

## ***What can I do with a Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders?***

The undergraduate program in Communication Sciences and Disorders is designed to provide students with *pre-professional training* in the basic nature of human communication. Coursework includes biological, physical, social, and linguistic aspects of communication. The coursework prepares students for professional training received in either a master's degree program in Speech-Language Pathology or a clinical doctorate program in Audiology. At the undergraduate level, students do not specialize in either Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology; the degree is a general one in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Possible careers:

- Related occupations possibility requiring additional training:
  - Hearing aid dispenser
  - Substitute teacher
  - Behavioral therapist for children with autism
  - Nonprofit organizations- (ex: Lifespan, Carepartners, Easter Seals, Special Olympics, Autism Society, etc.)
  - Healthcare insurance industry
  - Nursing assistant/CNA
  - Early intervention
  - Newborn hearing screenings
  - Rehabilitation aide in hospitals/outpatient clinics
  - Nursing home activity coordinator
  - Daycare center teacher/preschool aid
  - ASL interpreter
  - Child life specialist
  - Speech-language pathologist assistant
    - Important note: your Bachelor's CSD degree is pre-professional so it does not prepare you for SLP-A jobs. Requirements and opportunities vary by state. We don't support or encourage this option without additional training but if you can locate the necessary training, this may be a possible route for you.

Special programs:

- Teach for America
- AmeriCorps
- Peace Corps

Graduate school options. Some of these may require additional prerequisite coursework. This list is not exhaustive:

- Master's in speech-language pathology
- Clinical doctorate in audiology
- Master's of Education in special education
- Master's in psychology
- Master's in occupational therapy
- Master's in social work
- Master's in counseling
- Master's in public health
- Master's in rehabilitation counseling
- Master's in disability studies
- Master's in nursing
- Physician's assistant
- Doctoral degree in physical therapy
- Master's and Graduate Certificate program in ASD
- Master's in child life

### ***What can I do with a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology?***

A master's degree in speech-language pathology prepares the student for practice as an SLP. The curriculum provides academic and clinical preparation for practice in areas of communication and swallowing across the lifespan. The average time-to-degree is 2 years of full-time study. Careers focus on assessing and treating persons with speech, language, voice, fluency, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders. Jobs may also entail educating individuals about alternative communication systems and their use, as well as performing research related to speech and language problems. After a Master's of Science degree is obtained, an SLP gains certification through ASHA by passing the Praxis exam and completing a Clinical Fellowship.

Examples of work settings:

- School systems
- Health care (hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, acute care, outpatient, inpatient, assisted living facilities, home-health care)
- Private practice
- Early intervention
- Telepractice
- Contract work

After completion of the master's degree, some SLPs pursue doctoral degrees:

- Research doctorate in speech-language pathology or speech and hearing sciences
- Clinical doctorate in speech-language pathology

*Resources:*

- Center for Career and Professional Development
  - Carrie Hachadurian- *Student Development Coordinator*
  - Office: 150J Reid
  - 828-227-3888
- ONET: Summary Report for Speech-Language Pathologists
  - <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-1127.00>
  - This website provides multiple resources, including links to available jobs.
- ASHA: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
  - <https://www.asha.org/students/>
  - This website is headed by our national organization (ASHA).
  - Includes information on assessment, intervention, treatment, and resources for communication disorders
  - Provides resources for students

## References

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