

COMMUNICATION DISORDERSNOW WHAT?

What You Can Do With a Communication Disorders Degree

A degree in communication disorders can lead to a satisfying and rewarding career in health care, medicine, research, or education. Communication science and disorder degree programs prepare students to diagnose and treat a variety of hearing and speech disorders in children, the elderly, or patients who have suffered speech or hearing trauma.

Communication disorder degree programs focus on the basics of understanding speech, language, and hearing processes, as well as preparing the student to diagnose specific communication disorders. Students can move on to a graduate program to become a speech pathologist or audiologist, or they can use their communication disorder training right out of college to work for a public or private school as a special education teacher or speech therapist.

Careers in Communication Disorders

Speech Pathologist
Audiologist
Special Education Teacher
Private School Administrator
Counselor
Consultant
Speech and Hearing Therapist

Different Types of Communication Disorders Include:

- Articulation disorders
- Phonological disorders
- Language disorders
- Fluency disorders
- Vocal disorders
- Aphasia
- Delayed language
- Dysarthria
- Autism-related disorders
- Aphonia
- Acquired deafness
- Acoustic neuroma

Source: [WorldWideLearn](#)

Still wondering...now what?

Stop by SPHHS Career Services in Arnold 136 for a walk-in with a Career Ambassador Peer Advisor. They can help you navigate your job search, review your resume, or cover letter. For their hours or to make an appointment with your Career Advisor visit: <http://www.umass.edu/sphhs/Careers>

While the majority of students majoring in communication sciences and disorders choose to pursue graduate work in audiology or speech-language pathology, some students also pursue employment or degrees in other fields. Below are areas that may be of interest to you but it is not an all inclusive or exhaustive list of possibilities.

What Areas Can You Work In With A Communication Disorders Degree?

- Education
 - Educator – special education, general education, or ESL
 - Early Intervention Specialist
 - Child Development Specialist
 - School Counselor
 - Public Administrator or Public Policy Specialist
- Development, Promotion, or Sales
 - Developer, Promoter, or Seller of materials to be used in clinical fields, education, or health care, such as:
 - Educational materials and
 - Tests
 - Augmentative communication devices
 - Voice recognition and production systems
 - Textbooks and reference books
 - Assistive listening devices and software
 - Accommodations for individuals with physical disabilities
- "Edutainment" Industry
 - Script Writer or Reviewer
 - Dialogue, Accents, or Communication Mannerisms Coach for actors
 - Management-related Staff
- Related Fields
 - Rehabilitation Counselor
 - Clinical Intake Specialist
 - Technology Support Staff
 - Group Home Staff
 - Community Outreach Programmer
 - Research Assistant
 - Employment Search Firm Staff
 - Education or Health Lawyer
 - Top- and Mid-level Manager, Executive, or Administrator
- Health-Related Professions
 - Health Services Administrator
 - Physician's Assistant
 - Public Health Specialist
 - Rehabilitation Counselor
 - Private Practitioner
 - Personal Care Attendant

Source: [Adapted from NSSHLA Newsletter](#), Spring 1997 & handout developed by Wynn, Dancy, University of Texas – Austin.

Career Planning Resources & Websites

[The Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)- updated regularly by the government. Search tabs include what Audiologists, Speech Language Pathologists, Recreational therapists do, the work environment, how to become one, pay, job outlook, similar occupations and additional information.

Speech Pathology:

[Bls.gov](#) and [Onetonline.org](#)

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Audiology:

[Bls.gov](#) and [Onetonline.org](#)

Hearing Aid Specialists:

[Onetonline.org](#)

[Study.com](#) Careers in Communicative Disorders: Job Options and Career Outlook. Degrees in communicative disorders typically cover hearing and speech problems. Learn the requirements of these programs, and learn about career options, job growth and salary info for graduates.

UMass Amherst Specific Job Search Resources

[UMass Handshake](#) UMass Amherst's database of jobs and internships.

[Five College Consortium; Program in Culture, Health and Science](#) Information on certificate and courses as well as Internship opportunities with CDC, Mass life Science Center and Global Health through Education, Training and Service

[Office of Undergraduate Research & Studies \(OURS\)](#) located in the Learning Resource Center in the Library 1020 will help find research opportunities

[School of Public Health and Health Sciences careers website](#)

List of organizations where UMass students have had internships in the past (This is in no way an all-inclusive listing, it is provided to give you some ideas only)

- Behavioral Health Network, Northampton, MA
- Berkshire Hills Music Academy, South Hadley, MA
- Big Brothers Big Sisters, Amherst, MA
- Clark School for the Deaf, Northampton, MA
- Collaborative for Educational Services, Amherst, MA
- Communicare LCC, Holyoke, MA
- Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Northampton, MA
- Crocker Farm Elementary, Amherst, MA
- Criterion Heritage, South Hadley, MA
- Deerfield Elementary School, South Deerfield, MA
- Genesis, Hadley, MA
- Henry Gets Moving, Amherst, MA
- Lambert Speech and Language Services, Belchertown, MA
- Mass Department of Children and Family, Greenfield, MA
- May Institute, West Springfield, MA
- New England Center for Children, Southborough, MA
- Norfolk Public Schools, Norfolk, MA
- People's Institute of Northampton, Northampton, MA
- Renaissance School, Amherst, MA
- Thom Westfield Infant Toddler Services, Westfield, MA
- Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL
- Whole Children, Hadley, MA

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Communication Disorders Related Websites

Asha.org

SpeechPathology.com

Slpjobs.com

Audiologyonline.com

Teaching & School Job Search Links

Higheredjobs.com Site for teaching faculty/staff positions at the college or university level

SchoolSpring Professional and paraprofessional jobs in elementary and secondary schools nation wide

Teachers-teachers You have to register to view positions but it is free.

General Internship / Job Search Links

AHRC New York City internships

Idealist Can search by key word and location

Island Dolphin Care Internships

Indeed Can search by key word and location

Jobs2Careers

LinkedIn Can search by key word and location

My Health Career Navigator – lists numerous other opportunities- scroll down.

Peace Corps

RIT Summer Research Opportunities in Neuroscience

Rusk Rehabilitation HCOP Summer Internship Opportunities

Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital –internships and clinical observation program

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[USA Jobs](#)

[U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)

Professional Associations

[American Academy of Audiology](#) Great resource for Job Search, resume, and Interviewing tips as well as jobs and externships which can be found under Employment Resources. The AAA promotes quality hearing and balance care by advancing the profession of audiology through leadership, advocacy, education, public awareness and support of research.

[Academy of Doctors of Audiology](#) Has a section just for students. The ADA is a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of practitioner excellence, high ethical standards, professional autonomy and sound business practices in the provision of quality audiologic care

[American Auditory Society](#) The AAS aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the ear, hearing and balance (including disorders); leading to prevention, habilitation and rehabilitation.

[American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#) ASHA is an excellent resource lists career development, job search resources. ASHA aims to promote the interests of and provide the highest quality services for professionals in audiology, speech-language pathology, and speech and hearing science, and to advocate for people with communication disabilities.

[Association for Research in Otolaryngology](#) ARO is an international association of scientists and physicians dedicated to scientific exploration among all of the disciplines in the field of otolaryngology. Research efforts involve the ear, nose, head, neck and related functions including hearing, balance, speech, taste and smell among others

[Audiology Foundation of America](#) The AFA is an organization that is committed to transform audiology into a doctoral profession in the United States, with high quality education and training.

[Educational Audiology Association](#) The EAA is an international organization of Audiologists and related professionals who deliver a full spectrum of hearing services to all children, particularly those in educational settings and also has a career center to job search under "Resources".

[National Hearing Conservation Association](#) NHCA was formed in 1976 to provide a forum where others of similar persuasion could share information and gain increased insights regarding occupational hearing conservation. Today NHCA is composed of audiologists, physicians, industrial hygienists, safety specialists, engineers, scientists, occupational health nurses and hearing conservationists, equipment manufacturers, students, and others, all of whom are active in hearing conservation.

[Speech Language and Audiology Canada](#) The SAC Supports the professional development and competency of its members. It also champions the needs for those with communication disorders.

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[Vestibular Disorders Association](#) VEDA is a nonprofit organization that provides information to the public and health professionals about inner-ear balance disorders

Certification Requirements

[State Requirements and Contact Information](#)

Other University Websites With Helpful Resources

[Penn State website](#): Asks questions about SLP's and audiologist, provides some data on the job market and requirements of each position

Recommended Skills

- Extreme patience
- Compassion
- Integrity
- Sensitivity to patient's condition
- Acceptance of all types of people
- Motivational skills
- Quick response time
- Excellent listening skills
- Ability to cooperate
- Interpretation ability
- Seeing to patient's family's needs
- The ability to sensitively talk about patient
- Excellent vocal and language skills
- Research abilities
- Attention to detail

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What Do Employers Look For? (NACE 2015 Job Outlook for Students)

WHAT DO RECRUITERS LOOK FOR ON YOUR RESUME?



65% of employers want a high GPA (3.0 or above)

Leadership, ability to work in a team, communication skills, problem-solving skills, a strong work ethic, analytical/quantitative skills, technical skills, plan, organize, and prioritize work, and obtain and process information.

EXPERIENCE IS EXPECTED!

Internship/Co-op **60%**
Any work experience **40%**



Competency*	Definition
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	Exercise sound reasoning and analytical thinking; obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data to analyze situations, make decisions, and solve workplace problems; and demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work.
Oral/Written Communications	Articulate thoughts, ideas clearly and effectively with persons inside and outside of organization; demonstrate public speaking skills; and communicate new ideas to others; write/edit memos, letters, and complex technical reports clearly and effectively.
Teamwork/Collaboration	Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers representing diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, religions, lifestyles, and viewpoints; be able to work within team structure; and be able to negotiate and manage conflicts.
Information Technology Application	Select and use appropriate technology to accomplish a given task and apply computing skills to problem solving.
Leadership	Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals; use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others; demonstrate ability to assess and manage one's own emotions and those of others, using empathetic skills to guide and motivate; and prioritize and delegate work.
Professionalism/Work Ethic	Demonstrate personal accountability, effective work habits, e.g. punctuality, working productively with others, and workload management, and understand impact of non-verbal communication on professional work image; demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior; act responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind; and be able to learn from one's mistakes.
Career Management	Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experience relevant to position desired and career goals; identify areas necessary for professional growth; be able to navigate and explore job options and how to take the steps necessary for pursuing opportunities; and understand how to self-advocate for opportunities in the workplace.

*Content adapted from *Are They Really Ready to Work*, with permission from authors Linda Barrington, Jill Casner-Lotto, and Mary Wright; in collaboration with Partnership for 21st Century Skills, Corporate Voices for Working Families, the Society for Human Resource Management, and The Conference Board, Inc., 2006.

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