

Effective Date: November 23, 1997

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

AUDIOLOGIST

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of This Classification Specification

This classification specification is the basic authority under Wis. Admin. Code ER 2.04 for making classification decisions relative to present and future professional positions located within the classified service which provide professional level audiology services to patients and/or residents of a facility operated by the state including, but not limited to: centers for the developmentally disabled, institutes for the mentally ill, homes for aged and disabled veterans, correctional institutions or schools for the visually impaired or hearing impaired. This classification specification will not specifically identify every eventuality or combination of duties and responsibilities of positions that currently exist, or those that result from changing program emphasis in the future. Rather, it is designed to serve as a framework for classification decision-making in this occupational area.

Classification decisions must be based on the "best fit" of the duties within the existing classification structure. The "best fit" is determined by the majority (i.e., more than 50%) of the work assigned to and performed by the position when compared to the class concepts and definition of this specification or through other methods of position analysis. Position analysis defines the nature and character of the work through the use of any or all of the following: definition statements; listing of areas of specialization; representative examples of work performed; allocation patterns of representative positions; job evaluation guide charts, standards or factors; statements of inclusion and exclusion; licensure or certification requirements; and other such information necessary to facilitate the assignment of positions to the appropriate classification.

Positions included in this classification must meet the Qualifications prescribed under I.B.

B. Inclusions/Qualifications

Positions included in this classification have duties and responsibilities of such a nature that it is required (by federal or state law or by position analysis) that the incumbent be licensed, or be eligible for licensure, in the State of Wisconsin as an Audiologist as determined by the Hearing and Speech Examining Board per s. 459.20, Wis. Stats. POSITIONS NOT HAVING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH REQUIRE SUCH CREDENTIALS SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO A DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATION SERIES.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this classification are:

1. Positions which meet the statutory definition of supervisor or management as defined in Wis. Stats. 111.81(19) and (13) as administered and interpreted by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.

2. Positions which are, for a majority of the time, engaged in the provision of professional level speech/language pathology services defined in Wis. Stats. 459.20 (5) and are more appropriately classified as Speech/Language Pathologist.
3. Positions which do not require the incumbent to possess licensure as an Audiologist.
4. All other positions which are more appropriately identified by other classification specifications.

D. Entrance into This Classification

Employees enter positions within this classification by competitive examination.

II. DEFINITION

AUDIOLOGIST

Positions in this classification function as audiologists who perform professional audiology work defined in s. 459.20(2) Wis. Stats., as "applying principles, methods or procedures of prevention, identification, evaluation, consultation, intervention, instruction or research related to hearing, vestibular function, or any abnormal condition related to tinnitus, auditory sensitivity, acuity, function or processing, speech, language, or other aberrant behavior resulting from hearing loss." Positions plan and administer aural rehabilitation therapy for patients, clients and residents in state-operated facilities to treat persons experiencing auditory problems, and may counsel patients, family members or caregivers about disorders and the resultant problems experienced. Audiologists, as part of a multidisciplinary team, identify and evaluate hearing disorders as related to educational, medical, social and psychological factors, and develop and implement necessary components of treatment programs and ensure they are carried out in cooperation with other health professionals. Treatment involves the use of a variety of equipment in order to analyze specific problems, develop treatment approaches, and evaluate the effects of treatment at various stages. Positions maintain records and reports in order to track patient progress, and identify areas requiring attention. Audiologists may work with administrators in developing programs, counsel parents and other caregivers on prevention, and provide supervision of audiology and/or speech-language students as necessary.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Client Care and Custody Personnel Management Survey created a Speech/Audiology Therapist 1, 2, 3 classification series which included both Speech Therapist and Audiologist positions and was announced in Bulletin CC-219. The Speech/Audiology Therapist 1 classification was abolished effective June 27, 1993 and announced in Bulletin CC/SC-2. The Speech/Audiology Therapist 2, 3 classification series was abolished effective November 23, 1997 and announced in Bulletin CC/SC-79. The Audiologist classification was created effective November 23, 1997 in order to more clearly articulate the professional credentials required in order to be an Audiologist, better define the work performed, and recognize separate career tracks for the Speech/Language Pathologist and the Audiologist. Creation of the Audiologist classification was announced in Bulletin CC/SC-79.

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