

Area: Health & Education
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Degree: A.S. - Speech - Language Pathology Assistant

Speech - Language Pathology Assistant Degree

This degree prepares students to assist Speech-Language Pathologists in treating disorders of communication. Such disorders may be related to articulation and phonology, child and adult language, motor speech, voice, fluency, and hearing. Topics include an introduction to the field of communication disorders, professional issues and practices in speech-language pathology, clinical considerations in service delivery to clients with communication disorders, and fieldwork experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- describe various communication disorders, including etiology and some remedial techniques.
- explain the major areas of cultural diversity and the relationship between culture and communication.
- demonstrate skills needed to assist in the management of speech-language pathology programs and services.
- describe the therapeutic process especially in terms of how learning occurs and strategies for effective lesson delivery.
- implement a treatment protocol as prescribed by the supervising Speech-Language Pathologist.
- describe professional responsibilities and ethical behavior appropriate for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

Career Opportunities

Upon completion of the Associate of Science degree, a student possesses the course work and field work experience to work as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant in both private and public agencies, such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and the public schools serving preschool through adult-age clients. Successful completion of the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant program qualifies the graduate for eligibility to apply to the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board for registration as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

Requirements for Degree

42 Units

CISC 308	Exploring Computer Environments and the Internet	1
ECE 312	Child Development (3).....	3
or PSYC 372	Child Development (3)	
ECE 325	Guidance and Discipline for Young Children.....	3
ECE 404	Children with Special Needs.....	3
GERON 302	Psychology of Aging: Adult Development and Aging.....	3
PSYC 370	Human Development: A Life Span.....	3
SILA 305	American Sign Language 1	4
SLPA 300	Introduction to Communication Disorders.....	3
SLPA 110	Professional Issues and Practices in Speech-Language Pathology.....	3
SLPA 120	Clinical Considerations in Service Delivery to Clients with Communication Disorders.....	3
SLPA 121	Fieldwork Experience in Speech-Language Pathology...	4
SPEECH 325	Intercultural Communication.....	3
SPEECH 331	Group Discussion.....	3
TA 375	Voice, Diction and Dialects.....	3

Associate Degree Requirements: The Speech- Language Pathology Assistant Program Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See ARC graduation requirements.

Speech/Language Pathology

SLPA 110 Professional Issues and Practices in Speech-Language Pathology 3 Units

Prerequisite: SLPA 300 with a grade of "C" or better
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces principles and practices for management of individuals with communicative disorders, with consideration for cultural and linguistic variations. It includes legal and ethical considerations for the practicing speech-language pathology assistant as well as the practicing speech-language pathologist. Requirements for employment in various work settings, including interdisciplinary and supervisory relationships, and scope of relationships are covered.

SLPA 120 Clinical Considerations in Service Delivery to Clients with Communication Disorders 3 Units

Prerequisite: SLPA 110 and TA 375 with grades of "C" or better
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course explores in depth specific disorders of communication, their causes, and characteristics. Specific materials and strategies regarding service delivery are emphasized, with a focus on evidence-based practice. Similarities and differences with regard to therapeutic service provision by the speech-language pathology assistant and the speech-language pathologist are introduced. This course covers remediation techniques and rationales for commonly used therapeutic approaches as well as principles of learning, strategies for service delivery with groups of clients, data collection, clinical documentation, and record keeping. The scope of responsibilities and the role of the speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) in intervention and behavior management strategies are also reviewed.

SLPA 121 Fieldwork Experience in Speech-Language Pathology 4 Units

Prerequisite: SLPA 120 with a grade of "C" or better
Enrollment Limitation: Students are responsible for any costs incurred in meeting the current tuberculosis clearance, live scan fingerprint clearance, malpractice insurance, and basic CPR/First Aid certification.
Hours: 18 hours LEC; 162 hours LAB

This course provides supervised fieldwork experience assisting with the clinical management of persons with communicative disorders. It is specifically designed to train job related skills for the speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA). There are opportunities to interact with clients/patients while implementing a prescribed treatment plan, and assisting with screening or evaluation under the direction of a speech-language pathologist. The experience also includes opportunities for record keeping and managing client data, setting up/preparing for sessions as needed, and performing various clerical duties as needed. All fieldwork is done in specified off-campus locations.

SLPA 125 Strategies for Clinical Success 3 Units

Prerequisite: SLPA 110 with a grade of "C" or better
Advisory: MATH 24 or 25
Hours: 36 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB

This course explores specific materials and strategies regarding speech and language therapeutic service delivery with a focus on intervention. It covers remediation procedures, forms of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), development of forms of AAC, the International Phonetic Alphabet, the collection and transcription of speech samples, and the collection and transcription of language samples. This course is designed as an additional opportunity to gain more experience for preparation for fieldwork as a speech-language pathology assistant.

SLPA 300 Introduction to Communication Disorders 3 Units

Advisory: ENGWR 102, and ENGRD 116 with a grade of "C" or better; or ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with a grade of "C" or better.
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to the field of communication disorders, including an overview and history of the profession of speech-language pathology. It includes an overview of various speech and language disorders, as well as guidelines for determining the development of typical and atypical speech and language. Observations of multimedia materials showing individuals who demonstrate speech and language disorders, as well as observations at various clinical sites in the area, are a part of the course.