current.
- On January 1st of the year following the date on your certificate, you must begin accumulating continuing education equivalents (CEEs).
- Every three-year period, you must accumulate a minimum of 45 CEEs.

15. As a S-LP, if I have passed the ASHA examination, do I need to write the SAC examination to become SAC clinically certified?

- SAC has a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) with ASHA regarding the certification process.
- If you have only written the ASHA examination but not completed the CFY – in other words did not complete your ASHA certification – you would need to write the SAC clinical certification examination in order to be SAC clinically certified.

16. Is there a study guide or practice examination to help me prepare?

- No – there are no practice examinations available.
- Sample questions are provided in the information package to help you become familiar with the format.
- The test blueprint outlines the percentage of questions on each topic.
- There is an area on the website on preparing to write the clinical certification exam. www.sac-oac.ca/membership-certification/exam-prep.

17. Is it true that the examination is really difficult?

- Examinees report in their evaluations that they consider the questions “fair” and that the examination tests the integration of their academic knowledge and practicum experiences.
- The test developers come from academic and clinical backgrounds in the professions so that there is not a bias to a particular program/region and they are trained in sound examination principles.
- The questions are designed to be patient/client based rather than textbook based.

18. Is there a tax receipt issued for the clinical certification examination?

- The examination fees are tax deductible **only** if the exam is a requirement in order for the person to be licensed to practice in Canada.
- SAC members/associates can print their receipt online (www.sacmembership.ca, Exam, Receipt); non-members can request their receipt.