

# AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES/INFORMATION

#### SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

**Speech-language pathologists assess and treat patients who have speech, language, voice, fluency, or oral motor disorders. They also assist people who wish to improve their communication skills through changes in vocal pitch, quality, or accent. Speech-language pathologists utilize special instruments and tests to develop individualized treatment plans for patients.**

Prevention  
Screening  
Assessment  
Treatment  
Behavioral Modification  
Follow-up  
Administration  
Consultation  
Supervision  
Teaching  
Research

Public and private K-12 schools  
Universities and colleges  
Hospitals  
Physicians' offices  
Speech, language, and hearing centers  
Home healthcare agencies  
Nursing care facilities  
Adult day healthcare centers  
Residential facilities  
Federal agencies including:  
    Department of Veterans Affairs  
    National Institutes of Health  
    Department of Health and Human Services  
    Department of Education  
    Armed Services  
State and local health departments  
Community clinics  
Rehabilitation centers  
Private individual or group practices  
Research laboratories

A master's degree from an accredited speech-language pathology program is required to enter the field.  
Nearly all states require licensure or certification of speech pathologists.  
Obtain the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) offered by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.  
A passing score on the national examination and post-graduate supervised clinical experience are required for certification.  
Some states may require additional certification to work with special education populations in public schools.  
Approximately 45% of speech pathologists work in schools and 65% in healthcare organizations.  
Some practitioners specialize in specific age groups.  
A doctorate is required for university teaching and research positions.  
Take undergraduate coursework in anatomy, physiology, psychology, and communication sciences.  
Maintain a high GPA and seek related experiences to be competitive for graduate school.  
Successful candidates have the ability to communicate effectively, demonstrate patience, and work well with others.  
Learn to function effectively on a team as many speech-language pathologists collaborate with other healthcare professionals.

## AREAS

### AUDIOLOGY

**Audiologists identify, diagnosis, and treat people experiencing disorders associated with the ear and hearing. These disorders may include hearing loss or balance problems. Audiologists utilize technical equipment such as audiometers and computers to assess a patient's impairment and to plan a course of treatment. Audiologists are concerned with the nature and extent of hearing loss and how this may impact a client's quality of life.**

Prevention

Screening

Diagnosis

Assessment

Treatment Including:

Dispense Hearing Aids

Fit and Program Cochlear Implants

Administer Hearing Assistive Technology Systems

Counsel Patients and Families on Communication Methods

Tinnitus Retraining Therapy

Cerumen Management

Fabrication of Ear Protection Pieces

Follow-up

Administration

Supervision

Forensic Audiology

Teaching

Research and Development

Consultation

Hearing Protection Programming/Education

## EMPLOYERS

Hospitals

Physicians' offices

Speech, language, and hearing centers

Private individual or group practices

Home healthcare agencies

Nursing care centers

Residential facilities

Rehabilitation centers

Federal agencies including:

Department of Veterans Affairs

National Institutes of Health

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Education

Armed Services

State and local public health departments

Health and personal care stores (hearing aid stores)

Hearing manufacturing industry

Employers required by OSHA to protect hearing

Schools, K-12

Universities and colleges

Research laboratories

## STRATEGIES/INFORMATION

A doctoral degree in audiology, a passing score on the national examination, and post-graduate supervised clinical experience are generally necessary for licensure which is required by all states.

Obtain the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) offered by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or credentialing through the American Board of Audiology.

Many states require audiologists to have a Hearing Aid Dispenser license to dispense those devices.

Take undergraduate coursework in anatomy, math, physics, genetics, and normal and abnormal communication development. Maintain a strong GPA.

Learn to work well on a team as most audiologists collaborate with physicians, speech-language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, or other professionals.

Audiologists who go into private practice may want to seek courses or training in business principles.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Research the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology to determine which is a better fit. Shadow professionals to experience their work environments.
- Join the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association while in school and become an active member.
- Volunteer in healthcare settings or other helping roles to gain experience working with people of diverse ages and backgrounds.
- Display a desire to work with people who have disabilities and a strong sense of patience which is necessary as rehabilitation may progress slowly.
- Develop excellent communication and computer skills. Learn about communication among various cultures.
- Earn excellent grades and obtain strong faculty recommendations for graduate school admission.
- Research the centralized graduate school application process managed by the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders.
- Attend universities accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.