



# Health Careers In Alaska

[www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info](http://www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info)

## Speech Language Pathologist Assistant

Speech Pathology Assistants (SPAs) work with children and adults under the supervision of a certified/licensed Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). They follow treatment plans, document performance, assist with some screening and assessment procedures, prepare materials, maintain equipment, and assist with scheduling.

SPAs work with people with communication disorders. Examples of childhood disorders include delayed speech

and language development, autism, stuttering, articulation disorders, and hearing impairments, as well as cognitive processing and auditory processing. Children may have birth defects such as cleft palate and cerebral palsy requiring speech therapy. Adults may have strokes, brain injuries, laryngectomies, voice disorders, and dialect differences requiring the services of an SLP.

## Speech Language Pathologist Assistant Facts:

### Where do speech language pathologist assistants work in Alaska?

Speech Pathology Assistants may work in both the public and private sector. SPAs may work in schools, hospitals, and clinics. They may also work in rehabilitation clinics, Head Start programs, or home health programs.

### Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school or a GED.
- Graduation from an appropriate associate's degree program.
- State Licensing is required.

**Hourly Wage Range:**  
\$12.50-\$29.09 (Mean \$18.90)  
*\*based on Alaska DOL data for  
Healthcare Support Worker*

**Years in School:**  
2 years or less (after high school  
graduation).

### Academic Programs in Alaska

The Center for Human Development at UAA in collaboration with Prince William Sound Community College, offers a two year distance delivered A.A.S. Degree in Disability Services, which includes an emphasis area in Speech-Language Support. For more information contact:

#### Center for Human Development, UAA

2702 Gambell Street, Ste. 103  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Contact: Dr. Marjorie Kassier  
Phone: (907) 264-6240  
Toll free: (800) 243-2199  
Email: [anmrk@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:anmrk@uaa.alaska.edu)  
Web site: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/centerforhumandevlopment/laye/index.cfm>

### State Contact:

#### The Alaska Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Nicole LaChance, President  
Phone: (907) 727-6545  
Email: [polarspeech@yahoo.com](mailto:polarspeech@yahoo.com)  
Web site: <http://aksha.org/>

### National Contact:

#### American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

2200 Research Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Toll free: (800) 638-8255  
Fax: (301) 296-8580  
Email: [actioncenter@asha.org](mailto:actioncenter@asha.org)  
Web site: <http://www.asha.org/>

