

Hey there,

FUTURE SPEECH AND HEARING PRO!

We want to help you achieve your goal of becoming a speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or other communication disorders professional.

Trust the PROCESS

To become a speech-language pathologist, you'll have to earn a bachelor's and master's degree. To become an audiologist, you'll have to earn a bachelor's and doctoral degree.

Once you finish your education, you'll have to complete a few more steps like a licensing and certification exam, a nine-month mentored fellowship, and any requirements specific to your state.

WHAT YOU'LL DO IN UNDERGRAD:

- Start with support classes like Educational Psychology, Human Development, and Biology
- Dive into core courses like Language Development, Speech Sound Disorders, and Clinical Methods
- In some programs — like the one at Russell Sage — work with real clients, with guidance from a licensed speech-language pathologist

MANY ROUTES TO CAREERS IN Communication Sciences

Colleges and universities have different pathways for aspiring speech and hearing professionals. Here's what to know about some popular ones:

1 START WITH AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE:

The following undergraduate majors are likely to include the prerequisites that lead to the graduate programs required therapeutic or clinical roles.

- ➔ **B.S., Speech-Language Pathology or B.S., Communication Sciences and Disorders:** These undergraduate degrees give you a foundation in communication and swallowing processes, speech-language pathology, and audiology and ensure you meet the prerequisites for master's and doctoral programs in communication sciences. (These majors also offer pathways into education or health professions.)
- ➔ **Bachelor's in another field:** Students with bachelor's degrees in health sciences, psychology, or related fields can also apply to graduate-level SLP or audiology programs, but will have to take some prerequisites.

2 THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO LEVEL UP:

- ➔ **Master's in Speech-Language Pathology:** If your goal is to become a speech-language pathologist, you should attend a master's program that's accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- ➔ **Audiology Doctorate:** Aspiring audiologists should complete a Doctor of Audiology Degree — also known as an AuD — or a Ph.D. in Audiology. Consider an AuD if you are interested in clinical practice with patients. Consider a Ph.D. if you are interested in scholarship and research at a university. Combined AuD/Ph.D. programs exist, too!



HOT TIP

Live near Russell Sage? Consider volunteering in our Aphasia Center during the summer, where you can work with those impacted by communication disorders!

HOW DO YOU PREPARE in high school?

Admission to Speech-Language Pathology bachelor's and graduate programs can be competitive. To be a strong applicant and feel prepared for college, keep these tips in mind:

- ➔ Maintaining a high GPA will help ensure you have your choice of programs.
- ➔ Take four years of science and English classes in high school, and if possible, add electives like psychology, sociology, or communications. These classes will provide the foundational knowledge that you'll build on in college coursework.
- ➔ Consider taking core science classes like biology at the college where you're earning your bachelor's degree, even if you've taken AP or dual-enrollment versions in high school. By taking these courses at the institution where you'll earn your degree, you can be sure you have the proper foundation for upper-level classes and graduate work.
- ➔ If you want to attend different schools for your bachelor's and graduate programs, it's a good idea to choose an undergraduate college that has articulation agreements with communications sciences grad programs. These agreements give qualified students preferred admission to partner graduate schools.
- ➔ Look for colleges with undergraduate-to-graduate pathways for benefits like accelerated programs, assured acceptance to grad programs, course waivers, and more. (BTW, Russell Sage anticipates launching an M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology for the 2029-2030 academic year!)
- ➔ Wherever you apply, look into resources like student chapters of professional organizations and on-campus clinics. At Russell Sage, for example, you'll find the Aphasia Center and a Gender-Affirming Voice Program — places where you can gain pre-professional experience in the speech-language field.

CAREER opportunities

According to the most recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for **speech-language pathologists** is **\$95,410** and the median annual wage for **audiologists** is **\$92,120**. The bureau indicates that there's a high demand for speech pathologists and audiologists, and more trained professionals are needed to fill those positions.

Planning to become a New York State-licensed speech-language pathologist? Choosing a degree program in New York can help you meet state requirements.

SO WHY PICK RUSSELL SAGE FOR THIS?



The Capital Region is home to Albany Med Health System (the largest regionally governed not-for-profit health system in northeastern New York and western New England), dozens of agencies serving more than 19 million New Yorkers, and countless schools that hire SLPs. It's also a great location for internships, post-grad job opportunities, and opportunities to get involved in public and community service.

EXPLORE NOW, SPECIALIZE LATER:

You don't have to know your specialty now! College and graduate programs let you explore different areas, and most professionals figure out their focus after they're licensed. When the time comes, you can earn extra certifications to build expertise. For example:

- **Speech-language pathologists:** board certification in stuttering, child language, neurologic communication disorders, and more
- **Audiologists:** board certification or specialties in vestibular, pediatric, or cochlear implant audiology



CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ADMISSION

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➔ sage.edu/apply

