



# American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders

## Clinical Track – 3-5 year plan to prepare for application as Board Certified Specialist – Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders

*\*These are examples. An applicant does not need to demonstrate all of these accomplishments. You'll need to show accomplishments in at least two of these areas*

Year	Clinical Practice	Continuing Education	Education/Mentorship*	Leadership*	Scholarship/Research*
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>CFY</b></p> <p>The 3 years necessary to apply for BCS-S starts after you complete your CFY</p>	<p>Concentrate on finding a good CFY supervisor with expertise in dysphagia (preferably someone who is BCS-S). Look for as many opportunities as you can to evaluate and treat a variety of patients/clients with dysphagia.</p>	<p>Attend introductory CE courses. These can often be found at the state s-l-h association meeting and at ASHA national convention.</p> <p>Begin to read journals such as <i>Dysphagia</i>. Join ASHA Division 13 and read Division 13 <i>Perspectives</i> and complete CE questions.</p>	<p>Give an in-service to department staff. Present an in-service to patient/family group.</p> <p>Volunteer to have a high school student shadow you and explain what you do.</p> <p>Join (or start) a journal group that is interdisciplinary. Gain access to other professional's insight and education.</p>	<p>Look for opportunities at place of employment to develop leadership skills; e.g. work on a department committee; develop patient education materials; assist with departmental quality improvement activities.</p> <p>Join ASHA Special Interest Division 13 (Swallowing &amp; Swallowing Disorders). Join state s-l-h association.</p>	<p>Maintain contact with professor from your university and inquire about any opportunities to participate in research.</p> <p>If your university did not have full-time faculty for dysphagia (that is, no one doing research), contact another university.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>Begin to develop an advanced skill area. For example, are you most interested in dysphagia in adults related to a specific disease/etiology (e.g. head and neck CA; dementia) or to pediatrics (e.g. behavioral feeding disorders). Research that area, reading articles on the topic</p> <p>Keep a list of the diagnoses, ages, etc of the patients with whom you work. Use a spreadsheet or another easy way to tabulate. Note the approximate number of hours each week you spend in dysphagia. This will help you complete the application.</p>	<p>Begin to attend more advanced CE related to dysphagia (intermediate to advanced). Accrue at least 15 hours related to dysphagia this year. Join Dysphagia Research Society and you will get your own subscription to <i>Dysphagia</i> journal.</p> <p>The CE can be intermediate to advanced (does not have to be listed as advanced)</p>	<p>Provide in-service to area dysphagia journal groups.</p> <p>Select a quality improvement goal related to dysphagia. Develop a comprehensive program, collect data, report results (e.g. improving performance of oral care in the facility).</p> <p>Submit a paper to the state association in partnership with another speech-language pathologist (this might be a report on a quality improvement initiative, description of specialized dysphagia program you offer, etc).</p>	<p>Contact state speech-language-hearing association and volunteer to serve on a committee (doesn't have to initially be related to dysphagia)</p> <p>Serve on various interdisciplinary committees at place of employment. This provides exposure to the 'big picture'.</p> <p>Fill out ASHA Committee Pool form.</p>	<p>Become familiar with the IRB process at your facility.</p> <p>Help to develop protocols. Work with other clinical staff and work with other associates on research studies or grants</p>

Year	Clinical Practice	Continuing Education	Education/Mentorship*	Leadership*	Scholarship/Research*
3	<p>Continue to see patients with dysphagia, seeking opportunities to work with challenging cases. Track your hours.</p> <p>Contact BCS and request a mentor to work with you to prepare for application in the next year or so.</p>	<p>Attend advanced CE – some suggestions are: Dysphagia Research Society, web-based courses on <a href="http://www.swallowingdisorders.org">www.swallowingdisorders.org</a>, Perspectives Newsletter from Division 13; etc</p> <p>Accrue at least 30 hours this year. The CE can be intermediate to advanced (does not have to be listed as advanced).</p>	<p>Inquire at local university if there is opportunity for you to guest lecture in the dysphagia class.</p> <p>Develop and publish original clinical educational materials on swallowing and swallowing disorders.</p> <p>Develop facility-specific patient or staff educational materials</p> <p>Take a graduate extern and develop a comprehensive program (e.g. competencies, teaching materials).</p> <p>Submit a paper to your state organization.</p>	<p>If supervisory position opens, apply. Supervise a graduate extern.</p> <p>Chair a committee within your organization</p> <p>Volunteer to serve on a Division 13 committee.</p> <p>Serve on a committee related to dysphagia at the state, regional or national level. Your committee pool form should still be active. Gain support from anyone you know who is involved in leadership at ASHA.</p>	<p>Help to develop protocols. Work with other clinical staff and work with other associates on research studies or grants</p> <p>Submit a research proposal to the IRB at your facility.</p> <p>Seek to help with research at university.</p>
4	<p>Continue to see patients with dysphagia, seeking opportunities to work with challenging cases. Track your hours.</p>	<p>Accrue at least 30 hours this year.</p> <p>The CE can be intermediate to advanced (does not have to be listed as advanced)</p>	<p>Present at a local, state or regional conference.</p> <p>Submit a paper/poster to ASHA.</p> <p>Teach related professionals within your facility (e.g. Grand Rounds, nursing orientation)</p> <p>Teach a community based group (e.g. normal elderly on effects of aging; disease-specific support groups)</p> <p>Continue to guest lecture at local university in dysphagia class.</p>	<p>Keep trying to get on ASHA or Division committee if you have not yet been successful.</p>	<p>Present a peer-reviewed paper at scientific meeting.</p>
5	<p>If you're not ready to apply, continue to see patients with dysphagia. Track your hours.</p>	<p>If you're not ready to apply, continue to accrue at least 30 hours CE this year.</p>			<p>Publish an article or participate in research with someone who is BCS-S.</p>