

Speech-Language Pathology

Who, What, Where and Why!

Who: Speech-language pathologists are professionals who evaluate, treat, and conduct research into human communication and its disorders. We have an interest in helping people, good interpersonal and collaboration skills, patience, scientific aptitude, resourcefulness, imagination, and communicate effectively orally and in writing.

What speech language pathologists in educational settings do:

- Work on teams with teachers, school personnel and parents to assess, evaluate, and provide interventions for children with communication disorders
- Assist children and adolescents with language problems, such as understanding and giving directions, answering and asking questions, understanding and using English grammar, using appropriate social language and conveying ideas to others
- Plan and implement interventions in fluency, speech, voice and/or swallowing disorders
- Assist students who have had brain trauma relearn language and speech skills
- Design and employ augmentative and assistive communication
- Conduct speech and language disability awareness and prevention campaigns
- Distinguish language differences from disorders for bilingual students
- Counsel students and their families how to understand communication disorders and how to communicate more effectively in educational, social and vocational settings
- Consult regarding language stimulation, inclusion strategies, and educational, literacy, social and behavioral adaptations and modifications.

What we study: A strong liberal arts focus on the undergraduate level is recommended with course work in linguistics, phonetics, anatomy, psychology, human development, biology, physiology and semantics. A program of study in communication sciences and disorders is available at the undergraduate level and through the SPARC Project. A Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology is also required.

Where we work: The practice and work of audiologists and speech-language pathologists may take place across the age ranges and in various settings:

Public and private schools
Hospitals
Rehabilitation centers
Nursing care facilities
Community clinics
Colleges and universities
Private practice offices

State and local health departments
State and federal government agencies
Home health agencies (home care)
Long-term care facilities
Adult day care centers
Developmental disability centers
Research laboratories

Why we are needed:

Speech, language, and hearing disorders affect over 42 million Americans.
One in 10 families in Ohio are affected by a communication disorder.

Compiled from ASHA information at www.professional.asha.com and
CASLPA information at www.caslpa.ca (5/03)