



## What is a speech-language pathologist?

Working with the full range of human communication and its disorders, speech-language pathologists are professionals who:

- Treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders in individuals of all ages, from infants to the elderly.
- Evaluate and diagnose speech, language, and swallowing disorders.

**In addition, speech-language pathologists may:**

- Train future professionals in colleges and universities.
- Manage agencies, clinics, or private practices.
- Engage in research to enhance knowledge about human communication processes.
- Develop new methods and equipment to evaluate problems.
- Establish more effective treatments.
- Investigate behavioral patterns associated with communication disorders.

## ASHA Vision

Making effective communication, a human right, accessible and achievable for all.

## ASHA Mission

Empowering and supporting speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists by:

- Advocating on behalf of persons with communication and related disorders
- Advancing communication science
- Promoting effective communication

**For more information or to find a speech-language pathologist who can make a difference in your life, contact:**



American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
2200 Research Boulevard • Rockville, MD 20850-3289  
800-638-8255 • [www.asha.org/proserv/](http://www.asha.org/proserv/) • [actioncenter@asha.org](mailto:actioncenter@asha.org)

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American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

## Why Choose an ASHA-Certified Speech-Language Pathologist



## What does it mean if your speech-language pathologist is certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)?

The ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) is the internationally recognized professional credential for speech-language pathologists. The demanding journey to achieve this voluntary certification (which includes a rigorous academic program and supervised clinical experience, passing a national exam, and completing an internship) helps ensure that professionals who provide clinical services in speech-language pathology receive the highest quality preparation and training and engage in continuous education in professional development activities to stay current in the field.

ASHA's certification standards are based on skills validation studies and practice analyses involving employers, leaders in the discipline of communication sciences and disorders, and practitioners in the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.

This certification assures the public, employers, and colleagues that the certificate holder has the knowledge, skills, and experience to independently provide high-quality clinical services in all settings. Earning the CCC-SLP demonstrates your commitment to go beyond the basic requirements for state licensure.

## Why choose an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist?

- ASHA is the nation's leading professional, credentialing, and scientific organization for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists.
- ASHA has been the guardian of the professions for more than 75 years, initiated the development of national standards for the professions, and has been certifying professionals for more than 55 years.
- ASHA's certification standards are based on skills validation studies and practice analyses involving employers, leaders in the discipline of communication sciences and disorders, and practitioners in the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.
- ASHA certification is not contingent upon membership in any professional organization.
- This credential is a sign that the professional is dedicated to staying current in the communication sciences and disorders field.

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*Clients and their families have the assurance that the professional has the knowledge, skills, and experience to provide high-quality clinical services for them and their family members.*

*Employers, clients, and peers know that the professional is actively engaged in ongoing professional development and must submit documentation to ASHA regarding their continuing education activities to maintain the certification.*



## Professional Credibility

ASHA certification verifies that the speech-language pathologist with a CCC-SLP has met rigorous standards:

- A master's or doctoral degree from an accredited academic program
- A clinical experience supervised by an ASHA-certified professional.
- A passing score on the national examination.
- ASHA certification is voluntary. Employers, regulatory bodies, third-party payers, clients, and peers know that the professional has gone beyond the minimum requirement of state licensure.