

# SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs), sometimes called speech therapists, assess, diagnose, treat, and prevent speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults.

## CAREER DESCRIPTION\*

- » National average salary: \$80,480
- » National projected job growth: 29%
- » According to ASHA, 54.2% of SLP's are employed in educational settings; 39.3% are employed in health care settings;
- » Help individuals improve vocabulary and sentence structure used in oral and written language
- » Help individuals develop and strengthen muscles used to swallow
- » Counsel individuals on how to cope with communication disorders.

## TYPICAL EDUCATION\*\*

- » Years of school (including undergraduate): 6
- » Approximate cost of 2 year program: \$15,650
- » Average entering GPA: 3.805 (2020)
- » GRE required for admission
- » Average entering GRE Score: 302 (2020)

## NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska-Omaha
- » University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- » University of Nebraska-Kearney
- » Midwestern University- Illinois
- » University of Northern Colorado
- » University of Tulsa
- » University of Northern Iowa

## COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS ALWAYS...

- » Volunteer in the community (local health departments, community engagement organizations)
- » Maintain a 3.5 GPA to remain competitive
- » Begin networking – make positive connections with faculty and community leaders
- » Participate in professional student organization (National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association)
- » Listen and communicate well

\*Data and information from Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*\*Data and information from UNL.

Last update: 10.2021

## WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS SAY

“Being a SLP has exceeded my expectations because it is always interesting and far from boring. The field evolves through research, so there are constantly techniques and approaches to learn.”

-Kimberly Scanlon, SLP

“I've been working as a medical Speech Language Pathologist in a trach/vent unit for 7 years. I find the work challenging, yet rewarding considering I get to witness patients transition from an inability to talk, eat, and drink to ultimately hearing their own voice and taking that first bite of food for the first time in months... It's truly rewarding.”

-Brett Cail-Forrest, SLP

At its core, communication sciences and disorders (CSD) is about working with people to improve their speech, language, hearing and other communication abilities. The goal of all CSD professionals is ultimately the same—to help humans effectively communicate—but how and where you work to achieve that goal is up to you. For more information go to:

<https://hearingandspeechcareers.org>

UNO Health Careers Resource Center  
307 Allwine Hall | 402.554.5980  
unohealthcareers@unomaha.edu  
cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc