Speech-Language Pathology: The Health Care Career For You?
What Does It Look Like?
ASHA / Working with Patients and Families
Training Staff for Safe Feeding
Swallowing Studies—Collaborating with Radiologists
Working on Speech and Language
ASHA / Working in Acute Care
Why Would Speech-Language Pathology Interest Me?

• Working in health care
• Being part of a team
• Helping people regain crucial life functions
• Expanding knowledge of effective treatments
• Using technology
• Working with families
What Skills Do I Need?

• Good oral and written communication
• Good observation of behavior
• Critical thinking and flexibility
  – Test hypotheses
• People skills
• Strong academic background
Different Types of Disorders (Children and Adults)

• Anatomy and physiology of head and neck
  – Swallowing disorders, cleft palate, voice disorders

• Cognitive neuroscience
  – Aphasia from strokes
  – Cognitive communication disorders (brain injury, dementia)
Different Career Paths for SLP Expertise in Health Care

- Clinician—senior clinician—clinical educator or supervisor
- Administrator
- Researcher
- Professor
What Does It Take...

...To Become a Certified Speech-Language Pathologist?

- Master’s degree from an accredited communication sciences and disorders program
- Passing score on a national exam
- 9 month clinical fellowship
Types of Health Care Settings

• Hospitals
  – Acute care, rehabilitation, pediatric, long term acute care
• Skilled Nursing Facilities
• Home health
• Outpatient clinics
• Physician’s offices
• Private practice
What is the Job Market Like?

• Excellent! Projected need is strong
  – Openings in all areas of health care as well as schools
  – Critical shortage of Ph.D.s in academic settings

• Factors influencing need
  – Retiring SLPs
  – Aging baby boomers will increase need for services
  – Babies with long term developmental needs
Compensation

• Salary or hourly compensation
  – Opportunities for part time, flexible hours
• Early career (4-6 years)
  – $60,000 (2009 median)
• Experienced
  – $80,000 (2009 median)
How Can I Get More Information?

- ASHA’s Web site: [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)
  - Click Students or The Public on the left
  - List of graduate programs
  - Information about financial aid
  - Questions? 800-638-8255