THE VALUE OF COLLABORATING WITH AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

WHAT WE DO

Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids.

Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders.
Audiologists and speech-language pathologists have a history addressing a variety of communication, swallowing, and balance disorders through successful coordination with teams focusing on:

- Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)
- Cleft palate
- Cochlear implant
- Cognitive communication
- Craniofacial
- Early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI)
- Individual Education Program (IEP)
- Intraoperative Monitoring (IOM)
- Language and Literacy
- Ototoxic effects
- Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Stroke rehabilitation
- Swallowing and nutrition
- Traumatic brain injury rehabilitation
- Tinnitus management
- Vestibular rehabilitation

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists are uniquely qualified as communication specialists. Their service on interprofessional teams contributes to policy making, patient safety, and overall improved health and educational outcomes.

As members of a health care or educational team, audiologists identify unrecognized hearing loss, contribute to differential diagnosis, and provide guidance on prevention and preservation of hearing and balance. Speech-language pathologists identify speech, language, and swallowing disorders; contribute to differential diagnosis; and provide guidance on prevention and preservation of functional communication and swallowing.

Interprofessional education—learning about, from and with each other

As interprofessional education expands, academic programs and practice settings are adopting models that prepare future clinicians for patient-centered collaborative practice, such as:

- Case-based simulations
- Case presentations
- Clinical practice
- Course work
- Evidence-based practice
- Grand rounds
- Interdisciplinary seminars
- Journal groups
- Leadership training—Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND)
- Learning communities
- Problem-based learning
- Professional issues colloquia
- Research projects
- Service learning

Academic programs in audiology and speech-language pathology are represented in over 300 U.S. colleges and universities offering undergraduate through PhD education.

More than 40% of all audiology and speech-language pathology degree programs are housed in colleges of allied health.

**Primary Employment Settings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CCC-A</th>
<th>CCC-SLP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47%</td>
<td>Non-Residential Health Care</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26%</td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8%</td>
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**Total Enrollment**

- 38,261 undergraduate students
- 19,259 graduate students
- 2,572 Audiology
  (entry-level clinical doctorate)
- 6,686 SLP
  (entry-level master’s)
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<td>Audiology</td>
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ASHA promotes successful interprofessional practice and interprofessional education.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) represents more than 182,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists, speech-language pathologists, speech, language, and hearing scientists, audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel, and students.

ASHA affiliates with the following organizations that promote interprofessional practice (IPP) and interprofessional education (IPE):

- National Academy of Medicine (NAM) Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education (November 2012–present)
- Interprofessional Collaborative (IPC; 2006–present)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

The evolution of health care reform is creating a different landscape. As part of this evolution, ASHA

- Established a 10-year (2015–2025) strategic objective to advance interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPE/IPP);
- sponsored a Health Care Landscape Summit,
- collaborates among health professions within the framework of IPE/IPP,
- supports outcomes measurement to advance service delivery,
- promotes SLPs and audiologists as leaders in communication health and health literacy.

Visit www.asha.org or contact academicaffairs@asha.org for more information.