Speech Language Pathology

What is Speech Language Pathology (SLP)?

“The speech-language pathologist is concerned with the study, assessment, and treatment of disorders of speech and language. Speech-language pathologists assess and treat communication disorders in children and adults. Areas of specialization include disorders of developmental language, neurogenic speech and language, fluency, voice, articulation/phonology, swallowing, and alternative and augmentative communication.”

(Department of Speech Language Pathology, University of Toronto)

What are the common academic requirements for SLP programs?

- 4-year Bachelor degree from a recognized university
- Minimum mid-B (3.0 GPA) average in the final 1-2 years of full-time study; meeting the minimum does not guarantee admission due to the competitiveness of applications
- 5-6 prerequisites in areas such as child development, linguistics, phonetics, statistics/research design, human physiology, life science, social science, and psychology
- Clinical volunteer or paid experience working with a registered speech language pathologist
- Proficiency in the English language

For specific admission requirements, visit program websites

What supporting documents may be required?

- Two letters of reference from professors
- Clinical reference form completed by the direct supervisor from the clinical experience
- Statement of intent/personal statement

Looking for Related Experience?

Review the Volunteering and Internships tip sheets, attend a Work Search Strategies workshop or book an appointment with a Career Counsellor or Career Strategist

What should I include in my personal statement?

- Your interest in pursuing SLP as a career and knowledge about the profession
- Reasons for applying to the program
- Related knowledge, experience and skills, including community involvement
- Accomplishments and/or research experiences in academic or non-academic careers

Start Early!

SLP programs require a minimum B average. Many look for demonstrated interest in SLP on your application.

Improve your GPA:

Visit the AA&CC and the Centre for Teaching & Learning to improve your academic skills.

Cultivate References:

Get to know your professors. Their research is interesting! Professors who know you fairly well are able to write strong reference letters for you.

Get Involved:

Gain volunteer experiences that demonstrate your skills and ongoing interest in a career in SLP.

Graduate/Professional Studies in

Speech Language Pathology

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www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aacc
Paying for a Speech Language Pathology Program
Annual tuition for Ontario students ranges $4,000-$8,000 plus travel to placement sites. Remember to ask about scholarships and bursaries! You might also find financial support via tools like www.esdc.gc.ca/en/student_financial_aid/scholarships.page

Where can I study SLP?
There are 2 institutions in Ontario that offer SLP programs:
- University of Toronto
  (Master of Health Science in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology)
  www.slp.utoronto.ca/current-students/master-of-health-science-students
- Western University
  (Master of Clinical Sciences in Speech-Language Pathology)
  www.uwo.ca/fhs/csd/programs/slp
- McMaster University
  (Masters of Science in Speech-Language Pathology)
  srs-mcmaster.ca/slp-program-information

There are other accredited programs outside of Ontario. For more information visit www.caslpo.com/applicants/apply-to-the-college/canadian-graduates

Where can I find more information and resources?
College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario
www.caslpo.com
Ontario Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists
www.osla.on.ca
Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
www.sac-oac.ca

Application & Personal Statement Resources
- Effective Admission Letters (U of T Writing Centre):
  www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/admission-letters
- Purdue University Online Writing Lab:
  owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01/
- CTL’s Graduate School Application and Personal Statement Assignment Calculator:
  ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/assignmentcal

Please note: While this tip sheet aims to ensure accuracy, requirements do change. Consider it a starting point for your further research. Visit individual Speech Language Pathology program websites for detailed, up-to-date information about admission requirements and application procedures.

The AA&CC can help!
Attend the Graduate & Professional Schools Fair (October), go to a Preparing for Professional & Graduate School workshop, meet professionals in the field through Extern, or speak with a Career team member to learn how to get relevant experience!