



Understanding the Knowledge and Skills and Professional Requirements for Practice in Delaware

Presented by Kimberly C. Cafarella, MS, CCC-SLP, Robert W. Serianni, MS, CCC-SLP, FNAP, and Jacqueline Pittam, MEd, MS, CCC-SLP

Date, Time & Location

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

Cost

Course offered at no charge

Course Description

This session will introduce participants to the responsibilities, education/training, and supervision of speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs). The SLPA Scope of Practice set forth by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) will be reviewed, with real-life examples from an SLPA/SLP pair working in a school-based setting. ASHA's pathways for C-SLPA certification as well as Delaware State regulations will also be described, along with perspectives from an SLPA academic program. Finally, a supervision model for ethical and effective collaboration between SLPAs and SLPs will be discussed.

About the Speakers

Kimberly C. Cafarella, MS, CCC-SLP is an Assistant Professor at Drexel University, Elkins Park Campus, and Coordinator of the Post-Baccalaureate Program SLP Track. She earned her B.S.Ed. in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and her M.S. in Communication Disorders from Arizona State University. Ms. Cafarella is a Spanish-bilingual SLP with clinical experience in public schools, early intervention programs, pediatric medical facilities, and university clinical settings. Her professional service includes being a past member of ASHA's Multicultural Issues Board, a past PSHA board member, and current member of PSHA's DEI Committee. In her coordinator role, she has developed curriculum for the Post-Baccalaureate Program in SLP, including SLPA practicum courses.

Robert W. Serianni, MS, CCC-SLP, FNAP is Chair and Program Director and Associate Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at Drexel University, Elkins Park Campus, with a primary role of administration, in addition to teaching and clinical supervision roles. Prior to joining the faculty at Salus University in 2014, Bob held clinical and leadership roles for a variety of healthcare providers. He has vast experience in acute care, rehabilitation, and home health for the adult and geriatric populations, as well as pediatric care both locally and internationally. His research interests include clinical supervision and interprofessional education and practice in the field of Speech-Language Pathology as well as neurological communication and swallowing disorders, including telepractice applications. After earning a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Loyola University Maryland, Bob relocated back to his hometown of Philadelphia to practice. He holds the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania, in addition to achieving specialty certification in the areas of voice and dysphagia. Bob is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Higher Education at Temple University focusing on underrepresented groups in graduate education.

Jacqueline Pittam, MEd, MS, CCC-SLP works as an SLP at the HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy and as a Clinical Educator at the Speech-Language Institute at Drexel University, Elkins Park Campus. She also works with adult private clients who have complex communication needs. Jackie graduated from the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, N.J. with a bachelor's degree in History/International Studies and a minor in Political Science. She then went on to earn her master of education in Secondary Education with a concentration in Social Studies from Arcadia University and her master's in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Penn State University. At Penn State she received specialized training through a federal education grant focused on Augmentative and Alternative Communication and working in schools with children who have complex communication

needs. She has conducted research about the relationships between parents of children with autism and professionals, and augmentative and alternative communication for children with multiple disabilities. Jackie has presented at multiple conferences on topics related to working with people with complex communication needs, interdisciplinary teamwork, social communication interventions, designing AAC systems, and caregiver/professional relationships.

Statement of Learning

This course will be offered in a virtual format via Zoom. The course content will include lectures, case studies, skills session, group discussion and question and answer session.

The Speakers and all relevant personnel have completed a disclosure form.

Financial Disclosures:

Kimberly Cafarella is an employee of Drexel University, Elkins Park Campus.

Robert Serianni is an employee of Drexel University, Elkins Park Campus.

Jacqueline Pittam is an employee of Drexel University, Elkins Park Campus.

Non-Financial Disclosures:

Kimberly Cafarella is the Coordinator of the Post Baccalaureate Program in Speech-Language Pathology at Drexel University, Elkins Park Campus, which includes SLPA preparation.

Robert Serianni is the ASHA CE Provider Content Advisor and ASHA AAB Board Chair.

Jacqueline Pittam - None.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- 1. Compare and contrast the roles and responsibilities of an SLPA with that of an SLP.
- 2. Describe the education and training requirements of an SLPA at the national and state levels.
- 3. Explain supervision requirements and effective strategies for collaboration between SLPAs and supervising SLPs.

Time-ordered Agenda

6:30 p.m.-6:55 p.m.	SLPA Scope of Practice (Responsibilities within and outside the Scope of Practice and Examples from a School-Based SLP and SLPA)
6:55 p.m.-7:20 p.m.	SLPA Education and Training Requirements (ASHA C-SLP three pathways, Delaware state-level guidelines and Perspectives from an SLPA academic program)
7:20 p.m.-7:55 p.m.	SLPA Supervision Model (Supervision requirements from ASHA and state, Model of supervision and collaboration, and Examples from School-Based SLP and SLPA)
7:55 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Questions and Answers

For more information

Please contact Robert Serianni, MS, CCC-SLP, FNAP, rs3839@drexel.edu or 215.780.3107

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Salus University
Introductory Level
0.15 ASHA CEUs

This course is offered for 0.15 CEUs, Introductory Level