

## I. CAREER INFO

### A. What Do Speech-Language Pathologists Do? Far More Than You Think!

([www.sac-oac.ca/](http://www.sac-oac.ca/))

When most people think about speech-language pathologists (SLPs) they probably think of professionals who help clients with a stutter or a lisp. While this may be a tiny percentage of what some SLPs do in very specific work settings, their scope of practice is far broader, and the type of therapy they provide is infinitely more technical and complex.

### B. Speech-Language Pathologists Can Evaluate, Diagnose, & Treat

(Goodman, Lesley, M.A., CCC-SLP, 2021)

- Communicative, cognitive, and swallowing disorders related to injury, disease process, or congenital conditions.
- Disorders and/or delays in the development of speech production
- Disorders and/or delays in the development of language comprehension & structure
- Fluency disorders
- Voice/laryngeal disorders
- Gender-affirming voice therapy
- Resonance disorders & cleft lip/palate
- Swallowing and feeding disorders
- Cognitive-communicative disorders
- Social communication difficulties
- Pre-literacy and literacy skills
- Much, more more...

Across various professional settings, from interdisciplinary rehabilitative medicine to hospitals/clinics to schools, SLPs are key players in the overall rehabilitative/habilitative team working directly alongside physical therapists and occupational therapists. These *three* professions together form a core therapy group, often providing services simultaneously in the context of “co-treatments”, for the purpose of serving the whole person and ensuring cohesiveness of techniques and recommendations.

Speech-language pathologists provide specialized therapy to individuals of all ages, from infancy to advanced age, to help them either learn *or regain* their skills in speech production, language comprehension, alternative communication (e.g., sign language, electronic devices, etc.), cognition, feeding, swallowing, voice production, memory, attention, and much more.

### C. Income Data from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics

([www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/speech-language-pathologists](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/speech-language-pathologists))

Opportunities for speech-language pathologists will grow by a staggering 25% from 2019 to 2029— far outpacing the average for all occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The median pay for 2020 was approximately \$80,480 per year. SLPs can work in a variety of areas, including early intervention, hospitals, rehabilitative medicine, private practice, educational institutions (schools, university clinics), and more.

## II. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

([www.asha.org/students/planning-your-education-in-csd/](http://www.asha.org/students/planning-your-education-in-csd/))

(Certification: <https://www.asha.org/certification/>)

(Licensure: <https://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/info/ca/licensure/>)

In order to practice as a speech-language pathologist (SLP), you must possess a Master's degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences & disorders AND possess a professional license from the regulatory board of the state in which you practice. Many speech-language pathologists *also* pursue a certificate of clinical competence (also known as "CCC") through the American Speech & Hearing Association (ASHA) which involves a post-graduate fellowship training period. Certification, unlike state licensure, is obtained through ASHA and is a voluntary process. There are approximately 20 universities in CA offering a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology/Communication Disorders, two of which are new programs with "candidacy status" (see Accredited Graduate Program in California section).

#### A. Pathway 1

- The student obtains a bachelor's degree in a CSD major and applies for admission to graduate school.
- Most undergraduate programs in CSD will require prerequisite coursework that includes statistics, biological sciences, social/behavioral sciences, and physical sciences. (*See below for additional information about basic science requirements.*)

#### B. Pathway 2

- The student obtains a bachelor's degree in a major other than CSD and takes prerequisite coursework before applying for admission to graduate school.
- Some institutions offer leveling options to complete prerequisite coursework or second bachelor's degree programs to prepare students to apply for graduate programs. Other programs offer prerequisites online to students who are not enrolled in the programs.

#### C. Pathway 3

- The student obtains a bachelor's degree in a major other than CSD and applies to graduate schools that do not require prerequisite courses for admission.
- Students without the required coursework will generally take the courses as part of the graduate program. The graduate program may take longer, depending on the number of prerequisite courses that the student needs to take.

You can search EdFind (<https://find.asha.org/ed>) for graduate programs that either offer prerequisite course programs online or do not require prerequisites for admission. Contact the individual graduate program to find out details of their process. EdFind can also help you search for options that are important to you, including multicultural/bilingual emphasis, study-abroad options, & online or distance-learning options.

#### D. Course Requirements & Considerations for Undergraduates

([www.asha.org/certification/course-content-areas-for-slp-standards/](https://www.asha.org/certification/course-content-areas-for-slp-standards/))

Many graduate programs have basic science requirements which mirror those identified by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) which includes one college-level course in the biological sciences, one college-level course in either physics or chemistry, one college-level course in the social sciences, and one college-level course in inferential statistics. These courses can be taken at the undergraduate level and applied toward your basic science requirements for application to graduate school. See below for sample courses offered at Cal Poly University which may meet these basic science requirements.

- **Social/Behavioral Science** (e.g., psychology, anthropology, ethnic/cultural studies, archaeology, economics, gender/sexuality studies, political science, criminology); some programs require this coursework to be diversity and culture-related, while others do not

*Select one from the following-*

- PSY 201, PSY 202, PSY 252 PSY 256, PSY 340, PSY 372, PSY 375, PSY 405

- ANT 201, ANT 309
- ES 112, 114, 345, 350
- POLS 310
- WGS 201, 210, 301, 320
- ECON 201, 221, 222
- **Biological Science** with content area relating to human or animal sciences (e.g., biology, anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, human genetics, veterinary science)
  - Select one from the following-*
  - BIO 111, BIO 161, BIO 231, BIO 232, BIO 302, BIO 351, BIO 361, BIO 406
- **Physical science** (e.g., entry level chemistry OR physics)
  - Select one from the following-*
  - CHEM 110, CHEM 124, CHEM 127
  - PHYS 104, 121
- **Statistics** (must be a stand-alone course; cannot be a research methodology course unless you can prove a clear delineation of separate course content teaching basic statistics)
  - Select one from the following-*
  - STAT 217, STAT 218
- **IMPORTANT-** Please ensure whether the graduate program to which you are applying accepts AP classes for meeting these requirements or whether it will only accept undergraduate level courses
- **SLP-specific prerequisite courses:** Each graduate program requires additional prerequisite coursework specific to communication sciences and disorders. However, it varies by institution. Be sure to check with each graduate program about requirements before applying.

## E. ACCREDITED GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN CALIFORNIA

(<https://find.asha.org/ed/>)

**Important:** For those interested in obtaining a Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) through ASHA, please note that all coursework and graduate clinical experience **MUST** be initiated and completed in a CAA-accredited program with CAA candidacy or accreditation status. For admissions requirements, please review each graduate programs' requirements *individually*, as each one's requirements may differ in GPA requirements, GRE requirements, prerequisite requirements, etc. Below is a list of universities in CA offering accredited Master's degree programs in Speech-Language Pathology/Communication Disorders, two of which are new programs with "candidacy status".

- [University of the Pacific](#) (MS)
- [University of Redlands](#) (MS)
- [San Diego State University](#) (MA)
- [San Francisco State University](#) (MS)
- [Loma Linda University](#) (MS)
- [Chapman University](#) (MS)
- [Cal State LA](#) (MA)
- [Cal State Sacramento](#) (MS)
- [CSU Chico](#) (MS)
- [California Baptist University](#) (MS)
- [Cal State Fullerton](#) (MA)
- [CSU East Bay](#) (MS)
- [Biola University](#) (MS)
- [San Jose State](#) (MEd)
- [CSU, San Marcos](#) (MS)
- [CSU, Long Beach](#) (MA)
- [CSU, Northridge](#) (MS)
- [CSU, Fresno](#) (MA)
- [University of Southern California](#) (MS, not yet accredited, considered "Candidate for Accreditation", new

- program first cohort Fall 2021)
- [CSU, Monterey Bay](#) (MS, not yet accredited, considered “Candidate for Accreditation”, new program first cohort Spring 2022)

**Note:** PhD programs are also available for those whose primary interest lies in research and education, as opposed to clinical practice. The graduate programs listed above may or may not also offer PhD programs. Please visit <https://www.asha.org/students/about-speech-language-and-hearing-scientist-careers/> for more information about career opportunities for those with a Ph.D.

### III. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION LINKS

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) [www.asha.org/](http://www.asha.org/)
- California Speech & Hearing Association [www.csha.org/](http://www.csha.org/)
- National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) [www.nsslha.org/](http://www.nsslha.org/)
- California Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board  
[www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/](http://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/)
  - Please visit [https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/applicants/app\\_pack\\_slp.shtml](https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/applicants/app_pack_slp.shtml) for more information about how to obtain your CA license in Speech-Language Pathology

## OT PAGE SECTIONS

### - CAREER INFO

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) states that Occupational Therapy is a health care profession aimed at helping, "people of all ages regain, develop, or master everyday skills in order to live independent, productive, and satisfying lives. Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes." Occupational therapy practitioners (OTs) are skilled professionals whose education includes the study of human growth and development with specific emphasis on the social, emotional, and physiological effects of illness and injury. OT's assess, utilize, and adapt everyday activities to improve function, enhance performance, promote health, prevent illness, and increase independence in those persons to whom they provide services.

The AOTA also says that "many practitioners choose to help children thrive in the 'occupations' of childhood, which include learning, playing, and growing. Therapists work in schools with students who have learning disabilities or behavioral problems. Others work with premature newborns at pediatric hospitals or children with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and other disabilities. Occupational therapists also work with individuals in their homes, community centers, rehabilitation hospitals, businesses, and nursing homes. In these settings, occupational therapists help people with traumatic injuries, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, or mental health problems learn to live productive lives through the use of meaningful occupations. Those who join the field today may choose other areas of practice that are increasingly important. These new specialties include training workers to use proper ergonomics on the job, helping people with low vision maintain their independence, making buildings and homes more accessible, older driver evaluation and training, and promoting health and wellness."

According to the AOTA, "Occupational Therapists work in a variety of job settings. Public schools, hospitals, mental health centers, nursing homes, physician practices, and home health agencies are all job settings that may employ occupational therapy practitioners. With career advancement, occupational therapists may move into management, specialization, teaching, research, or private practice positions." In 2020, The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the median annual wage of occupational therapists was \$86,280. The job outlook for Occupational Therapists is great, with a projected growth of 17% by 2030.

- EDUCATION AND TRAINING ("to obtain a license...", # of programs in california)
- COURSE REQUIREMENTS (requirements + recommended classes)
- CA SLP SCHOOLS
- PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION LINKS