

Reward Yourself With a Career in HEALTH CARE

You'll feel great about a career that
helps people with speech, language,
and hearing disorders



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

About ASHA

- The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing organization for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists.



About ASHA (cont'd)

- The ASHA Certificates of Clinical Competence (CCCs) are universally recognized credentials in the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology. In fact, many hospitals, health care settings (including the U.S. military), education programs, and private practices require an ASHA CCC for new hires and promotions. The ASHA CCCs are symbols of quality and professionalism to employers, third-party payers, fellow practitioners, and consumers.

Becoming an ASHA-Certified Audiologist

- To become an ASHA-certified audiologist, you must meet the following requirements:
 - doctoral degree in audiology from an ASHA-accredited program
 - passing score on a national examination

*In almost all states a current license in audiology is also required to practice.

Becoming an ASHA-Certified Speech-Language Pathologist

- To become an ASHA-certified SLP, you must meet the following requirements:
 - graduate degree in speech-language pathology from an ASHA-accredited program
 - completion of supervised postgraduate clinical fellowship
 - passing score on a national examination

*In almost all states a current license in speech-language pathology is also required to practice.

The Need is Great— so are Your Opportunities

- Working in health care is exciting, challenging, and full of variety. ASHA-certified audiologists and speech-language pathologists provide important services in all health care settings including:
 - Acute care hospitals
 - Rehabilitation hospitals
 - Nursing homes
 - Speech and hearing clinics
 - Physician offices
 - Home health
 - Private practice

The Need is Great— so are Your Opportunities

Medical conditions in children and adults can interfere with their ability to communicate.

Problems That Cause Hearing, Balance, Speech, Language, and/or Swallowing Disorders

- Strokes
- Head injury
- Noise exposure
- Alzheimer's disease
- Parkinson's disease
- Head and neck cancer
- Premature birth
- Genetic problems (e.g., Down syndrome, genetic hearing loss)
- Advancing age
- Cerebral palsy
- Breathing problems
- Severe or long-term illness

Audiology

- Hearing is one of our most vital senses. Audiologists are health care professionals who specialize in
 - normal hearing and hearing loss
 - prevention of hearing loss
 - identification and assessment of hearing loss (newborn through adult)
 - identification and assessment of balance problems
 - rehabilitation of persons with hearing and balance disorders

Audiology (cont'd)

- Services performed by audiologists include
 - evaluating hearing
 - counseling
 - fitting hearing aids
 - teaching effective communication strategies, including speech reading
 - evaluating and treating balance disorders
 - determining an individual's need for assistive devices

Unique Opportunities for Audiologists in Health Care

- Work with other medical professionals to address hearing and balance disorders
- Use cutting-edge technology to evaluate and treat hearing and balance disorders
- Conduct research on normal hearing and hearing loss
- Provide services in a variety of clinical settings, including hospitals, health systems, and private practice
- Act as a manager or administrator

Speech-Language Pathology

- SLPs in health care help children and adults who have difficulty communicating and swallowing. The services of an SLP include prevention, identification, evaluation, and treatment of speech, language, cognitive-communication, voice, and swallowing disorders.

Speech-Language Pathology (cont'd)

- **Speech disorders** affect how people say sounds and words (articulation) and how smoothly they speak.

Speech-Language Pathology (cont'd)

- **Language disorders** can interfere with what individuals say and how well they understand what is said to them. Reading and writing can also be affected.

Speech-Language Pathology (cont'd)

- **Cognitive-communication disorders** affect a person's memory, attention, ability to identify time and place, problem-solving ability, reasoning, and social interactions.

Speech-Language Pathology (cont'd)

- **Voice disorders** change how a person's voice sounds- for example, the person's voice might sound hoarse, too quiet or too high-pitched.

Speech-Language Pathology (cont'd)

- **Swallowing disorders** make it difficult for a person to chew and swallow food and liquids safely and may cause them to lose weight or choke and cough when eating.

Unique Opportunities for SLPs in Health Care (cont'd)

- Work with doctors, nurses, and other professionals to improve the lives of the people they treat

Unique Opportunities for SLPs in Health Care (cont'd)

- Use cutting-edge technology to evaluate and treat many types of speech, language, and swallowing disorders

Unique Opportunities for SLPs in Health Care (cont'd)

- Provide services to a variety of clients, from newborns to the oldest adults

Unique Opportunities for SLPs in Health Care (cont'd)

- Work for a hospital or health system, in a client's home, or even for themselves in a private practice

Unique Opportunities for SLPs in Health Care (cont'd)

- Engage in clinical research

Unique Opportunities for SLPs in Health Care (cont'd)

- Act as a manager or administrator

10 Good Reasons To Choose a Career as an Audiologist or SLP In Health Care

1. Improve people's lives
2. Be part of an in-demand profession
3. Receive excellent benefits and salary
4. Experience a wide variety of work options and settings
5. Use cutting-edge technology

10 Good Reasons To Choose a Career as an Audiologist or SLP In Health Care (cont'd):

6. Collaborate with other professionals
7. Treat a varied patient population
8. Take advantage of many opportunities for career advancement
9. Contribute to a growing body of knowledge
10. Advocate for individuals with communication and related disorders

We're Here to Help.

- Learn more about becoming a part of these exciting professions!
- Visit us at www.asha.org/students
- E-mail us at healthservices@asha.org or audiology@asha.org
- Call us at (800)638-8255



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