

# Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

This major prepares you for a career in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology. General speech, psychology, education, sociology, and medicine are other areas one must be knowledgeable in to pursue a career in the Communications Disorders field.

A bachelor's degree allows a student to be eligible to apply for a master's degree in speech, language, pathology or a doctorate in audiology. The bachelor's degree does NOT allow a student to be an independent practitioner. Some NMU graduates from this program find employment as speech-language pathology assistants or in other related fields.

This degree prepares you for a variety of related occupations in the field. A conventional option would involve employment as a speech-language pathologist, treating individuals who have difficulty with articulation, voice, fluency, and/or language or an audiologist who evaluates and rehabilitates persons with hearing loss.

## Skills and Competencies

A person who majors in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences must pay attention to detail. Excellent speaking and writing skills are required in the profession. One must be sensitive, patient, empathetic, and self-motivated. A speech-language pathologist helps those who stutter increase their fluency. They also help people who have had strokes regain language and speech skills. Answering questions and counseling families to understand and deal with speech and language disorders are also a component of a speech-language pathologist's job. An audiologist evaluates hearing and balance, dispenses hearing aids, and provides aural rehabilitation services.

## Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

### Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences Core

SL150	Intro to SLHS (4 cr.)
SL160	Anatomy of the Speech & Hearing Mechanism (4 cr.)
SL200	Phonetics (4 cr.)
SL257	Fluency Disorders (4 cr.)
SL320	Speech and Voice Science (4 cr.)
SL351	Introduction to Audiology (4 cr.)
SL355	Language Development (4 cr.)
SL356	Language Disorders (4 cr.)
SL359	Intro to Neurogenic Communications Disorders (4 cr.)
SL370	Observation in SLHS (2 cr.)
SL400	Speech Sound Disorders (4 cr.)
SL451	Aural Rehabilitation (4 cr.)
SL459	Cognitive Neuroscience (4 cr.)
SL460	Cognition, Communication, Aging (4 cr.)
SL464	Methods of Diagnosis (4 cr.)
SL465	Introductory Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology (4 cr.)

### Other required courses

PSY100	Introduction to Psychology (4 cr.)
PSY201	Psychological Statistics (4 cr.) <i>or</i> DATA109 Intro to Stats (4 cr.)
Physics or Chemistry Elective (3-4 cr.)	
Biology Elective (3-4 cr.)	
BI104	Human Anatomy and Phys. (4 cr.)
BI111	Intro Biology: Principles (4 cr.)
BI203	Medical Microbiology (3-5 cr.)
BI207	Human Anatomy and Phys. I (4 cr.)
BI208	Human Anatomy and Phys. II (4 cr.)
BI221	Comparative Anatomy (4 cr.)
BI225	Physiology of Aging (3 cr.)
BI312	Genetics (4 cr.)

### Recommended Elective Courses

SL470	Professional Issues in Speech Language Pathology (2 cr.)
SL475	Clinical Practicum in SLHS(4 cr.)

## Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. Your academic adviser can guide you in this process. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Your academic course work is vital, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Students require a 3.0 GPA for graduate work in Audiology and a 3.4 overall GPA for admission to a Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program.

## Additional Considerations

These careers allow rewarding experiences by helping people lead better lives through enhancement of communication and swallowing function.

Government careers allow for occupational advancement as well as provide great benefits.

For some job opportunities in these fields, one must be certified in the appropriate area. Completion of the Master's degree is a standard credential for Speech-Language Pathology and a Doctorate for Audiology.

## Job Outlook

Recent population trends of people living longer and general population expansion have opened many careers within this field. The diverse range of professions varies. The median salary for an SLP is \$89,918 and an audiologist's median salary is \$75,950. Pay will vary from 9 month academic to 12 month positions.

# Potential Careers

NMU's Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Department of Education
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Geriatric Facilities
- Government Health Facilities
- Health Maintenance Organization
- Hospitals
- National Institute of Health
- Nursing Care Facilities
- Public Health Departments
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Schools

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

School of Clinical Sciences  
1515 West Science  
906-227-2125  
[www.nmu.edu/clinicalsciences](http://www.nmu.edu/clinicalsciences)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3502 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:  
Center for Student Enrichment  
1206 University Center  
906-227-2439  
[www.nmu.edu/cse](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

National Student Speech, Language, Hearing Association

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:  
[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) -American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA)  
[www.audiology.com](http://www.audiology.com) -American Academy of Audiology  
[www.nsslha.org](http://www.nsslha.org) -National Student Speech, Language, Hearing Association (NSSLHA)



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
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What to do with  
a major in...

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