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SAA Survey on ABA Certification

By Mariah Cheyney and Torryn P. Brazell

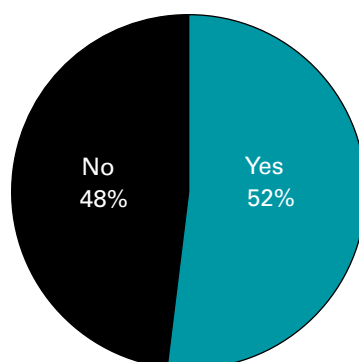
In September, the Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) conducted a snapshot survey of its 1,360 members to tabulate information on student perception and knowledge of ABA's provisional board certification. The students were also asked about their interest in future audiology certification specialties.

Feedback from the SAA members is already helping the ABA to communicate more effectively with the audiology student population and is helping the ABA to better focus on professional areas that are of interest to students.

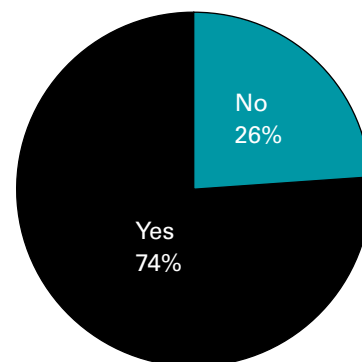
Based on the results of the survey, students are increasingly aware of changes to the profession, with 74 percent planning on attaining ABA Board Certification after attaining their degree and another 44 percent planning to attain a specialty certification in pediatric audiology or cochlear implants within three to five years of graduating.

Mariah Cheyney is an AuD student at the University of Pittsburgh and the Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) secretary and ABA student liaison. Torryn P. Brazell, CMP, CAE, is the managing director of the ABA.

Are you aware that the ABA offers provisional board certification for fourth-year externs?

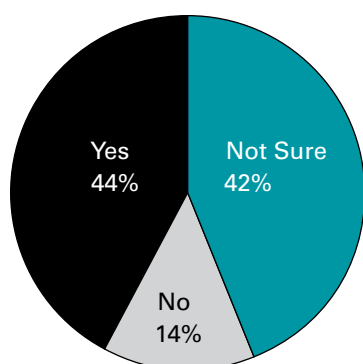


Do you plan on becoming ABA board certified after attaining your degree?



Additional results of the survey can be found in the following data charts:

Licensed audiologists may obtain ABA specialty certification in particular areas, for example, pediatric audiology and cochlear implants. Do you think you will obtain either of these certifications within the next 3–5 years?



FACT: Application for provisional board certification is free. There are no fees associated with provisional board certification.

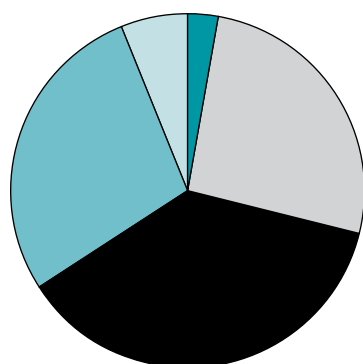
FACT: Completion of a national audiology exam is required to apply for provisional board certification.

FACT: Provisional board certification is offered to doctoral students who have completed their coursework but still have to complete, or are completing, their fourth year externship.

FACT: The first year of full ABA Board Certification is free for those who obtained provisional certification in their fourth-year externship.

FACT: Applicants must have completed a minimum of 375 contact hours of clinical practice which is often earned in conjunction with academic coursework.

In what program year will you be entering this fall?



- First year – 3%
- Second year – 26%
- Third year – 37%
- Fourth year – 28%
- Recently graduated – 6%

The ABA is considering the development of additional specialties. Which of these areas would be of most interest to you?

- Vestibular pathology: 57%
- Clinical supervision: 51%
- Tinnitus: 46%
- Occupational audiology: 32%



To apply for provisional board certification, visit www.americanboardofaudiology.org.