

AUDIOLOGY (Au.D.) & SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

ACADEMIC AND CAREER INFORMATION

NATURE OF THE WORK, EARNINGS, AND OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

Audiologists are healthcare professionals who provide patient-centered care in the prevention, identification, diagnosis, and evidence-based treatment of hearing, balance, and other auditory disorders for people of all ages. Audiologists provide professional and personalized services to minimize the negative impact of these disorders, leading to improved outcomes and quality of life. Common daily activities for audiologists include providing assessments, fitting and dispensing hearing technology, counseling, consulting and collaborating with others and preparing diagnostic and treatment reports. Some audiologists and hearing scientists also spend part of their day engaged in teaching, research or administration. 73.5% are employed in health care settings and 28.6% are employed in full- or part-time private practice. [Learn more about the profession of audiology.](#)

Earnings and Job Outlook: In 2018, the median salary for audiologists was \$80,000 (ASHA, 2019). The job growth for audiologists is expected to grow by 17% between 2018-2028 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2018).

Speech-language pathologists provide vital services across the lifespan to prevent, evaluate and treat disorders in speech, spoken and written language, social communication, cognition, voice, fluency, and swallowing. They work in collaboration with clients, families, and other professionals to improve the quality of life for children and adults with communication and swallowing disorders. Common daily activities for speech-language pathologists include providing screenings, assessments, treatment and counseling, consulting and collaborating with others and preparing diagnostic and treatment reports. Some speech-language pathologists and speech-language scientists also spend part of their day engaged in teaching, research or administration. 56% are employed in school settings, while 39% are employed in health care settings. [Learn more about the profession of speech-language pathology.](#)

Earnings and Job Outlook: The median salary in 2019 for speech-language pathologists was \$78,000 nationwide and \$85,000 in the Western United States (ASHA, 2019). The job growth for speech-language pathologists is expected to grow by 27% between 2018-2028 (OOH, 2018).

TRAINING

There are over 300 colleges and universities offering undergraduate and graduate Communication Science and Disorders (CSD) degree programs in the United States. In California, practitioners must be licensed by the Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers board.

Audiology: Preparation to become an audiologist entails earning an entry-level clinical doctoral degree with a major emphasis in audiology [i.e. the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree]. The time-to-degree is 3 or 4 years of full time study. Typically there are 3 years of instruction and 1 year of externship.

Speech-Language Pathology: A master's degree is required to practice as a speech-language pathologist. The time-to-degree is 2 years of full time study. After obtaining a master's degree, graduates must complete a clinical fellowship year to become licensed.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

A minimum 3.0 GPA is typically required for admission, although average GPAs may be higher.

Audiology: General undergraduate course prerequisites include human biological sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, statistics, social/behavioral sciences, and English. Courses in communication sciences and disorders relevant to the study of audiology are strongly encouraged. The most common undergraduate major for accepted applicants is in communication and speech disorders.

Speech-Language Pathology: Due to the high amount of required prerequisite coursework prior to admission to a master's program, an undergraduate major in speech-language pathology is highly recommended but not required. Students must fulfill basic science requirements and undergraduate courses in communication sciences and disorders. Basic science requirements include at least one course in statistics, physical science, biological science, and behavioral science. SLP undergraduate courses can be fulfilled while completing a major in SLP or through the completion of prerequisites. The amount of required prerequisite courses ranges depending on the program: typically, between 8 – 18 courses are required before admission into a Master's program. Some common prerequisites include speech science, phonetics, anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism, development of speech and language, articulation disorders and language disorders, basic clinical audiology, and cognitive neuroscience.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CSULB courses which fulfill admission requirements for some U.S. programs:

Students maintain responsibility for verifying course selection with individual programs.

Coursework	CSULB Courses
Human Anatomy and Physiology with Lab	Biology 208: Human Anatomy Biology 207: Human Physiology
General Biology with Lab	Biology 211 & 212
One year of General Physics with Lab	Physics 100A & 100B OR 151 & 152
One course in Statistics	Biology 260 OR Kinesiology 483
One year of Behavioral Science courses	Sociology 100 and Psychology 100
One year of English	English 100 AND another course from the English department such as: 102, 180, 300
Speech Science	Speech-Language Pathology 330
Phonetics	Speech-Language Pathology 271
Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanism	Speech-Language Pathology 261
Development of Speech and Language	Speech-Language Pathology 329: Language Acquisition: From Birth Through Adolescence
Articulation Disorders and Language Disorders	Speech-Language Pathology 456: Speech Sound Disorders
Basic Clinical Audiology	Speech-Language Pathology 373: Audiology I

IMPORTANT FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

STANDARDIZED TEST: The [Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\)](#) may be required for admission to graduate degree programs in audiology and speech-language pathology. Not all institutions require an examination for admission.

CLINICAL EXPOSURE: This experience may be an important factor in the admissions process. The program may specify the settings and types of experiences required. Students should respectfully contact clinics, hospitals, long-term care facilities (e.g., nursing homes), educational facility and other healthcare settings in the area to find observation opportunities.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Many programs require 1-4 letters of letters of recommendation as part of the admissions process. If references are required, select individuals who meet the program's requirements; know the student well; and can speak to maturity, dependability, dedication, compassion, communication skills, leadership, and any hands on experience in the field.

ADMISSIONS: All prerequisite courses must be completed by time of matriculation. Applications can be submitted directly to institutions. The Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS) is another option for applying to many programs in one place.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [ASHA information for prospective students](#)
- [EdFind](#) (search for graduate programs)
- [Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service \(CSDCAS\)](#)

For more information on Audiology and Speech Pathology, visit www.asha.org and see your HPAO advisor for further information on the application process, application assistance, and a list of upcoming workshops and events.