AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

What can I do with this major?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Prevention
Screening
Assessment & treatment of speech-language, voice, and swallowing disorders
Select and program augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices
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 56% of speech pathologists work in schools and 39% 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.

AREAS

AUDIOLOGY

Prevention
Screening
Diagnosis
Assessment
Treatment includes:
- Prescribe, verify, and dispense hearing aids
- Fit and program cochlear implants
- Fit hearing assistive technology systems
- Tinnitus retraining therapy
- Vestibular rehabilitation

Counsel patients and families on communication methods
Cerumen management
Fabrication of ear protection pieces
Follow-up
Administration
Supervision
Forensic audiology
Teaching
Research and development
Consultation

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
Public and private K-12 schools
Universities and colleges
Research laboratories

STRATEGIES

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.

© 1998 The University of Tennessee
Center for Career Development (1998, Revised 2003, 2008, 2012, 2022, 2026)
UTK is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA /ADEA Employer