

# SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are specialists in communication who evaluate and treat disorders of language, speech, cognition, swallowing, voice and fluency. Examples of people an SLP might work with include those who have difficulties with articulation (pronunciation of the speech sounds), fluency (such as stuttering), as well as problems with organizing heard or spoken language that result from brain disorders or strokes. They also work with people who have swallowing difficulties.

Speech-language pathologists work with children, as well as adults. The individual and his or her family are involved in the plan of care, and often the team includes physicians, teachers, physical and occupational therapists, nurses, and others. Helping the individual to regain or develop the ability to communicate with others is the goal of speech, language, and cognitive therapy. In the medical setting, SLPs also help patients to improve their ability to swallow safely if choking or inhaling food or liquid which puts the patient at risk.

## Where do speech language pathologists work in Alaska?



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



**Hourly Wage Range\***  
\$24.16-\$42.70 Mean(\$33.70)

\*based on Alaska DOL data



**Years in School:**  
**5-7 years\***

\*after high school graduation

## 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.

## Academic Programs in Alaska

The University of Alaska Anchorage(UAA) has a collaborative program with East Carolina University. For further information on this program, contact:

College of Education, UAA

Counseling and Special Education

3211 Providence Drive

Anchorage, AK 99508

Contact: Ellen Brigham, MS CCC/SLP

Phone: (907) 786-4468

Email: [slp@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:slp@uaa.alaska.edu)

Web site: <http://coe.uaa.alaska.edu/programs/counseling/lang.cfm>

## State and National Contacts

### State Contact:

Alaska Speech and Hearing Association

Molly Thompson, President

Phone: (907) 562-3994

Email: [polarspeech@yahoo.com](mailto:polarspeech@yahoo.com)

Web site: <http://aksha.org/>

### National Contact:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

10801 Rockville Pike

Rockville, MD 20852

Toll free: (800) 638-8255

Fax: (240) 333-4705

Email: [actioncenter@asha.org](mailto:actioncenter@asha.org)

Web site: <http://www.asha.org/>

Information from: [www.healthcareersinalaska.info](http://www.healthcareersinalaska.info) Updated: September 24, 2008



developed by Alaska Center for Rural Health-Alaska's AHEC: <http://nursing.uaa.alaska.edu/acrh/>