

# Beyond Your License: Recognizing Specialists

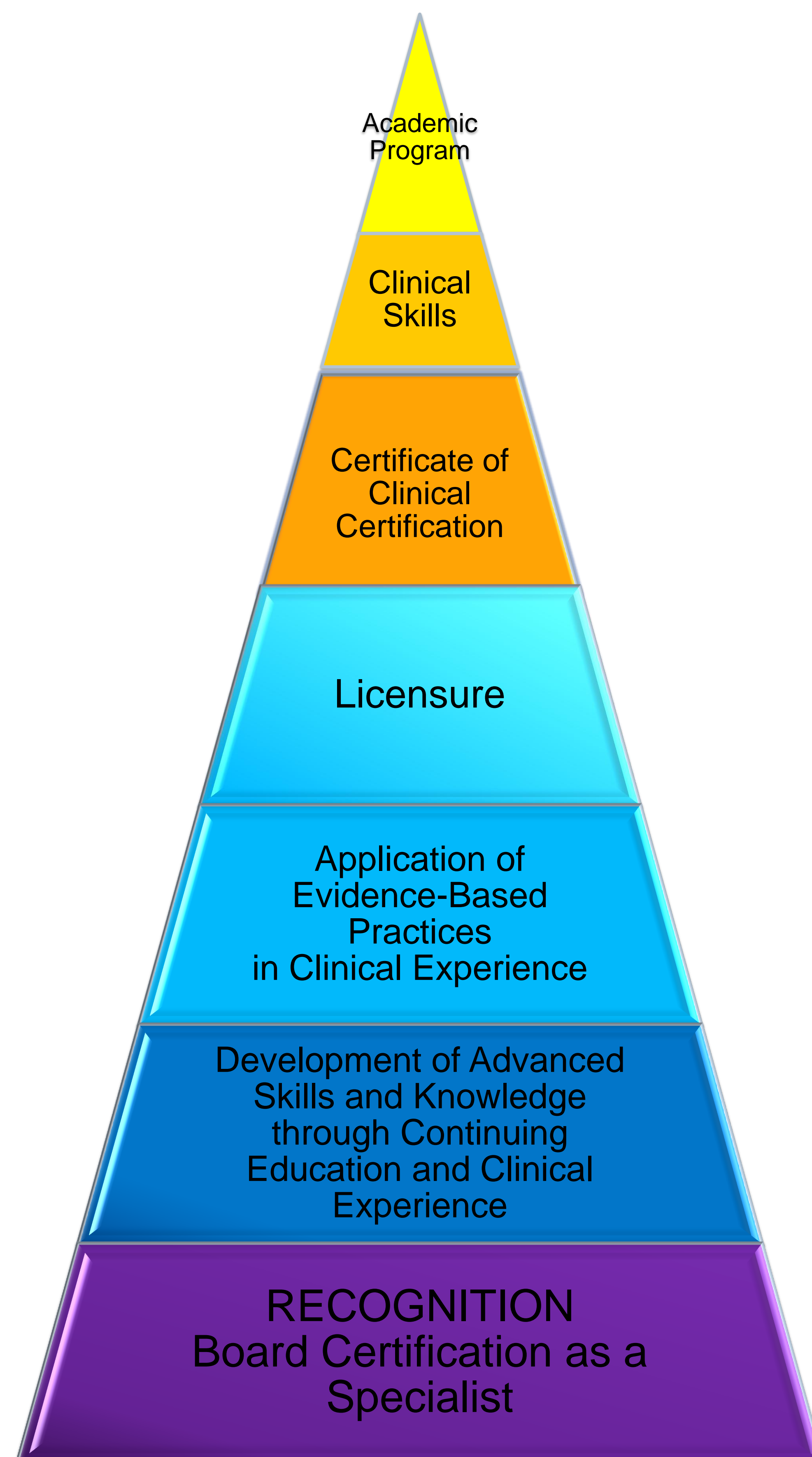
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## Background

The current trend in professions is to stratify, assigning various degrees of tasks to each level of employee. Both ASHA and AAA have acknowledged the need for support staff to handle specific tasks, freeing professional providers for those tasks requiring professional decision-making.

- Support personnel
- Professionals: Audiologists and SLPs
- Specialists

## How To Become A Specialist

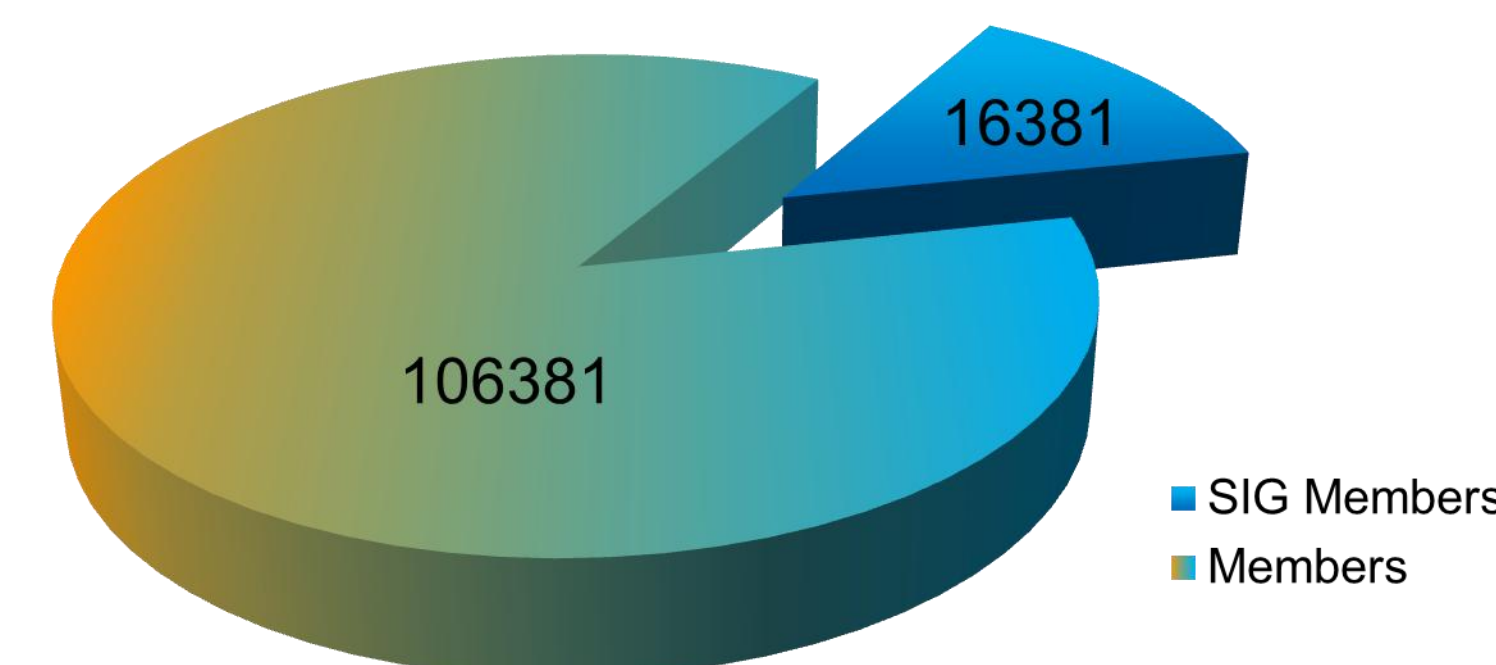


Graphic concept: Kathy Gregory, CCC-SLP, BRS-Child Language, personal communication

## Special Interests

ASHA currently offers Special Interest Groups (formerly Special Interest Divisions) in these areas:

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 - Language                         | 10 - Higher education             |
| 2 - Neurophysiology                  | 11 - Administration & supervision |
| 3 - Voice                            | 12 - AAC                          |
| 4 - Fluency                          | 13 - Swallowing                   |
| 5 - Orofacial                        | 14 - Diverse populations          |
| 6 - Hearing research                 | 15 - Gerontology                  |
| 7 - Aural rehab                      | 16 - Schools                      |
| 8 - Public health: hearing & balance | 17 - Global issues                |
| 9 - Hearing in Childhood             | 18 - Telepractice                 |



AAA does not sponsor specific special interest groups at this level.

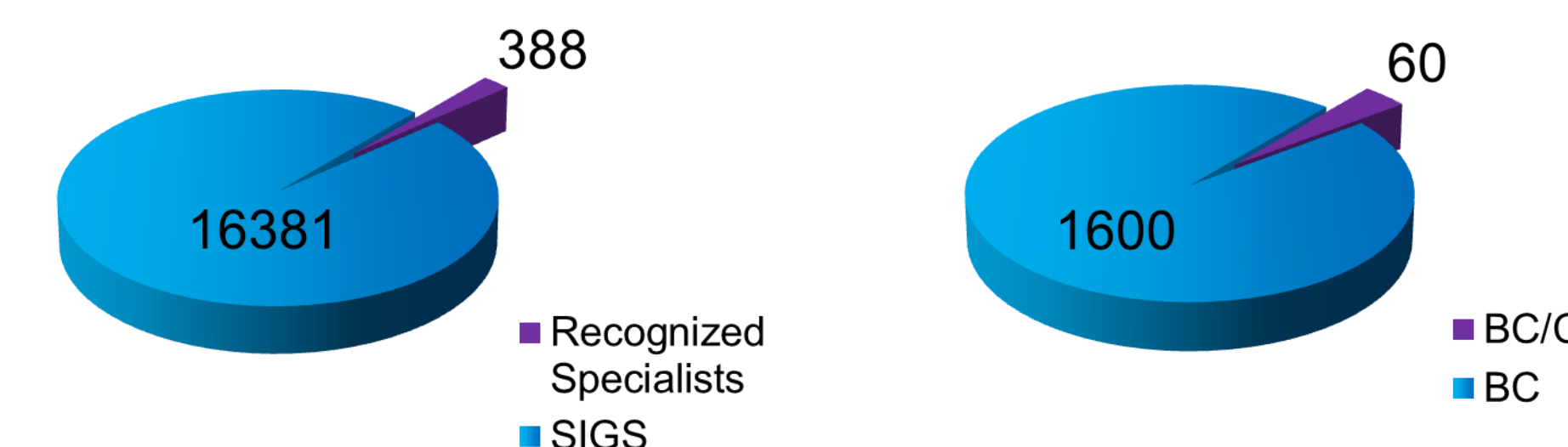
## Special Interest Groups

- Benefits – general
  - Explore a specialty you may not have access to in actual practice
  - Interact with experts in the specialty area
  - Mentor novices in your specialty
- Benefits – ASHA SIGs
  - Full text access to Perspectives (online journal)
  - Self-study CEUs
  - Discounts on SIG-sponsored
    - advanced level CEUs
    - ASHA short-courses
    - meetings

## Formal Specialty Recognition

### ASHA: BOARD RECOGNIZED SPECIALIST IN....

- Swallowing – 141
- Child language – 75
- Fluency – 172
- Intraoperative monitoring (in progress)



### AAA: BOARD CERTIFIED AUDIOLOGIST WITH A SPECIALTY IN....

- Cochlear implants – 60
- Pediatric audiology (first exam at AAA, 4/2011)

## Common specialty recognition requirements

### Each requires

- Basic certification from the parent organization
- Post-degree experience
- Specialty area experience
- Application fee

### Some may also require

- Mentored work
- Portfolio
- Statement of philosophy
- Written exam
- Advanced level CEUs

## Benefits to specialty recognition

- Self-improvement
- Recognition
  - Patients/public
  - Peers
  - Employers
  - Insurers
- Mentoring opportunities

## Other outlets for special interests

- Specialized organizations
  - Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology
  - Academy of Doctors of Audiology (formerly Academy of Dispensing Audiologists, ADA)
  - American Academy of Private Practice in SP/A
  - Educational Audiology Association
  - Military Audiology Association
- Social networks
  - LinkedIn.com affiliations (e.g. audiology marketing, audiology jobs, zip [balance professionals], investigative [forensics])
  - Facebook.com
- Blogs-others or start your own
- Intermediate and/or advanced CEUs in the specialty area
- Start your own SIG or online affiliation group

## Contacts for more info

ASHA Special Interest Groups:

<http://www.asha.org/members/divs/>

Swallowing:

[www.swallowingdisorders.org](http://www.swallowingdisorders.org)

Child Language:

[www.childlanguagespecialist.org](http://www.childlanguagespecialist.org)

Fluency Disorders:

[www.stutteringspecialists.org](http://www.stutteringspecialists.org)

Intraoperative Monitoring:

(In progress, see "Clinical Specialty Recognition" at <http://www.asha.org/certification/>)

Cochlear Implants:

[www.americanboardofaudiology.org/specialty/ci.html](http://www.americanboardofaudiology.org/specialty/ci.html)

Pediatric Audiology:

[www.americanboardofaudiology.org/specialty/pediatric.html](http://www.americanboardofaudiology.org/specialty/pediatric.html)

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