



Health Careers In Alaska

www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info

Speech Language Pathologist

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are specialists in communication who evaluate and treat disorders of language, speech, cognition, swallowing, voice and fluency. SLPs work with people who have difficulties with articulation (production of speech sounds), fluency (such as stuttering), voice disorders (such as harsh quality, inappropriate pitch), and developmental language delays. SLPs also work with people who have difficulty understanding or producing spoken language or cognitive impairments (such as organization, memory and problem solving difficulties) that result from diseases, brain injuries or strokes. In addition to

communication disorders, SLPs 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.

Speech Language Pathologist Facts:

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. Alaska requires a license to practice and certification by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association for any private or medical clinician. School-based Speech Language Pathologists must have special services certification through the Department of Education.

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:

\$28.10-\$57.46 (Mean \$41.08)

**based on Alaska DOL data*

Years in School:

5 to 7 years (after high school graduation).

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

State Contact:

Alaska Speech and Hearing Association
Molly Thompson, President
Phone: (907) 562-3994
Email: polarspeech@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://aksha.org/>

National Contact:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Toll free: (800) 638-8255
Fax: (240) 333-4705
Email: actioncenter@asha.org
Web site: <http://www.asha.org/>

