

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

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.

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

What other considerations are there?

- SLP programs generally take 2 years to complete on a full-time basis.
- In addition to the courses, students complete clinical placements in various settings.
- To practice in Ontario as a Speech-Language Pathologist, registration with the College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists of Ontario ([CASLPO](http://www.caslpo.com)) is required.
- M.Sc. programs (research-intensive degree) are available for students who want to conduct basic and clinical research in the field of human communication sciences and disorders. These programs do not provide the professional training required to practice clinically as speech-language pathologists upon graduation.

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

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 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

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!

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.