



# Handy Handouts®

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## Celebrate National Speech–Language–Hearing Month

by Robyn A. Merkel-Piccini, M.A., CCC-SLP

Edited by Mary Lowery, M.S. CCC-SLP



The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association designates May as “National Speech-Language-Hearing Month!” This is the time of year for Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Audiologists to educate their communities about communication disorders and the fields of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

### “What is a Speech–Language Pathologist?”

#### Speech–Language Pathologist

##### History:

The need for a professional to deal with disorders of speech was identified in the 1920’s; however, “speech correctionists” were not introduced to the schools until the 1950’s. Similarly, the field of audiology emerged in the 1940s to help soldiers returning from World War II with noise-induced hearing loss. In the beginning, speech correctionists dealt with articulation, but over the years, the field has grown to include voice, fluency, language, dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), accent reduction, acquisition, and oral-motor evaluations and therapies.

##### Education and Certification:

There are four professional terms associated with speech therapy:

1. “Speech Correctionist”
2. “Speech Therapist”
3. “Speech-Language Pathologist” or “Speech Pathologist”
4. “Speech-Language Specialist”

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These four terms are often used interchangeably, but can mean different things. In the 1950's, a person would receive a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Correction. This certificate was given until the mid-eighties when the requirements for the teaching certificate changed.

Today, speech-language pathologist is the preferred term. An SLP must obtain a master's degree from an accredited program and complete approximately 375 clinical hours in diagnostics and intervention.

The masters program for Speech-Language Pathology is unique in that it combines science, education, medicine, and psychology. Most graduate programs require 40-60 graduate credits, in addition to several clinical internships.

SLPs may also obtain two additional certificates: The Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) and a state license. The CCCs are issued when the SLP completes master's degree and 375 hours of supervised clinical hours in communication disorders and therapy, receives a passing score on the Praxis exam, and completes a Clinical Fellowship Year. State license requirements vary. To maintain their licenses, SLPs must complete continuing education requirements.

### Job Duties:

An SLP can take on many roles. SLPs can study a specialized area or continue their education to the doctoral level. Here is a general overview of the roles an SLP can serve:

<b>School-Based Program</b>		<b>Rehabilitative Program</b>
Articulation therapy		Dysphagia therapy
Voice therapy		Videofluroscopy studies
Stuttering therapy		Laryngectomy patients
Language therapy		Closed head injury
Child Study Team Member		Stroke and trauma
Group language lessons		Alzheimer's patients
Sign language programs		Cleft palate
Speech reading programs		Speech/language testing
Speech/language evaluations		Hearing screenings
Hearing screenings		

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- [234 – How Do I Become A Speech-Language Pathologist?](#)
- [483 – Better Speech and Hearing Month – Identify the Signs](#)
- [431 – Communication Takes Care: Better Hearing & Speech Month 2016](#)

References

History of the professions. University Libraries, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, accessed 5/23/2023 from <https://hsl.lib.unc.edu/speechandhearing/professionshistory>

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