Speech-Language Pathologist

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are specialists in communication disorders who work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. SLPs work in many different developmental, education, and health care settings with varying roles, levels of responsibility, and client populations.

Because of the high demand for speech-language pathology services, part-time, full-time, and “as needed” basis opportunities may be available. In many settings, SLPs work as part of a collaborative, interdisciplinary team, which includes family members as well as teachers, physicians, audiologists, psychologists, social workers, physical and occupational therapists, and rehabilitation counselors.

Alaska requires a license to practice and certification by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association for any non-public school setting. School-based Speech Language Pathologists must have special services certification through the Department of Education and Early Development.

Where do they work?

Speech-language pathologists work in hospitals, private clinics, community agencies, schools, infant learning programs, nursing homes, or home health agencies.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in science, math, and English.
- Graduation from a four-year college with a Bachelor’s degree.
- Completion of a master’s degree in speech language pathology from an accredited program.
- The State of Alaska requires all Speech Language Pathologists practicing in non-school settings, such as private practices and hospitals, to be licensed. Speech Language Pathologists employed by school districts must hold a Type C Special Services certificate.

Hourly Wage Range

$29.93-$59.60 (Mean $42.50)*
*Based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School

5 to 7 years (after high school graduation)

Academic Programs in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) has several programs:
- A collaborative program with East Carolina University’s distance education Master of Science in Communication Sciences & Disorders
- A minor in Speech-Language Pathology
- A post-baccalaureate certificate program (for students with a bachelor’s in another field) to obtain the courses needed to apply to the MS program

For further information, contact:
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http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/coe/degrees/SLP-Programs/speech-language-pathology.cfm

National Contact

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Toll free: (800) 638-8255
Email: http://www.asha.org/forms/contact-asha
http://www.asha.org/