

Q&A SAC PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION

Q. What is Provisional Certification?

A. Provisional Certification is the first step to becoming SAC Certified. You must be an SAC member to enroll in Provisional Certification, and you must complete 20 continuing education equivalents (CEEs) during the one-year Provisional Certification period.

Q. When can an SAC member enroll in Provisional Certification?

A. The Provisional Certification period aligns with the SAC membership year. You must enroll in Provisional Certification during the SAC membership renewal period between November 1 and December 31. The Provisional Certification period will end on the final day of the following year (December 31).

Q. Is there additional cost for SAC members who enroll in provisional certification and become certified?

A. No. SAC Certification will remain a voluntary membership benefit. While SAC membership is required to enter into the program and maintain your certification, certification is not a mandatory for SAC members.

Q. What professional designation can SAC members use when they are enrolled in Provisional Certification?

A. SAC members who enroll in Provisional Certification can add the following professional designation to their credential: Aud(C) Provisional; S-LP(C) Provisional.

Q. When the Provisional Certification Period is complete, how long does it take to receive the "(C)" professional designation and certificate?

A. During membership renewal at the end of the Provisional Certification period, you will be asked to complete a "declaration" to confirm that you have met the CEE requirements for Provisional Certification. Individuals who complete the "declaration" will receive confirmation of Certification and notification of their 3-year certification maintenance cycle. Individuals can then use the Aud(C) or S-LP(C) professional designation.

Q. What happens if an individual is unable to complete 20 CEEs during Provisional Certification?

A. If an individual is unable to complete the required 20 CEEs by the end of the Provisional Certification period (December 31), certification will not be awarded. Enrollment in a second Provisional Certification period may be requested and must be approved by the SAC CEO. Twenty (20) CEEs must be completed during this second Provisional Certification period before certification will be awarded. CEEs completed in the previous Provisional Certification period cannot be carried over.

Q. Can any CEE activity be completed during Provisional Certification?

A. During Provisional Certification, individuals must complete 20 CEEs in one or more of the following CEE categories:

- Education activities (e.g., attending a conference, attending a workshop, participating in a live webinar etc. **specific to your profession**); 1 hour = 1 CEE; No maximum.
- University/college courses (e.g., taking a full or part-time university or college course **specific to your profession**; does not include courses taken as part of a speech-language pathology or audiology professional program); 1 hour = 1 CEE; No maximum.
- Interest groups (e.g., participating in an ASHA SIG, community of practice etc. **specific to your profession**); 1 hour = 1 CEE; No maximum.
- Independent study (e.g., reading journal articles, watching a recorded webcast etc. **specific to your profession**); 1 hour = 1 CEE; No maximum.
- Manufacturers presentations (e.g., attending an in-person or virtual presentation by a manufacturer **specific to your profession**); 1 hour = 1 CEE; No maximum.
- Mentorship* (e.g., being a mentee in a program offered through a professional association, regulatory body or in your workplace); 1 hour = 1 CEE; No maximum.

****New graduates are encouraged to participate in a mentorship program during provisional certification, but SAC has not established a minimum CEE requirement for this category.***

NOTE: Once certification is awarded, certified members maintain their certification by completing 45 CEEs over their 3-year cycle. These CEEs can be selected from any of the expanded CEE categories.

Q. Can an individual enrolled in Provisional Certification also pursue a Professional Interest?

A. Yes. During Provisional Certification, an SAC member may pursue both Certification and one or more Professional Interest(s). The CEE requirements for Provisional Certification are flexible enough to allow members to (1) complete the 20 CEEs required for Certification, and (2) undertake an additional 20 CEEs in one or more Professional Interest(s). This means that 20 CEEs must be completed during Provisional Certification plus an additional 20 CEEs for each Professional Interest selected. Member may then add the following professional designation to their (C) credential: Certification with Professional Interest in (area of interest selected).

Q. Will it be difficult for a recent graduate to find affordable options to complete the 20 CEE requirement?

A. SAC provides its members with valuable online professional development opportunities at no cost. The SAC Career Development Program is another no-cost option offered to newly graduated SAC members seeking mentorship support. This program supports

young professionals while providing an opportunity to achieve the 20 CEEs Provisional Certification requirements. SAC also provides its members with discounted access to audiologyonline.com and speechpathology.com.

Q. Will passing the regulatory Entry-to-Practice Exam be a requirement for SAC Certification?

- A. No, the regulatory Entry-to-Practice Exam will not be a requirement for SAC Certification. The exam is one of the mandatory requirements for some provincial registration and licensing. SAC Certification is voluntary and is not a regulatory requirement. For more information on the regulatory Entry-to-Practice Exam, please consult the web site of the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech Pathology Regulators www.CAASPR.ca

Q. Can I enroll in SAC Provisional Certification even if I fail the regulatory Entry-to-Practice exam?

- A. Yes. As long as you meet SAC's membership requirements, you will be able to enroll in SAC Provisional Certification even if you fail the regulatory entry-to-practice exam. Certification is a voluntary program offered by SAC as a membership benefit and there is no link to the regulatory entry-to-practice exam required by the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech Pathology Regulators (CAASPR).

Q. What do I have to do to maintain SAC Certification once I complete the provisional period?

- A. Once you have been awarded SAC certification, you must complete 45 CEEs over a 3-year cycle in any of the CEE categories. If you choose to pursue a Professional Interest, you must complete an additional 20 CEEs for each Professional Interest. Your 3-year CEE cycle begins on January 1 following the end of your Provisional Certification period.

Q. Do I have to submit a report to SAC after completion of the 20 CEEs at the end of the Provisional Certification period?

- A. Every SAC member enrolled in Provisional Certification will be prompted to complete a "*declaration*" during the on-line membership renewal process at the end of the Provisional Certification period. It is not necessary to submit a CEE tracking form and supporting documentation unless your name is randomly selected for an audit. If your name is selected for an audit, you will be required to submit a CEE tracking sheet and evidence of having completed the CEE activities listed.