

# North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board

## GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE LICENSING EXAMINATION

**Revised Effective August 2007**

### Items to bring to the exam

Registered Applicants should bring to the examination site the following:

- The License Examination Admission Card(s) received from the Board Office,
- At least two No. 2 pencils for all written examination questions,
- Spare batteries for otoscopes and earlights (or change batteries just prior to coming to the examination site),
- All materials necessary to examine the ear canal and make an ear impression,
- An appropriate box for sending an ear impression to a hearing aid factory (the Board will provide the glue to seal the impression in the box), DO NOT bring a box for an earmold company,
- Picture Identification for admission to the Simulator portion of the exam on Friday,
- Picture Identification for admission to the Written and Practicum portion of the exam on Saturday.

Upon first entering the building where the examination is being conducted, Applicants should bring into the building all necessary materials for the examination, since going to your car during the examination will not be permitted unless you are accompanied by a Proctor.

### Items and conversations not allowed at the exam

Cell phones, pagers, and such are not allowed – do not bring them in – if you do, they will be confiscated and kept at the front desk. Do not bring calculators or electronic devices that store information into the examination rooms. None of the recommended reading materials for the examination are allowed to be brought into the building where the examination is being conducted. **Do not attempt to hold a conversation with any Model or Registered Applicant while at the examination site, and only ask a question of a Proctor that pertains to the examination.**

### Registered

The Registered Applicant Number listed on your License Examination Admission Card(s) shall be used for all identification purposes at the examination site -- **do not use your name or anyone else's on any examination materials and do not use your**

**Applicant  
Number**

**name during the Practicum portion of the examination.** You will receive an identification badge, at the examination site that should be worn at all times on the day of the Written and Practicum portions of the examination with your registered applicant number on it.

**Three portions  
of the exam**

The three portions of the licensing examination are:

- Written - multiple choice or true-false questions (300 questions divided into three parts) with one correct answer per question **[Note: Not all Applicants take all three parts of the Written portion of the examination – see below],**
- Practicum (one ear impression to be made on an adult model and the Applicant's written responses to questions concerning the impression and ordering a hearing aid for an audiogram with that impression), and
- Simulator (2 hour time limit with the machine) **[Note: Not all Applicants take the Simulator portion of the examination – see below].**

**Simulator  
portion of exam  
conducted on  
the day before  
the Written and  
Practicum  
portions**

The Simulator portion of the examination is conducted on the day (i.e., Friday) before the Written and Practicum portions of the examination which are conducted on a Saturday. Applicants should expect to be at the examination site for approximately two hours on the Friday date, and the examination on the Saturday date is conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Applicants receive separate License Examination Admission Cards for the Friday and Saturday examination dates. **All Applicants who are required to take the Simulator portion of the examination shall receive notification from the Board Office regarding the specific room location and starting time scheduled for their performance of the Simulator portion.** Upon completion of the Simulator portion of the examination, Applicants must leave the examination site.

**The passing  
criteria**

The passing grade for each of the three parts of the Written portion of the examination, and for the Practicum portion of the examination, is 70% correct. Six errors are allowed on the Simulator portion of the examination.

**Guessing and  
errors on the  
Written portion**

There is no penalty for guessing, so you should answer every question on the Written portion of the examination, **using a #2 pencil.** A question will be marked as "wrong," if two or more answer choices are filled in for the same question on the Written portion of the examination. You must use a No. 2 pencil to fill in your answer sheet. If you use any other marking instrument, your answer sheet cannot be scored. Completely erase any marks you wish to change. Blacken in the circles completely. Do not make any stray marks or

smudges on the answer sheet. So not bend or fold the answer sheet.

The three parts of the Written portion of the examination are as follows:

**Three parts of the Written portion**

- Part 1 – anatomy/pathology of the ear, hearing assessment, and audiogram interpretation - 100 questions,
- Part 2 - hearing aids and earmolds: technology/selection/postfitting issues - 100 questions, and
- Part 3 - regulatory issues - 100 questions.

**Part 1 of the Written portion, and the Simulator portion not taken by certain Applicants**

**Documentation to the Board that an Applicant holds a valid [temporary or permanent] North Carolina license as an Audiologist, issued by the N.C. Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists, is accepted as demonstration, as required by the Board's statute, of (a) knowledge regarding the aforementioned topics covered on Part 1 of the Written portion of the examination, and (b) proficiency regarding the determination of pure tone thresholds and the recording of audiogram symbols on the Simulator portion of the examination.** Thus, the aforementioned Applicants are not required to take and pass Part 1 of the Written portion of the examination or the Simulator portion of the examination. Likewise, it would not be necessary for such Applicants to attend the parts of the Board's Examination Preparation Workshop that address these topics.

**Location for impression-making materials**

Applicants should leave all of their impression-making materials in the models' Waiting Area, before and after performing their ear impression techniques. A tray will be provided by the Board to put all materials in with your Registered Applicant number.

**Automatic failure of the ear impression technique component of the Practicum portion**

The following statement pertains to the video taped, Ear Impression Technique component of the Practicum portion of the examination:

A Proctor shall inform the Applicant that the Applicant should immediately discontinue their impression-making procedures, and the Applicant is considered to have failed the practicum portion of the examination, if the Proctor observes that the Applicant:

- is using an otoscope or earlight that does not have an apparent visible light source
- did not perform a pre-impression otoscopic examination before inserting the cotton or foam block
- did not place a cotton or foam block in the Model's ear

canal before starting to insert the impression material, or

- did not visibly attempt to "break the seal" of the impression material before starting to remove the impression from the Model's ear.

**Leaving the room where the Written portion of the exam is conducted**

It is the Applicants' responsibility to report to the designated area for the Practicum portion of the examination, when directed to do so by a Proctor. Otherwise, all Applicants should only leave the room where the Written portion of the examination is being conducted after finishing and turning in one of the parts of the Written portion of the examination. You must log in/out, at the designated location, every time you are leaving or returning to the room where the Written portion of the examination is being conducted. Applicants may go to the restroom, cafeteria/snack machines, or to the designated smoking area outside of the building.

**Waiting to take the Practicum portion of the exam, or waiting to leave the exam site**

When the Written portion of the examination has been completed, the Applicant should leave the examination site, **after signing out at the designated location.** If the Applicant is still waiting to take the Practicum portion of the examination, after finishing and turning in all required parts of the Written portion of the examination, the Applicant should continue to remain in the room where the Written portion of the examination is being conducted. If you are waiting for another person who accompanied you to the examination, please stay in the areas designated for Models. Do not forget to retrieve your impression-making materials from the Models' Waiting Area, at the time of your departure from the premises.

**Notification of exam results**

The examination results shall be issued (i.e., mailed) to the Applicant and the Sponsor (if the Applicant is a Registered Apprentice), by the tenth working day following the date of the examination. No results will be released by the Board Office via telephone, fax, or email.