



“A DETAILED SNAPSHOT OF WHAT A CAREER IS ABOUT”

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Speech-language pathologists assess and treat those with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. They may also work with people who have oral motor problems causing eating and swallowing difficulties.

Speech pathologists use written and oral tests and special instruments to diagnose the nature and level of impairment. They also record and analyze irregularities regarding speech, language and swallowing. Many speech-language pathologists also conduct research related to speech and language problems.

Some Facts about Speech-Language Pathology.....

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists held about 105,000 jobs in 1998

Helen Keller learned to read people's lips by feeling their movement

In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak!

OUTLOOK FOR PROFESSION:

- ◆ Employment opportunities are expected to grow **much faster than average through 2008** because of the growing elderly population at risk of hearing loss and strokes, medical advances allowing the severely injured people to survive, and an increasing pool of children needing speech therapy.
- ◆ Job opportunities should improve in private practice, because healthcare providers are hiring independent contactors.
- ◆ Some job openings will open as current workers retire or transfer to other occupations.

EDUCATION NEEDED:

- ◆ A master's degree in speech-language pathology or audio logy is usually needed for the field. Several programs of study include communication technologies, special education, speech pathology and audio logy.
- ◆ Additional requirements include completing 300 to 375 hours of supervised clinical experience and nine months of postgraduate professional clinical experience. Also, students need to pass a national examination. Currently, 36 states require professionals to continue their education in order to renew their license.

SKILLS NEEDED:

- ◆ Must be able to effectively communicate diagnostic test results, diagnoses, and treatment in a way that is easily understood by clients.
- ◆ Must be able to objectively approach problems and provide support to clients and their families as needed
- ◆ Since a client's progress many be slow, having patience, compassion, sensitivity, good empathic, and listening skills are crucial



RELATED ABILITIES:

Speech Recognition - The ability to identify and understand the speech of another person.

Oral Comprehension - The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.

Oral Expression - The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.

Hearing Sensitivity - The ability to detect the differences between sounds that vary in pitch and loudness.

Problem Sensitivity - The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, but only recognizing there is a problem.

Deductive Reasoning - The ability to apply general rules to specific problems to give answers that make sense.

Inductive Reasoning - The ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events).

Speech Clarity -The ability to speak clearly so other people can understand you.

Written Comprehension -The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.

Flexibility of Closure - The ability to identify or detect a known pattern (a figure, object, word, or sound) that is hidden in other distracting material

.....
RELATED CAREERS:

Occupational Therapists– Assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that help restore vocational, homemaking, and daily living skills, as well as general independence, to disabled persons.

Respiratory Therapists- Assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing disorders. Assume primary responsibility for all respiratory care modalities, including the supervision of respiratory therapy technicians. Initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures; maintain patient records; and select, assemble, check, and operate equipment.

Physical Therapists- Assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and decrease or prevent deformity of patients suffering from disease or injury.

Recreational Therapists- Plan, direct, or coordinate medically-approved recreation programs for patients in hospitals, nursing homes, or other institutions. Activities include sports, trips, dramatics, social activities, and arts and crafts. May assess a patient's condition and recommend suitable recreational activity.

.....
SOURCES FOR RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET:



College Grad.com
Speech Pathology.com
Speech Pathology
National Clearinghouse of Professions in Special Education
United States Department of Labor
Occupational Information Network

www.collegegrad.com
www.speechpathology.com
www.speech-pathology.com
www.special-ed-careers.org
www.bls.gov
online.onetcenter.org

.....
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS:

American Speech-Language Hearing Association
American Medical Association
National Black Association for Speech–Language and Hearing
International Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics Association
National Student Speech Language Hearing Association
Corporate Speech Pathology Network

www.asha.org
www.ama-assn.org
www.nbaslh.org
www.uclouisiana.edu
www.nsslha.org
www.corspan.org



Please come to the Career Development Office, Loew Hall room 328, for more information about this field and the services it provides for students and recent alumni TODAY!

Information for this publication taken from Monster.com (2006) and the Occupational Information Network (2006)