

Universal Licensure

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Universal Licensure and how would it look when implemented in Mississippi?
 - Universal Licensure is one license that would allow SLPs and audiologists to practice across any setting (school, healthcare, etc.). In Mississippi currently there are 2 licensing bodies, Mississippi Department of Health and Mississippi Department of Education. Universal Licensure would institute a speech-language pathology and audiology licensing board that would oversee licensure compliance (i.e., annual CEU requirements), enforce licensure standards, investigate reports of noncompliance, and sanction violators. The licensing board would be comprised of licensed practitioners, public members/consumers, and administrative staff.
2. What is ASHA's stance on UL?
 - Use this URL to review ASHA's stance:
<https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/Universal-Licensure-Issue-Brief.pdf>
 - ASHA has identified universal licensure as a priority for state governance and has the goal for it to be passed in all states.
3. Would Universal Licensure impact the 215 or 216 designations in the school systems?
 - In order to work in the public school systems of Mississippi, a Speech-Language Pathologist or Speech Associate would still continue to maintain their educator's license of a 215 or 216 in addition to their universal license. SLPs are teacher units under the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) funding, and maintenance of the MDE license will allow for the continued funding of SLP positions. Additionally the MDE license allows for SLPs to continue to receive the national board supplement and career advancement in schools.
4. Would Universal Licensure affect the salary supplement offered to Master's level SLPs in the school system?
 - No, Universal Licensure would not impact, alter, or eliminate the supplement offered to Master's level Speech-Language Pathologists for having national board certification. This would still be honored for all qualifying 215 license holders with ASHA certification.
5. Would Universal Licensure simplify reporting requirements and content for CEUs? How would CEU's be handled? Would a school-based professional be allowed to have medical CEU's and vice versa...Is this even a concern?
 - The Universal Licensure Board would oversee CEU compliance and maintenance. Regulations specifying CEU compliance would align to ASHA standards for CCC maintenance.
6. Why do we need Universal Licensure, or for that matter any state License, when we have ASHA certification?

- ASHA certification cannot replace a state's statutory obligation to license professional providers within its borders. ASHA is only a certifying body, not a licensing body.
7. Would Universal Licensure negatively affect an individual's ability to achieve administrative positions within the school system?
- Universal Licensure will not impact one's ability to obtain administrative positions or other roles within the school system. Given that SLPs and Speech Associates will be required to maintain their state license of 215 or 216, then their opportunities for advancement will not be limited. SLPs and SAs will remain on the appropriate teacher's salary for their given role of the school year and continue to receive the national board supplement if they are eligible.
8. How does Universal Licensure affect one's ability to participate in PERs?
- PERs eligibility is based on state employment and not the type of license one has.
9. What issues have occurred in states that already have Universal Licensure?
- The Universal Licensure committee is working with ASHA personnel and other state associations on developing model bill language. Impacts from other states are being considered in the Universal Licensure development. For example, when Universal Licensure was implemented in one state, the department of education license was no longer required, but now SLPs cannot advance in school careers without that educator license. Therefore, as Mississippi's Universal Licensure is developed, we are working to maintain the department of education license.