

College or Association? Understanding the Difference

Regulatory bodies (i.e. colleges) and associations both play important and complementary roles, but their responsibilities and accountability are fundamentally different. An important responsibility of being a self-regulated professional is understanding the key differences between regulatory bodies and associations.

	College (Regulatory Body)	Association
Mandate	Serves the public and acts in the best interest of the public by licensing and regulating the competent, safe, and ethical practice of audiology and speech-language pathology in Saskatchewan.	Represents, supports and serves member interests .
Accountability	Accountable to the public and the Saskatchewan Government.	Accountable to the members of the association.
Authority	The Saskatchewan Government grants the right of self-regulation through legislation (<i>The Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Act, SS 1990-1991, CS-56</i>).	May establish itself as a corporation.
Membership	Registration is mandatory to practice the professions in Saskatchewan and use the protected professional titles.	Registration is voluntary/optional.
Activities	Establish, maintain, and enforce: • Registration and licensure requirements. • Continuing competency and quality assurance. • Standards and guidelines of professional practice. • Fundamental values, as well as ethical and responsible conduct expectations. • Professional conduct and discipline.	Focused on: • Promotion and advocacy (e.g. media events, campaigns). • Lobbying government on professional issues. • Promoting research and studies. • Providing continuing education and professional conferences. • Facilitating forums for exchange of practice information, resources, support, and networking.
Member Advantages	• Recognition as a regulated health profession whose specialized expertise warrants the privilege of self-regulation. • Public trust and confidence is maintained. • Use of the protected professional titles. • Greater autonomy, control, and self-governance. • Access to government to advise on emerging issues and proposed legislative changes impacting the professions. • Connection to a broad professional regulatory community of other self-regulated health professions.	• Member and professional advocacy. • Access to practice resources, publications and professional development opportunities. • Professional support and social networking. • Raise awareness of profession and professional issues. • Access to awards, grants, and insurance programs.