

Communication Sciences and Disorders

School of Allied Health Professions



PROGRAMS OFFERED

♦ B.S. ♦ M.S. ♦ Transitional M.S.

Speech-language pathologists (SLP) assess and provide clinical services to people of all ages who cannot communicate clearly. These individuals may have problems with articulation, stuttering, voice, understanding/ 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 eating and swallowing difficulties.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There is already a **nationwide shortage** of speech-language pathologists, and demand is expected to increase through the year 2032 as a result of advances in medical technology, growth of the elderly population, and retiring speech-language pathologists.

EARNINGS

According to the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of May 2023, the national median salary for speech-language pathologists was \$92,630, with the top 10 percent earning more than \$129,930. Salaries in the West Coast/Pacific tend to be higher than the national median, averaging \$96,500.

EMPLOYMENT

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists work in a variety of settings. They may:

- 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 typically work as part of a team which may include family members, 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

Students typically begin their journey in communication sciences and disorders (CSD) by completing a **Bachelor of Science in CSD**. Students transfer into Loma Linda University's CSD program at the junior level after completing general education requirements at another college or university. This program provides clinical practice opportunities that prepare graduates for Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) licensure, enabling them to work under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist (SLP).

After receiving a bachelor's degree in CSD, students may pursue a **Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders**. Combined with state licensure, the M.S. degree allows a clinician to practice independently as a speech-language pathologist.

Loma Linda University has an alternate track for students who have a bachelor's degree in an area other than CSD. The **Transitional Master's Program** offers a bachelor's equivalent and continues into master's level coursework in CSD.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

(ONLINE OR IN-PERSON)

The Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders degree is now offered in both in-person and online formats. All online courses are delivered synchronously, allowing on-campus and online students to learn together in real time. Instructors respond to student questions during class and remain available afterward for one-on-one interaction, either in person or online. Students in both formats also engage with one another during class sessions, creating

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE cont'd

Admission requirements:

Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and completion of at least 64 semester credits (96 quarter credits) of general education coursework. See domains 2 through 7 (below). Domain 1 is completed once enrolled at Loma Linda University.

Domain 1: Spiritual Life and Wholeness – minimum 8 quarter units

An average of 4 quarter units of religion for each year of residence at Loma Linda University. All required religion must be taken at Loma Linda University.

Domain 2: Arts and Humanities – min 16 qtr units or 11 sem units

Courses from at least three of the following content areas: civilization/history, art, literature, modern language, philosophy, religion, or general humanities elective. If a student takes religion courses from other institutions, they will be counted in this domain.

Domain 3: Scientific Inquiry & Quantitative Reasoning (min. 12 qtr or 8 sem. units)

One **biological science** (e.g., human anatomy and/or physiology, general biology, microbiology, life science). One **physical science** (physics or chemistry). One **math course** (general math or introductory statistics).

At least one natural science lab component.

Domain 4: Social Sciences (min. 12 qtr or 8 sem. units)

Courses from two of the following content areas: anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, sociology. Includes one course (or components integrated into several courses) in human (cultural) diversity.

Domain 5: Written & Oral Communication (9-13 qtr. or 6-9 sem. units)

ENGLISH:

A complete sequence in English composition that meets the baccalaureate degree requirements of a four-year college or university. Additional courses may include information systems, critical thinking, or public speaking.

Domain 6: Health and Wellness (2-6 qtr. units or 1.5 to 4 sem. units)

Health courses in personal health, personal nutrition, population health, global health, or community nutrition, etc. At least two separate **physical activity courses** totaling a minimum of 1 quarter unit or military discharge papers (DD214).

Domain 7: ELECTIVES

A minimum total of 96 quarter or 64 semester units.

Please Note: "C minus" grades are not transferable for credit

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Master of science graduates meet academic requirements for national certification & state licensure. After passing a national boards exam, graduates are qualified to enter the field as an independent professional. This program is seven quarters in length, including the summer between the first and second years. Students enter in the fall and progress through the program as a cohort.

Admission requirements: minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, minimum GPA of 3.3 for the last 96 quarter credits (64 semester credits), a well-written professional statement, three recommendation letters (at least two from academic sources), online interview and writing assessment.

Additional prerequisite coursework: at least one undergraduate course in each of the following areas: **biological sciences** (e.g., biology, human anatomy), **physical sciences** (physics or chemistry required), **statistics**, and **social/behavioral sciences** (e.g., psychology, sociology, educational psychology).

TRANSITIONAL MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM (Hybrid or In-person)

This program is for students who have completed a bachelor's degree in a field other than speech-language pathology or communication disorders. The program is eleven quarters in length and includes summer terms. Students enter in the fall and progress through the program as a cohort.

The first year of study can be taken **online** or **in person**. It consists of foundational coursework. The second and third years are taken in person ONLY.

Admission requirements: minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, minimum GPA of 3.3 for the last 96 quarter credits (64 semester credits), a well-written professional statement, three recommendation letters (at least two from academic sources), online interview and writing assessment.

HOW TO APPLY:

Apply online at www.llu.edu/central/apply/index.page.

All programs begin taking applications **October 1**.

Program	Application Deadline
Bachelor of Science	June 1 (sometimes extended)
Master of Science	January 2
Transitional Master of Science	March 1

Cost of Attendance

Please review LLU's Find a Program website for the most up-to-date information on the cost of attendance: BS, M.S. & Transitional M.S.

Financial Aid

For information, contact the Office of Financial Aid at finaid@llu.edu or (909) 558-4509.

Student Health Requirements:

Please review the New Students—Health Requirements. <https://llu.edu/campus-spiritual-life/student-health-service/new-students-health-requirements>.



International Students

TOEFL or IELTS (or equivalent English language proficiency examination) scores for applicants whose native language is not English or whose secondary education was received outside the United States (refer to: <https://alliedhealth.llu.edu/admissions/international-students>).



Contact Information:



SCAN TO SAVE CONTACT

Reviewed 08/27/2025



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY

LLU at a Glance

>> Founded in 1905 >> A Seventh-day Adventist institution integrating health, science, and Christian faith >> Offers over 200 programs in the health sciences >> Houses eight schools: Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Religion >> About 4,000 students >> Over 1,300 faculty >> 2,000 professional researchers >> \$46 million dollars in private and public grants generated each year >> Many service-learning opportunities

Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, California 92350
909.651.5878

Website: www.llu.edu
www.facebook.com/llualliedhealth

Instagram: @llusahp
Facebook: @loma linda university school
of allied health Professions