

Pre-Speech-Language Pathology
Associate of Science
2025-2026

General Areas of Service: The overall objective of speech-language pathology services is to assess and treat persons with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. SLPs also assess, diagnose, treat, and help to prevent communication and swallowing disorders in children and adults, thereby improving quality of life. As the population of the United States continues to become increasingly diverse, SLPs are committed to providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services and considering diversity in scientific investigations of human communication and swallowing.

Speech-language pathologists are employed in public schools, and many healthcare facilities, including hospitals, home health care services, nursing care facilities, rehabilitation centers, college or community speech and hearing clinics, childcare centers. They also work in public health, the armed services, as consultants for business, and in private practice. Speech-language pathologists evaluate and treat children and adults with communication disorders such as stuttering, delayed language development, aphasia, voice and articulation problems, and swallowing disorders. Research and development of new computer applications to assist people with severe communication disabilities, such as helping individuals who are unable to speak, are among the most exciting advances in the field.

An interest in working with people is needed for SLPs. This field allows for considerable flexibility relative to individual interests within the profession.

Professional Training: The Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the only professional credential for speech-language pathologists recognized in every state. Candidates for the CCC must have a master's degree plus nine months of supervised experience and must pass the national exam. Most states also require professionals to obtain licenses to practice.

Denominational Opportunities: Jobs are available in medical centers.

Job Outlook: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), "Employment of speech-language pathologists is projected to grow 19% percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 13,200 openings for speech-language pathologists are projected each year, on average, over the decade." The aging US population will particularly drive growth, as older adults may require more speech assistance than younger adults do. Additionally, earlier detection of hearing and speech problems in infants and young children will contribute to the growth of these professions. (See www.bls.gov).

Earnings: The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median pay as \$89,290 annually for Speech Pathologists. (See www.bls.gov).

Note: The clinical portion of this degree cannot be completed at Walla Walla University. WWU's Associate Degree provides courses intended to prepare you to complete Bachelors and Master's degrees in Speech-Language Pathology elsewhere. Another route is to complete the AS at WWU and any Bachelor degree at WWU, then to complete a transfer program before moving into a Master's degree elsewhere.

**PRE-SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY**

Canaday Technology Center
(509) 527-2832

Websites

[Walla Walla University](#)
[University Bulletin](#)

Faculty

Chair
[Nancy Semotiuk](#)

Advisor
[Linda Crumley](#)

Professional Organizations

[The American Speech-Language-
Hearing Association](#)

Additional Sources

[Loma Linda School of Allied Health
Professions: Communication Sciences
& Disorders](#)

Suggested Degree Path

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 96 cr. [See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details](#)

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete an associate's degree in Pre-Speech-Language Pathology.

Cognates are listed in *italics*.

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Fundamentals of Speech Communication (SPCH 101)	4
Science Option (BIOL 141 OR 121)	4
College Writing I (ENGL 121)	3
Colloquium (COMM 495)	0
General Studies	5
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Health Option (HLTH 110 OR 220)	3-4
College Writing II (ENGL 122)	3
Colloquium (COMM 495)	0
General Studies	9-10
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
General Psychology (PSYC 130)	4
Research Writing (ENGL 223)	3
Colloquium (COMM 495)	0
General Studies (include SPCH 310 [recommended] whenever offered)	9
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Physical Science Option (PHYS 201 OR CHEM 105)	4-5
Intro to Statistics (MATH 106)	4
Colloquium (COMM 495)	0
General Studies	7-8
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
^ Survey of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology (SPPA 210)	3
Developmental Psychology (PSYC 215)	4
Colloquium (COMM 495)	0
General Studies	9
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
*Social Science Option	4
Colloquium (COMM 495)	0
Interpersonal and Nonverbal Communication (SPCH 310) (recommended)	3
General Studies	9
Total	16

+ Offered even years only

- Offered odd years only

*Full year advised to be a more competitive applicant to a 4-year program

NOTE: General Studies includes PEAC, RELB, other Religion courses, and transferable electives. See advisor for details.

*Select from anthropology, economics, geography, political science, or sociology.

^ Available online. See advisor for details.

Requirements for Loma Linda University:

1. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree (in any major) for admission. A Bachelors in Speech-Language Pathology, Communicative Disorders, or the equivalent (not offered at WWU) is the most efficient for progressing in the Master's program. The AS pre-professional degree offered at WWU is intended to fulfill minimum course requirements to move into the junior/senior year of a Bachelor's degree in SLP at LLU.
- 2.
3. At least one undergraduate course in each of the following: biological sciences (biology, human anatomy), physical sciences (physics, chemistry), statistics, and the social behavioral sciences (psychology, sociology, educational psychology).
- 4.
5. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 AND a minimum GPA of 3.3 for last 96 quarter credits taken.
6. Note: C- grades are not accepted by many professional programs. Please consult with your academic adviser concerning any course with a grade below C.

Office of Academic Advisement

Canaday Technology Center, Room 311 • (800) 558-2132 • (509) 527-2132