



## INDIANA SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

### AUDIOLOGISTS

#### WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Hearing and balance disorders are complex with medical, psychological, physical, social, educational, and employment implications. Treatment services require audiologists to have knowledge of existing and emerging technologies, as well as interpersonal skills to counsel and guide patients and their family members through the rehabilitative process. Audiologists provide professional and personalized services to minimize the negative impact of these disorders, leading to improved outcomes and quality of life. (ASHA, 2017)

- Audiologists hold a master's or doctoral degree in audiology from a program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- The practice of audiology includes both the prevention of and assessment of auditory, vestibular, and related impairments as well as the habilitation/rehabilitation and maintenance of persons with these impairments.
- Audiologists engage in autonomous practice to promote healthy hearing, communication competency, and quality of life for persons of all ages through the prevention, identification, assessment, and rehabilitation of hearing, auditory function, balance, and other related systems.
- They facilitate prevention through the fitting of hearing protective devices, education programs for industry and the public, hearing screening/conservation programs, and research.
- Audiologists are licensed and/or regulated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Greater degrees of hearing loss are serious medical conditions with broader health implications. As such, they demand individualized treatment and counseling by an audiologist. (ASHA, May 2, 2017)

Reference:

<http://www.asha.org/Students/Audiologists/>



## INDIANA SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

### SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

#### WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. (ASHA, 2018)

- Speech disorders occur when a person has difficulty producing speech sounds correctly or fluently (e.g., stuttering is a form of disfluency) or has problems with his or her voice or resonance.
- Language disorders occur when a person has trouble understanding others (receptive language), or sharing thoughts, ideas, and feelings (expressive language). Language disorders may be spoken or written and may involve the use (pragmatics) of language in functional and socially appropriate ways.
- Social communication disorders occur when a person has trouble with the social use of verbal and nonverbal communication. These disorders may include problems (a) communicating for social purposes (e.g., greeting, commenting, asking questions), (b) talking in different ways to suit the listener and setting, and (c) following rules for conversation and storytelling. All individuals with autism spectrum disorder have social communication problems. Social communication disorders are also found individuals with other conditions, such as traumatic brain injury.
- Cognitive-communication disorders include problems organizing thoughts, paying attention, remembering, planning, and/or problem-solving. These disorders usually happen as a result of a stroke, traumatic brain injury, or dementia, although they can be congenital.
- Swallowing disorders (dysphagia) are feeding and swallowing difficulties, which may follow an illness, surgery, stroke, or injury.

Speech-language pathologists work in many different research, education, and health care settings with varying roles and client populations.

Speech-language pathologists hold a master's degree in speech-language pathology and may earn the Certificate of Clinical Competence once they have successfully completed the required clinical experiences and pass a national examination. They are licensed in the state of Indiana.

Reference:

<http://www.asha.org/Students/Speech-Language-Pathologists/>