



PROGRAMS OFFERED

- ◆ B.S. ◆ M.S.

Speech-language pathologists assess and provide clinical services to people of all ages who cannot communicate clearly. These individuals may have problems with articulation, stuttering, voice, understanding and producing language, attention, memory, cognitive communication, and/or problem solving. Speech-language pathologists help clients develop, or recover functional communication skills so they can fulfill their educational, vocational and social roles. They counsel individuals and their families concerning communication disorders and help them learn to cope with the stress and misunderstanding that often accompany them. Additionally, they may work with people who have oral motor problems causing eating and swallowing difficulties.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Employment of speech-language pathologists and audiologists is expected to increase through the year 2020. The need for services will increase as a result of advances in medical technology, the aging baby boom population, and the growth of the elderly population. Greater awareness of the importance of early identification and diagnosis of speech, language and hearing disorders will also increase employment.

EARNINGS

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) conducts salary surveys in public schools and healthcare facilities. In 2020, the national median annual salary for full-time certified speech-language pathologists working in the schools was \$75,000 (9-10 months). According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of May 2020, the National Median average salary for speech-language pathologists was \$80,480, with the top 10 percent earning more than \$122,790. Salaries in the West Coast/Pacific tend to be higher than the national median averaging \$88,300.

EMPLOYMENT

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists work in a variety of settings. These settings include:

- Provide evaluation and treatment to children in public schools.

- Teach in college and university programs.
- Manage agencies, clinics, organizations or private practices.
- Evaluate and treat individuals in hospital settings.
- Engage in research to enhance knowledge about human communication processes.
- Supervise and direct public school or clinical programs.
- Develop new methods and products to evaluate and treat speech-language disorders.

Speech-language pathologists often work as part of a team, which may include teachers, physicians, audiologists, psychologists, social workers, rehabilitation counselors and others. Corporate speech-language pathologists also work with employees to improve communication with their customers.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A master's degree in communication sciences and disorders is entry level training for licensed and certified speech-language pathologists. However, a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in speech pathology or communication disorders is required in order to be eligible to apply to the Master of Science degree program. Although the BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders is not a professional degree, graduates are eligible for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) license upon completing the BS degree (and completing a specific number of clinical practicum hours). Students transfer to the BS program in their junior year of college, having fulfilled all general education requirements during their freshman and sophomore years at other accredited colleges or universities. The junior year begins in the autumn quarter of each academic year. Core (major) communication sciences courses and beginning clinical experiences are the emphasis of the junior year and senior years.

Eligibility for admission to the BS program requires a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 and completion of a minimum of 64 semester credits/96 quarter credits of specific general education coursework on the next page.

