



## SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

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### What is a Speech Language Pathologist?

A speech language pathologist works to evaluate and treat speech, language, voice, swallowing, and fluency disorders caused by accidents, genetic disorders such as cleft palate, or by delayed development. They typically work as part of a team that includes physicians, psychologists, social workers, nurses, audiologists, teachers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and counselors.

#### **Job responsibilities include for a speech language pathologist generally include:**

- Diagnosing speech and language disorders in children and adults;
- Developing individualized plan of care for the communication needs of children and adults;
- Selecting and developing augmentative or alternative communication methods including visual, tactile, or auditory system that either adds to or replaces normal speech and/or writing, for instance, automated devices and sign language;
- Providing children and adults who have experienced a loss of speech develop their communication skills; and
- Providing research on the complex processes of speech, hearing, and language in order to understand their causes, symptoms, and improved methods for evaluation and treatment.

#### **A career in Speech Language Pathology requires:**

- A desire to help people with language/hearing difficulties;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills; and
- Creativity and resourcefulness

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### How do you become a Speech Language Pathologist?

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- A master's degree or equivalent is the recognised standard of qualification for speech language pathologists in Canada
- Speech language pathologists must be registered with the Saskatchewan Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (SASLPA) ([www.saslpa.ca](http://www.saslpa.ca))
- Eligibility for certification with the Canadian Association for Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists is required

Speech Language Pathologists in Saskatchewan are governed by *The Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists Act*

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## Where can you get training in Speech Language Pathology?

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### **Alberta**

*University of Alberta*

Department of Speech-Language Pathology and  
Audiology

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/rehabmed/nav02.cfm?nav02=10653&nav01=10646>

### **Ontario**

*McGill University*

Communication Sciences and Disorders

<http://www.mcgill.ca/scsd/>

*University of Western Ontario*

School of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

<http://www.uwo.ca/fhs/index2.html>

*University of Toronto*

Dept. of Speech-Language Pathology

<http://www.slp.utoronto.ca/>

### **British Columbia**

*University of British Columbia*

School of Audiology & Speech Sciences

<http://audiospeech.ubc.ca/>

### **Nova Scotia**

*Dalhousie University*

School of Human Communication Disorders

<http://fhp.medicine.dal.ca/hcd/>

### **International**

*Minot State University*

Department of Communication Disorders &  
Special Education

<http://www.minotstateu.edu/cdse/>

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## What do you need to get into a Speech Language Pathology program?

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Each university has different requirements for entrance (e.g. their respective core and prerequisite undergraduate courses). Typically you will require the completion of a four-year undergraduate program from an accredited university. Some universities may require the completion of the GRE (general test). Please refer to the respective websites for admissions procedures and prerequisite courses.

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## What do Speech Language Pathologists Study?

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The Master of Science degree in speech language pathology may include courses in:

- Auditory physiology;
- Audiology;
- Clinical research methods;
- Discourse analysis;
- Communication disorders;
- Phonology;
- Psychology;
- Fluency;
- Phonetics;
- Acquired language disorders;
- Dysphagia;
- Language disorders in children;
- Language development;
- Issues in clinical practice; and
- Disorders of speech production

Please check respective universities for more details on their curriculum.

There is typically a clinical practicum or externship included at the end of the first year and in the second year.

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## Where does a Speech Language Pathologist Work?

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- Regional Health Authorities
- Private Practice
- Schools
- Government
- Industry
- Universities
- Research Centres

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## What is the salary of a Speech Language Pathologist?

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Speech Language Pathology pay scales are part of the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan/SAHO Collective Agreement: <http://www.hsa-sk.com/bargaining.php>

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## Related Link

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**Canadian Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists**  
<http://www.caslpa.ca/english/profession/facts.asp>

Please check the Saskatchewan Health Bursary webpage for information about bursaries for health science students: [http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/hhrp\\_bursaries.html](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/hhrp_bursaries.html)