

Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP)

- Speech-Language Pathologists help people of all ages with speech, language, cognition, fluency, swallowing, voice disorders, articulation problems, and language delays. They can help improve communication and social skills of people with autism or traumatic brain injury; work with people wanting to modify their accents; assist in stroke recovery; and implement the use of alternative communication such as communication boards.
- They evaluate and treat problems related to speech sound production, comprehension and production of language, voice, stuttering, swallowing, orofacial anomalies, communication modalities, and hearing.
- They also provide counseling, education, vocational guidance and rehabilitation, and conduct research related to disorders of communication.
- Speech-language pathologists work in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, clinics, nursing homes, government agencies, private practice, and research laboratories.
- They coordinate their efforts with an interdisciplinary team including teachers, physicians, psychologists, and social workers.

Education & Licensure

- Graduate from a Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) accredited program and complete a master's level Speech-Language Pathology program.
- *While most people attend a graduate program after completing an undergraduate degree in communication science such as SLHS at Purdue, it is not required. If you do not have an undergraduate degree in communication science, graduate programs will require that you take a few undergraduate classes before beginning the master's program. This means that it may require extra semesters to complete the master's degree depending on how many courses you need.*
- Meet the academic and practicum requirements for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) [Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology](https://www.asha.org/certification/) (CCC-SLP). <https://www.asha.org/certification/>

Preparation

- Shadow speech-language pathologists to ensure this is the right field for you and that you understand the breadth of the field and what SLP professionals do. Programs typically require 25 hours of guided ASHA-approved shadowing (with shadowing hours documented by licensed practitioner in the field).
- Take an aptitude test: the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required at many schools.
- Complete any required undergraduate courses if you are not already majoring in SLHS/communication science.
- Grades of C or higher are generally required in prerequisite courses.

Common Prerequisite Courses (Undergraduate Courses Required at Purdue)

Common Prerequisite Courses	Purdue Course Options
Elements of Linguistics	SLHS 22700
Anatomy & Physiology for Speech & Hearing	SLHS 30300
Language Development	SLHS 30900
Phonetics	SLHS 30600
Acoustics or Speech Science	SLHS 30200
Aural Rehabilitation	SLHS 46000
Hearing Disorders & Hearing Evaluation	SLHS 31000
Introduction to Clinical Practice	SLHS 44900
Core Requirements for Certification	https://www.asha.org/certification/course-content-areas-for-slp-standards/
Biology—1 semester	Any BIOL course (except BIOL 11000, BIOL 14700, BIOL 20500, BIOL 20600) e.g. BIOL 20300 or BIOL 22000 or BIOL 23100
Behavioral or Social Science—1 semester	e.g. ANTH 34000, 36800, PSY 20000, 22200, 23500, SOC 27500, SOC 37400
Physical Science—1 semester (Chemistry or Physics)	Any CHM course above CHM 11100, e.g. CHM 11200, CHM 11500, CHM 12901 or Any PHYS course (except PHYS 21500) e.g. PHYS 22000
Statistics—1 semester	e.g. STAT 30100, STAT 50100, STAT 50300, PSY 50000, SOC 38200

Student Organizations: National Student Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (NSSLHA)

Research Programs

[CSDCAS Program Directory](https://members.csdcas.org/program-directory) <https://members.csdcas.org/program-directory>

[American Speech Language Hearing Association EdFind Program Search Tool](https://find.asha.org/ed/#sort=relevancy) <https://find.asha.org/ed/#sort=relevancy>

Applying

- Many of the graduate programs participate in a centralized application service called the Communication Sciences & Disorders Central Application Service ([CSDCAS](https://help.liaisonedu.com/CSDCAS_Applicant_Help_Center)) https://help.liaisonedu.com/CSDCAS_Applicant_Help_Center.
- Some schools will require that you also apply through their graduate program directly.
- For programs not participating in CSDCAS, you will need to apply through the graduate programs at those specific schools.
- To meet certification, you need 25 hours of guided shadowing with a certified practitioner. This may be required before entry into a program.
- Applicants should have between 3-5 letters. Letters cannot be longer than 7500 characters and are submitted directly by the letter writer to CDSCAS.
- Letters should be from faculty who have taught you and can speak to your ability to succeed in graduate school.
- Competitive applicants have:
 - Strong academic performance including a grade point average typically much higher than the minimum of 3.0 which is required.
 - Above average scores on the GRE
 - Evidence of ability to work as part of a team, leadership potential, strong communication skills, and knowledge of the field
 - Schools will also look for students who can work as part of a team, show leadership potential, have communication skills, and who show knowledge of the field.

Fee Assistance

[GRE Fee Reduction Program](https://www.ets.org/gre/score-users/reducing-barriers/fee-reductions.html) <https://www.ets.org/gre/score-users/reducing-barriers/fee-reductions.html>

[Application Fee Waivers](https://help.liaisonedu.com/CSDCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_CSDCAS_Application/Getting_Started_with_Your_CSDCAS_Application/03_Application_Fees)

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Job Outlook

Jobs in speech-language pathology are expected to grow by 18% through 2033. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, median salaries are \$95,410. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/speech-language-pathologists.htm>. In addition, ASHA publishes [a comprehensive salary survey](https://www.asha.org/siteassets/surveys/2023-slp-hc-survey-annual-salaries.pdf). <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/surveys/2023-slp-hc-survey-annual-salaries.pdf>

Programs in the State

- [Purdue University](https://hhs.purdue.edu/graduate-programs/speech-language-pathology-ms-slp-graduate-program/) West Lafayette | <https://hhs.purdue.edu/graduate-programs/speech-language-pathology-ms-slp-graduate-program/>
- [Purdue University Ft Wayne](https://www.pfw.edu/academics-research/majors-minors/speech-language-pathology-ms) | <https://www.pfw.edu/academics-research/majors-minors/speech-language-pathology-ms>
- [Indiana University](https://sphs.indiana.edu/graduate/ma-slp-degree/index.html) Bloomington | <https://sphs.indiana.edu/graduate/ma-slp-degree/index.html>
- [Indiana University South Bend](https://healthscience.iusb.edu/speech-pathology/index.html) | <https://healthscience.iusb.edu/speech-pathology/index.html>
- [Ball State University](https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/spaa) Muncie | <https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/spaa>
- [Indiana State University](https://indianastate.edu/academics/academic-program-finder/speech-language-pathology-ms) Terre Haute | <https://indianastate.edu/academics/academic-program-finder/speech-language-pathology-ms>
- [St. Mary's College](https://www.saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies/ms-speech-language-pathology) Notre Dame | <https://www.saintmarys.edu/graduate-studies/ms-speech-language-pathology>

More Information

- [Career Information](https://www.asha.org/Students/Speech-Language-Pathology/) <https://www.asha.org/Students/Speech-Language-Pathology/>
- [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](https://www.asha.org/) (ASHA) <https://www.asha.org/>
- [Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service](https://www.csdcas.org/) (CSDCAS) <https://www.csdcas.org/>

Other Careers to Consider

Speech Language Pathologist Assistant • Audiologist • Occupational Therapist

Preparing for your Giant Leap

purdue.edu/preprofessional