

Careers in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology



What we do ...

We are concerned with the prevention, identification, diagnosis and (re)habilitation of children and adults with hearing impairments and communication disorders. We use a wide variety of specialized instrumentation and procedures to assess hearing and communication. We participate in programs and on teams that provide consultative and direct treatment services. We are responsible for counseling of clients and families and for appropriate referral to other professionals. We are committed to ongoing research, public education, and training of new speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

Audiologists:

- diagnose hearing difficulties
- select and fit hearing aids
- design and implementation of (re)habilitation strategies for hearing impaired clients
- consult regarding noise exposure and hearing conservation

Did you know...
... that a career in communication disorders offers many challenging opportunities in private practice, educational, community and medical settings?

Speech-language pathologists:

- diagnose communication disorders (comprehension and expression) and swallowing disorders
- plan and implement treatment in language, speech, voice and/or swallowing disorders
- design and employ augmentative and alternative communication
- facilitate accent reduction
- consult regarding language stimulation, inclusion strategies and teaching adaptation for students with language impairments

Did you know...
...that there are two professions which specialize in working with children and adults who have communication disorders?

Where we train...

Professional training in speech-language pathology or audiology is available at the master's level at nine Canadian universities, and many universities in the U.S. Three of the nine programs are taught in French. There are also undergraduate studies required to enter at the masters level including courses in psychology, physiology, linguistics, education, human sciences, and health sciences. Specific requirements vary with university programs.

Canadian programs meet provincial licensure and CASLPA certification requirements. Students enrolling in a U.S. program should ensure that their program meets licensure and certification requirements if they want to work in Canada.

Did you know...
...that nine Canadian universities offer training in these fields?

What we study...

University courses include acoustics, anatomy, assessment, counseling, hearing disorders, hearing aids, language development and disorders, linguistics, neurology and neurophysiology, non-vocal communication, parent training, psychology, phonetics, speech disorders, statistics, stuttering, voice and voice disorders, and a variety of specific areas (e.g., autism). The courses and clinical practicums cover the development, disorders and the training or retraining of human communication in all its aspects.

Where we work...

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists work in private practice, child development centres, pre-schools, schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, government agencies, health units, industry, colleges, universities and research centres throughout the world. We are often part of teams which include physicians, psychologists, social workers, nurses, teachers, occupational therapists, physical therapists and counselors.

Why we like our careers...

Both professions provide essential services to Canadians (of all ages and backgrounds) in developing the most vital of human skills: communication. Our careers are well respected offering many challenges and rewards. Professionals can seek out variety or specific fields of work and can work just about anywhere in Canada, from small towns and rural communities to bustling urban centres.

Why we are needed...

One out of ten Canadians lives with a serious communication disorder. Early diagnosis and treatment increases the chance for regaining or developing successful communication. We help people make their lives richer, more productive and enjoyable through improved communications skills. We CAN make a difference.

The following Canadian universities offer programs in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

- Université de Montréal (514-343-7658) • University of Toronto (416-978-2770) • McGill University (514-398-4137) • University of Alberta (403-492-5990) • University of British Columbia (604-822-5591) • University of Western Ontario (519-661-2001) • Dalhousie University (902-494-7052) • University of Ottawa (613-562-5255) • Université Laval (418-656-2131) •