Audiology and speech-language pathology assistants can apply for a newly established ASHA certification beginning in fall 2020. Developed through the Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, this certification establishes uniform standards for trained and qualified mid-level professionals to support audiologists and speech-language pathologists across the scope of practice. Applicants may choose one of several pathways to certification.

Audiology assistant
Applicants may choose one of three education options:

• A bachelor’s degree in communication sciences and disorders and 500 hours of providing patient services within the scope of practice for an audiology assistant under the supervision of an ASHA-certified audiologist.
• A high school diploma or GED, completion of an audiology assistant program (ASHA modules, an associate’s degree, or certificate program), and 1,000 hours providing patient services within the scope of practice for an audiology assistant under the supervision of an ASHA-certified audiologist.
• A military job series that awards a certificate (audiology/ENT) and, for active duty personnel, a copy of the training record; for veterans, an honorable discharge and military transcript.

All applicants must also take courses in ethics, universal safety precautions, and patient confidentiality.

Speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA)
Applicants may choose one of three education pathways:

• Completion of a minimum two-year SLPA degree from an accredited institution.
• Bachelor’s degree in communication sciences and disorders from an accredited institution and completion of ASHA’s online assistant training modules or equivalent.
• An associate’s or bachelor’s degree; completion of college-level classes in communication disorders, phonetics, speech sound disorders, language development, language disorders, and anatomy and physiology of speech and hearing mechanisms; and completion of ASHA’s online assistant training modules or equivalent.

All applicants must also take courses in ethics, universal safety precautions, and patient confidentiality, and complete at least 100 hours of clinical field work under the supervision of an ASHA-certified SLP (80 hours of direct and 20 hours of indirect patient/client/student services).

To receive certification, applicants must pass a written exam, which will be offered for the first time in the fall of 2020.