

# Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology

## **Nature of the Profession**

*Speech-language pathologists assess and treat patients with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. Audiologists assess and treat those with hearing and related disorders.*

*Speech-language pathologists work with people who cannot make speech sounds, or cannot make them clearly; those with speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering; people with speech quality problems, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice; and those with problems understanding and producing language. They may also work with people who have oral motor problems that cause eating and swallowing difficulties.*

*Audiologists work with people who have hearing and related problems. They use audiometers and other testing devices to measure the loudness at which a person begins to hear sounds, the ability to distinguish between sounds, and other tests of the nature and extent of their hearing loss.*

*Most speech-language pathologists and audiologists provide direct clinical services to individuals with communication disorders. In speech, language and hearing clinics, they may independently develop and carry out a treatment program. In medical facilities, they may work with physicians, social workers, psychologists, and other therapists to develop and execute a treatment plan.*

## **APTITUDES**

- Ability to learn the principles and practices of audiology and speech pathology
- Good verbal skills to read scientific literature, evaluate physical problems, and communicate with people
- Ability to keep accurate records, direct projects, and make decisions based on data and observations
- Ability to hear well and speak clearly
- Patience and an interest in helping people
- Good space and form perception and manual dexterity

## **EDUCATION**

The minimum educational requirement is a four-year bachelor's degree in audiology or speech pathology or in teacher education with courses in speech and hearing therapy. Most employers in private practice require a master's degree.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

Audiology

- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (D)

Speech-Language Pathology

- University of Nebraska – Omaha (B, M)
- University of Nebraska – Kearney (B, M)
- University of Nebraska – Lincoln (B, M, D)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

An applicant for a license to practice audiology and speech-language pathology must be at least 19 years of age, have a master's degree in audiology or speech-language pathology from an approved program, complete a clinical fellowship year, and pass the licensure or obtain an endorsement by a nationwide professional accrediting organization.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***American Speech-Language-Hearing Association***

Web Address: [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

***Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association***

Web Address: [www.nslha.org](http://www.nslha.org)