

HAS APPRENTICE TRAINING & SUPERVISION

A Guide to NRS 637B & NAC 637B



Nevada Speech Language-Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Board

- REVISED APRIL 2026 -

DISCLAIMER

This guide is intended to serve as a compilation of laws and regulations prescribed in [NRS Chapter 637B](#) and [NAC Chapter 637B](#) including recent revisions in Assembly Bill 177 (2025) and LCB Files R108-23 & R026-25, not yet codified, regarding Hearing Aid Specialist Apprentice practice and supervision.

Details of the Board's laws & regulations are summarized in this document to provide a user-friendly, quick-reference guide, but this document may not be exhaustive of all sections and should not be used as a substitute for the responsibility of knowing the contents of NRS Chapter 637B and NAC Chapter 637B.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Apprentice Training Requirements..... 3
 - A. Academic Training 3
 - B. On-Site Training and Work Experience..... 3
 - 1. Required Core Competency Training 3
 - 2. Review & Documentation of Core Competencies 4
 - 3. In-Service Training Exceptions 4
- II. Sponsor Eligibility, General Duties, & Maximum Ratios..... 4
 - A. Eligibility to Serve as a Sponsor..... 4
 - B. Duties of Sponsor 4
 - C. Sponsorship Ratios 5
- III. Supervision of & Liability for Apprentices..... 5
 - A. Supervision of Work & Civil Liability 5
 - B. Responsibility in Complaints Made Against Apprentices 5
 - C. “Direct Supervision” Defined 5
 - D. Exceptions to Direct Supervision..... 5
 - 1. Allowable Duties that May be Delegated by AUD or HAS to an Unlicensed Assistant or Performed by an Apprentice without Direct Supervision 5
 - 2. Allowable Duties Involving Direct Physical Contact with a Client or Instrument that May be Delegated by AUD or HAS to an Unlicensed Assistant or Performed by an Apprentice without Direct Supervision..... 6
 - E. Selection of Hearing Aids 6
 - F. Approval of Audiograms & Sales Documents..... 6
- IV. Apprentice Licensing Overview 7
 - A. Time Limit on Apprentice License 7
 - B. Disclosure of Sponsor Relationship(s) 7
 - C. Board Approval Required For Apprentice Owner/Manager 7
 - D. Credit for Prior Apprentice Training 7
 - 1. New Applicants 7
 - 2. Credit for Prior Apprentice Training: Application for Reinstatement..... 7
- V. Licensee Conduct 8
 - A. NRS Chapter 637B & NAC Chapter 637B..... 8
 - Scopes of Practice..... 8
 - Disciplinary Action..... 8
 - Responsibilities to Clients & Treatment 8
 - Professional Responsibilities 8
 - Contact Information Updates and Notices to the Board..... 8
 - Unlicensed Practice 8
 - B. Adopted Professional Codes of Conduct..... 8
 - Practice of Audiology..... 8
 - Practice of Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids..... 8

I. APPRENTICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

[NAC 637B.0391](#)

The in-service training of an apprentice must consist of both:

- An academic portion, and
- A competency-based on-site training and work experience portion.

A. Academic Training

[NAC 637B.0392](#)

The academic training portion must be specific to the training and education necessary to competently practice fitting and dispensing hearing aids and must include all of the following:

- Laws and rules relating to ethics;
- Federal laws and rules governing hearing aids;
- Infection controls;
- Basic hearing science;
- Hearing instrument science and fitting practices; and
- Audiometric testing and masking.

This training may be fulfilled through completion of any of the following:

- A program accepted by the [National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences \(NBC-HIS\)](#)
- A program accepted by the International Hearing Society (IHS)
- A program accepted by an accredited institution of higher education that meets the minimum requirements
- A customized program of academic training for which a proposed curriculum has been evaluated and approved by the Board

B. On-Site Training and Work Experience

[NAC 637B.0391](#) & [NAC 637B.0394](#)

The on-site training and work experience portion must be completed under the direct supervision of an approved sponsor and may be completed concurrently with the academic training, for:

- A minimum of 2 years, and
- At least 16 hours per week, and
- At least 30 weeks per year.

1. Required Core Competency Training

[NAC 637B.0394\(2\)](#)

This training must be competency-based to evaluate the apprentice's proficiency in the following core competencies:

- Sanitation protocols;
- The identification and documentation of the needs of a client;
- Visual inspections of the ear and otoscopic examinations;
- Audiometric testing;
- The results of hearing evaluations;
- Ear impressions, preparations and molds;
- Physical and electronic checks of hearing aids;
- The fitting, programming, troubleshooting, adjusting and repairing of hearing aids; and
- Client documentation.

2. Review & Documentation of Core Competencies

[NAC 637B.0394\(3\)](#)

During the training, the apprentice and sponsor must review the core competencies as follows:

- Review the apprentice's progress in each competency area;
- Document the apprentice's proficiency in each core competency, by signature and date, on a form provided by the Board.

The Board may also require a sponsor to provide a report on the training and core competencies achieved by an apprentice and proof of compliance with supervisory responsibilities.

3. In-Service Training Exceptions

[NAC 637B.0391\(3\)](#)

An apprentice is not required to participate in the required in-service training if they:

- Hold an associate's degree or higher in hearing instrument sciences approved by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences; or
- Successfully complete a program of education or training in hearing instrument sciences which is approved by the Board.

II. SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY, GENERAL DUTIES, & MAXIMUM RATIOS

A. Eligibility to Serve as a Sponsor

[NAC 637B.0396, LCB File R026-25, Sec 27](#)

To be eligible to act as a sponsor of an apprentice, a hearing aid specialist or audiologist must meet all of the following criteria:

- Hold a standard license that is on active status;
- Have experience as:
 - A hearing aid specialist for at least 3 years immediately preceding becoming a sponsor; or
 - An audiologist who has fitted and dispensed hearing aids for at least 3 years immediately preceding becoming a sponsor.
- Be employed by the same employer as the apprentice during the term of the on-site training and work experience portion of the in-service training of the apprentice; and
- Be in good standing with the Board and have no record of disciplinary action.

B. Duties of Sponsor

[NAC 637B.0398](#)

A sponsor must:

- Provide **direct supervision**, as defined below, to an apprentice at all times, except when performing any duties that may be delegated to an unlicensed assistant in [NAC 637B.0442](#), listed below.
- Determine the competency level of the apprentice to perform tasks relating to fitting and dispensing hearing aids.
- Evaluate the work of the apprentice.
- Document the training provided to and the direct supervision of the apprentice.
- Review and sign the apprentice's work on a daily basis and ensure it is signed by the apprentice.
- Provide written notification to the Board if any of the following occur:
 - The apprentice is no longer under the sponsorship of the sponsor.
 - The apprentice withdraws from or terminates the in-service training.
 - The sponsor withdraws as a sponsor for the apprentice.
 - The apprentice has completed 1 year of in-service training under the sponsor's supervision and the sponsor believes the apprentice is competent to work without physical on-site supervision.
 - The apprentice successfully completes all the requirements for in-service training.

C. Sponsorship Ratios

[NAC 637B.0396\(2\)](#)

A sponsor may supervise no more than 2 apprentices; and an apprentice may have no more than 2 Sponsors.

III. SUPERVISION OF & LIABILITY FOR APPRENTICES

A. Supervision of Work & Civil Liability

[NRS 637B.236\(1\);\(4\)\(a,b\)](#)

All work performed by a licensed apprentice must be directly supervised by an AUD or HAS, who is responsible and civilly liable for the negligence or incompetence of the licensed apprentice under their supervision, defined as follows:

- “*Incompetence*” means a lack of ability to practice safely and skillfully as a licensed apprentice arising from:
 - A lack of knowledge or training; or
 - An impaired physical or mental capability, including an alcohol or other substance use disorder.
- “*Negligence*” means a deviation from the normal standard of professional care exercised generally by apprentices.

B. Responsibility in Complaints Made Against Apprentices

[NAC 637B.400, LCB File R026-25, Sec 33\(6\)](#)

For any proceedings regarding a complaint filed against an apprentice, the Board may require that the apprentice be accompanied by any sponsor who signed, dated or reviewed a record regarding a patient related to the complaint.

C. “Direct Supervision” Defined

[NAC 637B.0398\(5\)\(a\)\(b\)](#)

- **Year 1:** The sponsor must provide direct supervision by *being physically on-site at the same location* as the apprentice.
- **Years 2 & 3:** After year 1 and with Board approval, the sponsor may provide direct supervision by *maintaining daily communication with the apprentice without being physically on-site at the same location* as the apprentice.

D. Exceptions to Direct Supervision

[NAC 637B.0398\(3\), LCB File R108-23, Sec 7](#)

An apprentice is not required to be under the direct supervision of a sponsor when performing any of the duties that may be delegated to an unlicensed assistant, detailed below:

1. Allowable Duties that May be Delegated by AUD or HAS to an Unlicensed Assistant or Performed by an Apprentice without Direct Supervision

[NAC 637B.0442\(3\) as Revised in LCB File R108-23](#)

- (a) Cleaning hearing aids and amplification devices.
- (b) Repairing or replacing a broken part of a hearing aid with the same part.
- (c) Replacing a thin tube or dome with a similar size or style.
- (d) Replacing filters.
- (e) Returning to a client a repaired hearing aid that does not require fitting, programming or adjusting.
- (f) Accepting an in-office return of a hearing aid if a receipt is provided to document proof of the return.

- (g) Performing clerical, secretarial and general administrative duties, including, without limitation, providing information that is readily available to the general public.
- (h) Greeting, escorting and scheduling clients.
- (i) Packaging/mailing orders of ear molds, repaired devices, & returns to manufacturers or laboratories.
- (j) Maintaining inventories of supplies and checking the function of equipment.
- (k) Performing checks on hearing aids and other amplification devices.
- (l) Performing troubleshooting & minor repairs to hearing aids, earmolds, & other amplification devices.
- (m) Performing electroacoustic analysis of hearing aids and other amplification devices.
- (n) Demonstrating alerting and assistive listening devices.
- (o) Verbally instructing a client in proper ear hygiene.
- (p) Assisting an AUD or HAS with treatment programs.
- (q) Assisting an AUD or HAS with setup and technical tasks.
- (r) Preparing materials for an ear impression.
- (s) Maintaining and restocking test and treatment rooms.
- (t) Performing equipment maintenance and biological checks.
- (u) Performing infection control duties within the clinic.
- (v) Assisting a client in completing a case history or other relevant forms.
- (w) Interacting with a manufacturer/supplier of hearing instruments on the status of an order or repair.
- (x) Translating and interpreting only if the unlicensed assistant is fluent in a language other than English and has the necessary training and skills to perform such translation or interpretation.

2. Allowable Duties Involving Direct Physical Contact with a Client or Instrument that May be Delegated by AUD or HAS to an Unlicensed Assistant or Performed by an Apprentice without Direct Supervision

[NAC 637B.0442\(4\) as Revised in LCB File R108-23](#)

Duties that involve direct physical contact with a client or a hearing-related procedure or instrument are prohibited, except for the duties listed below:

- A. Instructing a client in the proper use and care of hearing aids and other amplification devices.
- B. Conducting hearing and tympanometric screening on older children and adults without
- C. interpretation.
- D. Conducting an otoacoustic emission screening.
- E. Performing a nondiagnostic otoscopy.
- F. Performing a pure-tone audiologic reassessment on an established client.
- G. Preparing a client for electronystagmography and videonystagmography or evoked testing.
- H. Assisting a hearing aid specialist or audiologist in testing the hearing of a pediatric client.
- I. Performing a pure-tone hearing screening and universal newborn hearing screening test.

E. Selection of Hearing Aids

[NRS 637B.236\(2\)](#)

Any selection of a hearing aid for a customer made by a licensed apprentice must be approved by a hearing aid specialist or audiologist.

F. Approval of Audiograms & Sales Documents

[NRS 637B.236\(3\)](#)

Any audiogram or sales document prepared by a licensed apprentice must be signed by the apprentice and the supervising hearing aid specialist or audiologist.

IV. APPRENTICE LICENSING OVERVIEW

A. Time Limit on Apprentice License

[NRS 637B.238](#)

A person may not serve as an apprentice for more than 3 years without passing the hearing aid dispensing examinations required in [NAC 637B.0373](#).

B. Disclosure of Sponsor Relationship(s)

[NAC 637B, LCB File R026-25, Sec 15](#)

Apprentices must include sponsor information in each initial or renewal application and include a disclosure as to whether any sponsor is related to the apprentice by blood, adoption or marriage within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity or has a dating relationship with the sponsor, defined as “an intimate association primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional or sexual involvement. The term does not include a casual relationship or an ordinary association between persons in a business or social context.”

C. Board Approval Required For Apprentice Owner/Manager

[NAC 637B.0398\(4\)](#)

An apprentice may not “*maintain, run or operate an office or a satellite office in which hearing aids are fitted and dispensed*” without the approval of the Board.

D. Credit for Prior Apprentice Training

1. New Applicants

[NAC 637B.0391\(4\), LCB File R026-25, Sec 24](#)

An apprentice may receive credit for not more than 2 years of in-service training completed under the supervision of a licensed audiologist, licensed hearing aid specialist or equivalent licensee of the District of Columbia or another state or territory of the United States.

2. Credit for Prior Apprentice Training: Application for Reinstatement

[NAC 637B.0391\(5\), LCB File R026-25, Sec 24](#)

If approved by the Board, an Apprentice whose license expired but is reinstated may receive credit for not more than 2 years of in-service training completed during the initial license period.

V. LICENSEE CONDUCT

All licensees should be familiar with the following sections of NRS 637B and NAC 637B addressing practitioner conduct, with attention to conduct specific to audiology and fitting and dispensing hearing aids.

A. NRS Chapter 637B & NAC Chapter 637B

Scopes of Practice

[NRS 637B.050](#) “Practice of audiology”, defined.

[NRS 637B.055](#) “Practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids” defined.

Disciplinary Action

[NRS 637B.250](#) Grounds for Initiating Disciplinary Action

[NAC 637B.046](#) Grounds for Disciplinary Action: Unprofessional Conduct

Responsibilities to Clients & Treatment

[NAC 637B.044](#) Responsibility to Client

[NAC 637B.0446](#) Case History & Procedures Required For Prospective Hearing Aid Candidate

[NAC 637B.0448](#) Duties of HAS or AUD Concerning Hearing Aids Sold or Fitted

[NAC 637B.045](#) Preparation & Retention of Health Care Records and Other Records

Professional Responsibilities

[NRS 637B.237](#) HAS Apprentice Self-Identification & Use of Title

[NRS 637B.239](#) HAS & HAS Apprentice Display of License

[NAC 637B.042](#) Professional Responsibility

Contact Information Updates and Notices to the Board

[NAC 637B, LCB File R026-25, Sec 28](#) Notification of Adverse Action Against Licensee within 30 Days

[NAC 637B.038](#) Name Change Notification within 30 Days/Practice Under Another Name Prohibited

[NRS 637B.241](#) HAS & HAS Apprentice Notice to Board of Change in Business Address

[NAC 637B.0385](#) All Licensees Address & Contact Information to Be Maintained with the Board

Unlicensed Practice

[NRS 637B.290](#) Practice without license: Prohibition; penalties.

[NRS 637B.291](#) Practice or offering to practice without license: Reporting requirements of Board.

B. Adopted Professional Codes of Conduct

[NAC 637B, LCB File R026-25, Sec 16](#)

The Board has adopted, by reference, the following professional codes of conduct in the form most recently published, as standards of professional conduct in the State of Nevada. A copy of any of these publications may be obtained free of charge from the Board upon written request. A violation of the provisions of a code of ethics adopted by reference in this section constitutes **cause for disciplinary action**.

Practice of Audiology

[American Academy of Audiology \(AAA\) Code of Ethics](#) and [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\) Code of Ethics](#). If ASHA and AAA standards conflict, the more restrictive standards apply.

Practice of Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids

[National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences \(NBC-HIS\) Code of Ethics](#) and [International Hearing Society \(IHS\) Code of Ethics](#). If NBC-HIS and IHS standards conflict, the more restrictive standards apply.