



Department of Speech-Language Pathology

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Education of Speech-Language Pathologists versus Speech Language Pathology-Assistants

| | <u>Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)</u> | <u>Speech Language Pathology-Assistant (SLPA)</u> |
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| What are the education requirements? | <p>The entry-level degree to become an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist is a master's degree (e.g., M.A., M.S.) at an accredited institution.</p> <p>https://www.asha.org/students/graduate-students/</p> | <p>Completion of <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SLPA program degree (2-year minimum) from a regionally or nationally accredited institution (e.g., an associate's degree from a community college, a technical training program, a certificate program, or a bachelor's degree) 2. Receipt of a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from a regionally or nationally accredited institution OR 3. Receipt of a college degree (2-year minimum) and successful completion of coursework from a regionally or nationally accredited college institution in all of the areas below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory or overview course in communication disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Phonetics o Speech sound disorders o Language development o Language disorders o Anatomy and physiology of speech and hearing mechanisms <p>https://www.asha.org/certification/2020-slua-certification-standards/</p> |
| More Education Requirements | <p>Yes</p> <p>For more information on CSUSM's M.S. in SLP program, accreditation, course sequence and requirements visit:</p> <p>https://www.csusm.edu/slp/programs/masters/index.html</p> | <p>Yes</p> <p>The applicant must complete <u>all</u> mandatory coursework in the following areas, no more than 2 years before application. These requirements will be met as part of the student's coursework in the CSUSM SLPA program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-hour course in ethics • 1-hour course in universal safety precautions • 1-hour course in patient/client/student confidentiality training course (i.e., HIPAA, FERPA) |
| Is the coursework offered online? | <p>Yes</p> <p>The M.S. SLP program has an online cohort and a live cohort.</p> <p>https://www.csusm.edu/slp/programs/masters/index.html</p> | <p>Yes</p> <p>The SLPA program coursework is only offered online at this time. <i>While the program is offered online, the student must live in and complete their clinical hours in the state of California.</i></p> |
| Fieldwork requirement for ASHA certification? | <p>Yes</p> <p>The applicant must complete a supervised clinical experience that consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 375 hours must have been spent in direct client/patient contact. • 25 hours must have been spent in guided observation. <p><i>*M.S. in SLP students are provided clinical supervisors and placements by CSUSM's Clinic Director.</i></p> | <p>Yes</p> <p>CSUSM's SLPA program requires the applicant to complete a supervised clinical experience that consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 hours of observation of direct services. • 100 hours of direct client/patient/student services, under the supervision of an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist (SLP). • 20 hours of indirect client/patient/student services, under the supervision of an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist (SLP). <p><i>*SLPA applicants are required to find their own California licensed and ASHA certified supervisor for the SLPA program prior to applying to the program.</i></p> |



Education of Speech-Language Pathologists versus Speech Language Pathology-Assistants Continued...

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| <p>Must pass a national exam?</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>The <i>Praxis</i>® tests help audiology and speech-language pathology educators demonstrate their knowledge of content, pedagogy and instructional skills for the classroom. These tests are important components of ASHA's certification process and students are required to pass this exam with a score of 162 or above.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>The student must meet all eligibility and submission requirements in order to be approved to take the C-SLPA national examination. Once approved the applicant must pass the national examination with a score of 162 or above. The student must take and pass within 1 year (maximum attempts 3) or may have to reapply for C-SLPA https://www.ashaassistants.org/asha-OLD/SysSiteAssets/uploadedfiles/asha/associates/slp-a-exam-blueprint.pdf</p> |
| <p>Completion of Clinical Fellowship (CF) Experience and/or Required Professional Experience (RPE)?</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>After graduating with a master's degree, students must complete the following supervised experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CF experience to obtain their ASHA CCCs, which is a minimum of 1,260 hours. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ https://www.asha.org/certification/clinical-fellowship/ • RPE to obtain their CA license, which is a 36 weeks of full-time experience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/applicants/app_pack_slp.shtml | <p style="text-align: center;">No</p> <p>However there are some requirements of supervision upon being hired:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first 90 workdays: A total of at least 30% supervision, including at least 20% direct and 10% indirect supervision, is required weekly. Direct supervision of student, patient, and client care should be no less than 20% of the actual student, patient, and client contact time weekly for each SLPA. SLP should have direct contact with all clients every 2 weeks. • After the first 90 workdays: The amount of supervision can be adjusted if the supervising SLP determines the SLPA has met appropriate competencies and skill levels with a variety of communication and related disorders. • Minimum ongoing supervision must always include documentation of direct supervision provided by the SLP to each client at least every 60 calendar days |
| <p>Fees upon completing the program?</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>Upon completion of their CF & RPE year, there are a variety of fees required and most are an annual or biannual basis.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>Upon completion of the program student will submit their application for the C-SLPA via ASHA and pay the initial certification fee of \$249. Submit official transcripts and certificates of completion to ASHA within 60 days of submitting your application.</p> |
| <p>Required to obtain continuing education units?</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>ASHA: minimum of 30 hours, every 3 years CA Licensing Board: minimum of 24 hours, every 2 years</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>ASHA: Maintenance of Certification Assessment (MOCA) at the end of their 3-year certification maintenance interval to show continued competency (minimum number of hours, not specified). CA Licensing Board: minimum of 12 hours, every 2 years</p> |

References:

- <https://www.asha.org/assistants-certification-program/slp-faqs/>
- <https://www.asha.org/certification/2020-slp-certification-standards/>
- <https://www.asha.org/certification/apply-for-slp-assistants-certification/#:~:text=Submit%20your%20application%20for%20the,days%20of%20submitting%20your%20application.>