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## **First Cohort Deadline Approaching! Please see the update below:**

**Apply now to join the first cohort to standardize the test! Deadline approaching this Friday!**

Greetings from the American Board of Augmentative and Alternative Communication!

This is a reminder to let you know that speech language pathologists who want to be recognized as being board certified in AAC can submit a Phase I application up to January 31, 2025, 11:59 PM, with the possibility of being selected to participate in the first cohort to standardize the national AAC competency examination. You are still able to submit applications after this

date, however, you would not be considered for the initial AAC competency standardization cohort.

Applicants with Phase I approval and selected to take the exam will be receiving information regarding how to prepare for the test in early February. Questions are related to the following Competency Domains identified in the Clinical Practice Analysis Study:

- Professionalism
- Assessment and diagnosis
- Development and implementation of a treatment plan
- Design and use of AAC technology
- Leadership, collaboration, and education

### **Why Become a Board Certified AAC Specialist?**

Some thoughts from current applicants:

*“As SLPs, we are instrumental in empowering individuals with complex communication needs gain access to robust language, and for their authentic thoughts to be universally understood. Our responsibility extends also to communication partners and the community at large.”*

*“Being BSC-AAC means feeling accomplished; recognition that I am competent in this field. Someone who is board certified in a specialty is someone who holds the highest knowledge and training possible; someone who went out of their way to be the best that they can be.”*

## **Letters of Recommendation**

Regarding the required letters of recommendation for BSC-AAC application, please be sure they include specific references to your contributions in the field of AAC as related to the Competency Domains from the Clinical Practice Analysis Study mentioned in the bullet points above.

## **Contact Hours FAQ**

Reminder: Your hours tracked in the downloadable contact hours log should include at least 300 hours per year for the last 3 years for a grand total of at least 900 hours.

## **CEU FAQ**

Reminder: For this first year up until 2026, we are accepting introductory, intermediate, and advanced level courses due to the difficulty applicants are having locating intermediate and advanced level courses to earn ASHA and IACET CEUs and PDH credits.

## **Are you at ATIA 2025?**

Look for Katya Hill and Jennifer Drenchek-Cristiano, at ATIA. They will be attending and happy to talk with you about AAC specialty Certification. They will also be presenting session AAC-45, Ethical Leadership and AAC Clinical Decision Making, 2/1/25 from 8:30 AM-9:30 AM EST.

For any questions, feel free to contact us at: [Contact | American Board of AAC | United States\(aacspecialist.org\)](https://www.aacspecialist.org)

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season!

American Board of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AB-AAC)

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