

# Speech Language Pathologist



## What do they do?

Speech Language Pathologists treat patients who have problems with communicating or swallowing. They diagnose their patient and create a treatment plan specific to the needs of each patient. Some Speech Language Pathologists will work with a specific age group, like children or the elderly, or they will work with a specific health problem.

## Where do they work?

Many Speech Language Pathologists work in schools, while others work in private practice offices, hospitals or nursing homes.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Speech Language Pathologists is \$80,480.



## Education:

A master's degree is required to be a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP). An applicant must have a bachelor's degree. UW-Madison offers a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders (B.A. or B.S.) which will meet all prerequisites for admissions into the master's degree program.

Those who want to work in public schools or research should seek the B.S. degree option at UW-Madison through the School of Education.

Those who are interested in doing research can pursue a M.S. degree in Normal Aspects of Speech, Language and Hearing at UW-Madison.

## SLP training in Madison:

UW-Madison (B.A.; B.S.; M.S.): [www.csd.wisc.edu](http://www.csd.wisc.edu)

High School students interested in becoming a Speech Language Pathologist should take communication, science, and health related courses.

## Accreditation:

Education programs for Speech Language Pathology are accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA), a branch of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)



## Certification & License:

Graduates of an accredited SLP program can earn the Certificate of Completion (CCC-SLP) through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Standards for certification are set by members of the Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CFCC).

Learn more about becoming certified here:

[www.asha.org/Certification](http://www.asha.org/Certification)

At the state level, Speech Language Pathologists must become licensed through the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This includes a postgraduate clinical fellowship.

Learn more about state licensure here:

[www.dsps.wi.gov](http://www.dsps.wi.gov)



## Professional Association:

Speech Language Therapists in Wisconsin can join the Wisconsin Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Association:

[www.wisha.org](http://www.wisha.org)



## Potential for Advancement:

A Speech Language Pathologist could continue their education and receive a doctorate to become an Audiologist (Au.D.) or to perform research in communication sciences and disorders (Ph.D.). Both of these programs are also available at UW-Madison.

## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Speech Language Pathologists is expected to grow 29 percent between 2020-2030, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Speech Language Therapists, [www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/speech-language-pathologists.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/speech-language-pathologists.htm) (visited September 08, 2021).

