

AUDIOLOGY (Au.D.) & SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

ACADEMIC AND CAREER INFORMATION

NATURE OF THE WORK, EARNINGS, AND OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

Audiologists are licensed health-care 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. Hearing and balance disorders are complex with medical, psychological, physical, social, educational, and employment implications. Treatment services require audiologists to have knowledge of existing and emerging technologies, as well as interpersonal skills to counsel and guide patients and their family members through the rehabilitative process. 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. [Learn more about the profession of audiology.](#) 74% are employed in health care settings, 30% are employed in full- or part-time private practice.

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 healthcare, education, private practice, and community-based settings 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. [Learn more about the profession of speech-language pathology.](#) 53% are employed in school settings, while 39% are employed in health care settings.

TRAINING

There are over 300 colleges and universities offering undergraduate and graduate Communication Science and Disorders (CSD) degree programs in the United States. 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]. A master's degree is required to practice as a speech-language pathologist. A PhD is most often required for faculty researcher careers.

Audiology: The time-to-degree is 3 or 4 years of full time study. Degree attained: Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) 2014-2015 AY: 623 clinical entry-level doctoral degrees in audiology were granted (CSD Education Survey) A Healthcare setting is the primary first employment setting among recent audiology graduates.

Speech-Language Pathology: The time-to-degree is 2 years of full time study. Degree attained: Master's degree. 2014-2015 AY: 7,539 master's degrees in speech-language pathology were granted (CSD Education Survey). A school setting (pre-K-12) is the primary first employment setting among recent graduates.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Regardless of major or minor area of study, at least one course each in the human biological sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, statistics, social/behavioral sciences, and English are required as part of a student's undergraduate degree or post-baccalaureate preparation. Courses in communication sciences and disorders relevant to the study of audiology are strongly encouraged.

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	Units
Human Anatomy and Physiology with Lab	Biology 208: Human Anatomy Biology 207: Human Physiology	4, 4
General Biology with Lab	Biology 211 & 212	4, 4
One year of General Physics with Lab	Physics 100A & 100B OR 151 & 152	4, 4
One course in Statistics	Biology 260 OR Kinesiology 483	3
One year of Behavioral Science courses	Sociology 100 and Psychology 100	3, 3
One year of English	English 100 AND another course from the English department such as: 102, 180, 300	3, 3

IMPORTANT FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Clinical exposure is essential. The program may specify the settings and types of experiences required. This experience may be an important factor in the admissions process. 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.

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.

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.

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.