

Quick Guides to the Health Professions

Speech-Language Pathologists

What is a speech-language pathologist?

Speech-language pathology is a skilled and autonomous discipline involved in the assessment and treatment of communication and swallowing disorders. A speech-language pathologist (SLP) works to prevent language, speech, and communication difficulties.

What do speech-language pathologists do?

SLPs work with both adults and children to assess and manage language disorders, voice disorders, fluency disorders, swallowing disorders, and cognitive communication disorders.

Where do speech-language pathologists work?

SLPs work in a variety of settings including hospitals, community health centres, schools, private practices, children's treatment centres, public health units, and preschools.

Education and preparation

Speech-language pathology is offered at the professional Masters level in Canada. This program is two to three years in length. Upon graduation, successful completion of the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists examination is voluntary, but strongly recommended to obtain proper certification.

Licensure

A speech-language pathologist must be registered with the ACSLPA prior to providing any professional services in the province of Alberta.

Professional organizations

Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (ACSLPA)
<http://acslpa.ab.ca>

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC)

<http://www.sac-oac.ca>

Contributors to this guide

Office of Interprofessional Education and Practice, Western University Canada

<https://www.uwo.ca/fhs/education/ipe/index.html>



This work is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). For more information see uab.ca/viper. © 2018 University of Alberta.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
HEALTH SCIENCES COUNCIL
Health Sciences Education and Research Commons