Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD)
is about working with people to improve their speech, language, hearing, and other communication abilities. CSD professionals help people communicate effectively. There are two professions in the discipline.

Audiology
Help people who have hearing and balance disorders.

Speech-Language Pathology
Help people who have speech and language communication problems.
Everything You Need to Build a Career You’ll Love.

As an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, you can:

Help people of all ages to overcome various communication disorders, such as hearing and speech-related problems like balance, tinnitus, stuttering, speaking difficulties, or having trouble swallowing.

Have great flexibility and many choices. You can work in all kinds of settings such as hospitals, schools, universities, private practice, and research labs; and focus on different skills, disorders, technologies, and goals. Domestic and global opportunities are available.

Have a stable job with great pay. Employment prospects are strong and growing for CSD professionals — with excellent salaries and benefits to match.

How do I know if a CSD career is a good fit for me?

☐ I have a mix of talents. I like science, and I really like interacting with and helping people too.

☐ I’m a great communicator.

☐ I’m a problem solver.

☐ Working with cutting-edge technology excites me.

☐ I want to give back to my community.

If you check most of the boxes above, talk to your counselor about schools that offer communication sciences programs or visit on.asa.org/CSDprofession to learn more.

“What excites me about the professions is the many dynamics of audiology. There is so much to learn and so much we can do for the patients we serve. The smile that patients give after services are rendered is priceless and is the fuel that I use as motivation. It is a constant reminder that the career path I’ve chosen in audiology is no mistake.”

- Nia B. Potier, AuD, CCC-A
“One of my first clients was a young college student who not only had to deal with the challenges of having autism spectrum disorder but he also happened to be blind. He had significant challenges with social interaction which had a profound impact on his ability to build relationships. He would not face his communication partner during a conversation because, in his words, ‘I can’t see them anyway.’ He was such a pleasant and brilliant young man, and we worked on a variety of social communication skills. He made significant improvements over time. I went to visit him on campus from time to time after he was discharged from SLP services and was thrilled to observe him in the cafeteria as he sat at a table full of other young men and participated in the conversation; he typically sat alone.”
Use your cultural knowledge and linguistic skills.

African-based oral traditions have played a strong role in preserving African American history and culture. Today they live on in storytelling, preaching, call and response, rap and spoken word, and reinforce the importance of effective communication in the African American community. Do not underestimate the value of your unique culture, background and linguistic skills in ensuring that these traditions continue. As an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, you will be in high demand.

It’s not too early to begin thinking about your career.

You can make a real impact in your community and beyond as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association has resources to help you, as a student, along your journey.

To learn more, visit on.asha.org/CSDprofession and speak with your guidance counselor.

Multicultural Constituency Groups
There are multicultural groups that offer opportunities once you become a CSD student to present research, gain leadership skills, and acquire mentoring opportunities.

Visit nbaslh.org to learn more about the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing (NBASLH).
Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD)

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“I love how audiologists utilize technology to help patients and their families. To be an audiologist, you have to be a lifelong learner to keep up with all of the advances in technology. You have to be flexible and think on your feet. You have to be a critical thinker and problem solver. Each patient you see is different, and the challenge is to piece together the information you learn from diagnostic testing to develop a treatment plan that will benefit your patient the most. Most importantly, you have to respect your patients and inform your patients that you want to help them to the best of your ability.”

– Shaum P. Bhagat, PhD, CCC-A
"I grew up watching my paternal uncle suffer from bilateral severe acquired hearing loss and witnessed his difficulty in verbalizing his wants and needs. The fact that he wasn’t rehabilitated during his childhood due to limited access to speech and hearing services in rural India had a deep impact on me.

I strongly felt that, had he been provided with early intervention to address his speech, language, and hearing impairments, his quality of life would have been much better. This inspired me to enter the field of speech and hearing as an undergraduate student.

If you are thinking about a career in a STEM field through which you can make a difference in the lives of others, you should consider the professions of speech-language pathology or audiology. Either is a great career choice from an educational as well as an allied health professional perspective. Your service would enable others to receive the gift of communication, cognition, and swallowing.”

Words From a Pro

Akila Rajappa, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Audiology and speech-language pathology are top professions — but don’t just take it from us.

Audiology Jobs Ranking

#12

HIGHEST-PAYING JOBS
FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO WORK LESS THAN 40 HOURS A WEEK
Ladders (2022)

#14

BEST JOBS
CareerCast.com (2019)

Speech-Language Pathology Jobs Ranking

#3

BEST HEALTH CARE JOBS

#24

30 BEST JOBS FOR THE FUTURE
Business Insider (2021)
Use your cultural knowledge and linguistic skills.

Do not underestimate the value you bring because of your unique culture, background, and linguistic skills. 21.6% of the nation’s population age 5 and over speak a language other than English at home*. If that’s you, as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, you will be in high demand!

* LanguageLine Solutions. (September 20, 2017)

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Visit on.asha.org/AIC to learn more about the Asian Indian Caucus (AIC).

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Audiology is a stable, fast-growing career. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of audiologist is projected to grow 21% from 2016 to 2026, which is much faster than average. Also, for me, earning a doctorate of audiology (AuD) means a higher degree, broader professional knowledge, and more challenge. It makes me more competitive and confident about my work. Knowledge is power!

– Shu-No Chen, AuD, CCC-A

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“I have had the pleasure of working with hundreds of clients, mostly children, being an SLP, but there is one client that always stands out for me. He was 2 years old when I started working with him, and he was one of my very first clients as a Clinical Fellow. He was nonverbal, autistic, and apraxic. He had these eyes that were very expressive even when he didn’t have his words. Because he was nonverbal, I taught him signs, and he picked them up quickly; then gradually came the spoken words, a sound at a time. When he started talking after the age of 4, his mother wrote to me. The card said, ‘You brought music to our lives.’ This October, he celebrated his 16th birthday, and we still keep in touch. He is a successful and bright young man.”
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Visit apislhc.com to learn more about the Asian Pacific Islander Speech-Language-Hearing Caucus.

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Want to give back to your community? Want a great career?
“I watched young children with hearing loss in my family and community struggle to learn Spanish and English. It inspired me. I learned sign language, and now I work with school-age children who come from homes where English is not the primary language to develop listening and spoken language.”

- Linda I. Rosa-Lugo, EdD, CCC-SLP
Words From a Pro

Ana B. Caballero, MD, AuD/PhD Candidate

“Having the opportunity to coordinate a humanitarian mission to help underprivileged families in El Salvador with audiological services has given me the option to give back to my country. In 2014, I coordinated a humanitarian mission to El Salvador, where we had a full week of hearing evaluations, and fitting hearing aids. Being an international student from El Salvador and being able to help my own people was a wonderful experience. It helped me realize how important our roles are as audiologists in the lives of our patients. It was very emotional for me to see the reactions of these kids and their mothers after hearing for the first time. An amazing experience!”

PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID

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Visit ashahc.org to learn more about the Hispanic Caucus.

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“I love being an audiologist because of the variety. Every day is different because each patient has a different need or concern. I get to work with all ages either one-on-one, as a couple, or as a family. As a Native audiologist, what excites me about my work is the opportunity to provide hearing health care to the Native population by trying to meet their physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs.”

- Kristen Bruner-Kober, CCC-A

WORK IN THE MILITARY

GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY
“Having a Native American/Navajo bilingual perspective on communication development and disorders has been invaluable in my career. It gives me insight into the needs and strengths in native communities. This has allowed me to provide and advocate for clinical services that are appropriate. It also has helped me to work to bridge cultural and linguistic differences, meet the unmet needs and build capacity and resource across the state and tribal communities.”

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Visit on.asha.org/NAC to learn more about the Native American Caucus.