

Speech Language Pathology

| American River College

The Speech Language Pathology degree program prepares students to assist Speech-Language Pathologists in treating disorders of communication. Such disorders may be related to articulation and phonology, child and adult language, motor speech, voice, fluency, and hearing. Topics include an introduction to the field of communication disorders, articulation and phonology for the speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA), professional issues and practices in speech-language pathology, speech/language/hearing clinical strategies, clinical considerations in service delivery to clients with communication disorders, and fieldwork experience.

[\(/academics/arc-program-road-maps\)](/academics/arc-program-road-maps)

DIVISION DEAN [Jan DeLapp \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/jan-delapp\)](/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/jan-delapp)

 [Health & Education Division Office \(/academics/arc-health-and-education-division-office\)](/academics/arc-health-and-education-division-office)

DEPARTMENT CHAIR [Kristina Zajic \(/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/kristina-zajic\)](/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/kristina-zajic)

 (916) 484-8902

 [KaoL@arc.losrios.edu \(mailto:KaoL@arc.losrios.edu\)](mailto:KaoL@arc.losrios.edu)

1

Associate Degree

A.S. in Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program

This degree prepares students to assist Speech-Language Pathologists in treating disorders of communication. Such disorders may be related to articulation and phonology, child and adult language, motor speech, voice, fluency, and hearing. Topics include an introduction to the field of communication disorders, articulation and phonology for the speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA), professional issues and practices in speech-language pathology, speech/language/hearing clinical strategies, clinical considerations in service delivery to clients with communication disorders, and fieldwork experience.

Degree Requirements

| COURSE CODE | COURSE TITLE | UNITS |
|-------------|---|-------|
| DEAF 310 | American Sign Language I | 4 |
| ECE 312 | Child Development (3) | 3 |
| or PSYC 372 | Child Development (3) | |
| ECE 325 | Positive Guidance Strategies with Young Children | 3 |
| ECE 404 | Children with Special Needs | 3 |
| GERON 302 | Psychology of Aging: Adult Development and Aging (3) | 3 |
| or PSYC 374 | Psychology of Aging: Adult Development and Aging (3) | |
| SLPA 105 | Articulation and Phonology for the SLPA | 3 |
| SLPA 110 | Professional Issues and Practices in Speech-Language Pathology | 3 |
| SLPA 115 | Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinical Strategies | 3 |
| SLPA 120 | Clinical Considerations in Service Delivery to Clients with Communication Disorders | 3 |
| SLPA 121 | Fieldwork Experience in Speech-Language Pathology | 4 |
| SLPA 300 | Introduction to Communication Disorders | 3 |
| SPEECH 325 | Intercultural Communication | 3 |

| COURSE CODE | COURSE TITLE | UNITS |
|--------------|------------------|-------|
| SPEECH 331 | Group Discussion | 3 |
| Total Units: | | 41 |

The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program Associate in Science (A.S.) degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See ARC graduation requirements.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

- describe various communication disorders, including etiology and some remedial techniques.
- explain the major areas of cultural diversity and the relationship between culture and communication.
- demonstrate skills needed to assist in the management of speech-language pathology programs and services.
- describe the therapeutic process especially in terms of how learning occurs and strategies for effective lesson delivery.
- implement a treatment protocol as prescribed by the supervising Speech-Language Pathologist.
- describe professional responsibilities and ethical behavior appropriate for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

Career Information

Upon completion of the Associate in Science degree, a student possesses the course work and field work experience to work as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) in both private and public agencies, such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and the public schools serving preschool through adult-age clients. Successful completion of the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant program qualifies the graduate for eligibility to apply to the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board for registration as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

Speech-Language Pathology (SLPA)

SLPA 105 Articulation and Phonology for the SLPA

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Units: | 3 |
| Hours: | 54 hours LEC |
| Prerequisite: | SLPA 300 with a grade of "C" or better |

This course introduces principles and practices for management of individuals with articulation and/or phonologic disorders, with consideration for cultural and linguistic variations. Screening protocols as well as therapeutic practices and materials are discussed. Additionally, this course covers the study and application of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), transcription from Standard American English to IPA, and transcription from IPA to Standard American English.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- differentiate between articulation disorders and phonologic disorders.
- identify anatomical structures and physiological functions related to normal speech production.
- transcribe Standard American English into the IPA and transcribe the IPA into Standard American English.
- collect a speech sample from a child and develop a phonetic inventory.
- accurately document performance of a sample client on an articulation screener.

- model therapeutic techniques for treating articulation and phonologic disorders.
- label oral motor tools and describe how to use them effectively with clients.

SLPA 110 Professional Issues and Practices in Speech-Language Pathology

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Units: | 3 |
| Hours: | 54 hours LEC |
| Prerequisite: | SLPA 300 with a grade of "C" or better |

This course introduces principles and practices for management of individuals with communicative disorders, with consideration for cultural and linguistic variations. It includes legal and ethical considerations for the practicing Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) as well as the practicing Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). Requirements for employment in various work settings, including interdisciplinary and supervisory relationships, observational skills, mandated reporting, Code of Ethics, and scope of practice are covered. A total of six (6) hours of clinical observation at off-campus locations in the area are a part of the course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- demonstrate functional knowledge of professional responsibilities and ethical behavior appropriate for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA).
- describe the skills needed to assist in the management of speech-language pathology programs and services.
- evaluate the supervisory process, the clinical competencies expected, and the SLP/SLPA role in the process.
- describe a variety of recording and behavioral interpretation techniques for use in observation.
- identify the important skills in observation, including differentiating between fact, opinion, judgment, and speculation.
- list job professions that are considered mandated reporters and describe the process of reporting abuses (of the child or adult client).
- demonstrate functional knowledge of concepts and principles in the context of cultural and linguistic differences when serving the communicative needs of multilingual populations.
- analyze therapeutic processes and materials to address communication deficits from the review of live speech and language therapy sessions.

SLPA 115 Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinical Strategies

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Units: | 3 |
| Hours: | 36 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB |
| Prerequisite: | SLPA 105 with a grade of "C" or better |

This course explores specific materials and strategies regarding speech, language, and hearing therapeutic service delivery with a focus on screening and intervention. It covers speech, language and hearing screening procedures, forms of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), development of forms of AAC, and the collection and transcription of language samples. This course is designed as an additional opportunity to gain more experience in preparation for fieldwork as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA).

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify various forms of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

- demonstrate high-tech, low-tech, and no-tech forms of AAC for use with children and/or adults.
- collect language samples in children and/or adults.
- transcribe language samples in children and/or adults.
- calculate and confirm Mean Length of Utterance (MLU).
- administer a speech and language screening and accurately document child/adult performance.
- administer a hearing screening and accurately document child/adult performance.

SLPA 120 Clinical Considerations in Service Delivery to Clients with Communication Disorders

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Units: | 3 |
| Hours: | 54 hours LEC |
| Prerequisite: | SLPA 110 with a grade of "C" or better |

This course explores specific disorders of communication, and their causes and characteristics. Specific materials and strategies regarding service delivery are emphasized, with a focus on evidence-based practice. Similarities and differences with regard to therapeutic service provision by the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) and the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) are introduced. This course covers remediation techniques and rationales for commonly used therapeutic approaches as well as principles of learning, strategies for service delivery with groups of clients, data collection, clinical documentation, and record keeping. The scope of responsibilities and the role of the SLPA in intervention and behavior management strategies are also reviewed. A total of six (6) hours of clinical observation at off-campus locations in the area are a part of the course.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- formulate information related to the etiologies, variations, and disorders of human communication.
- critique common treatment strategies used in remediation of communication disorders.
- investigate principles of evidence-based practice.
- demonstrate functional knowledge of the therapeutic process.
- observe and report clinical behavior in an objective manner, including techniques for accurate charting and graphing of client responses.
- implement a treatment protocol as prescribed by the supervising SLP.

SLPA 121 Fieldwork Experience in Speech-Language Pathology

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Units: | 4 |
| Hours: | 18 hours LEC; 162 hours LAB |
| Prerequisite: | SLPA 115 and 120 with grades of "C" or better |
| Enrollment Limitation: | Prior to student orientation, the following requirements must be submitted for review: (1.) Proof of negative tuberculin (TB) skin test within three months prior to class. (2.) If TB skin test result is positive, proof of inactive TB chest x-ray within one year prior to class. (3.) Proof of completion of CPR/First Aid certification. (4.) Proof of malpractice insurance. Live Scan fingerprinting is determined through clinical placement protocol. |

This course provides supervised fieldwork experience assisting with the clinical management of persons with communicative disorders. It covers the job-

related skills needed to be a speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA). It also provides opportunities to interact with clients/patients while implementing a prescribed treatment plan, and assisting with screening or evaluation under the direction of a speech-language pathologist. This course includes opportunities for record keeping and managing client data, setting up/preparing for sessions, and performing various clerical duties. A portion of this course may be offered in a TBA component of 162 hours which will include supervised fieldwork experience assisting with the clinical management of persons with communicative disorders. All fieldwork is done in specified off-campus locations.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- manage speech and language screenings (without interpretation) following specified screening protocols developed by a supervising Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP).
- plan activities pertaining to documented treatment plans in order to provide services to clients/patients under the direction of a supervising SLP.
- manage intervention activities and assist in service delivery with clients identified by a supervising SLP.
- appraise client/patient progress toward meeting the established objectives as stated in the prescribed treatment plan and document changes made.
- detect and report client/patient progress and any other important information to the supervising SLP.
- create materials and assist with other clerical duties as directed by a supervising SLP.
- apply skills as necessary to assist the supervising SLP, such as scheduling and record keeping.
- explain Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) legislation and maintain the confidentiality of client information.
- perform all duties according to documented legal and ethical standards.
- complete the application process to become a registered speech-language pathology assistant.

SLPA 125 Strategies for Clinical Success

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Units: | 3 |
| Hours: | 36 hours LEC; 54 hours LAB |
| Prerequisite: | SLPA 110 with a grade of "C" or better |
| Advisory: | MATH 24, 25, or 41 |

This course explores specific materials and strategies regarding speech and language therapeutic service delivery with a focus on intervention. It covers remediation procedures, forms of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), development of forms of AAC, the International Phonetic Alphabet, the collection and transcription of speech samples, and the collection and transcription of language samples. This course is designed as an additional opportunity to gain more experience for preparation for fieldwork as a speech-language pathology assistant.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- identify various forms of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).
- demonstrate high-tech, low-tech, and no-tech forms of AAC for use with children and/or adults.
- collect language samples in children and/or adults.
- transcribe language samples in children and/or adults.
- calculate and confirm Mean Length of Utterance (MLU).
- collect speech samples in children and adults.
- transcribe speech samples in children and adults.

- demonstrate proficiency with the management of the tools for oral motor therapeutic intervention, including proper care and cleaning of materials.
- demonstrate the ability to elicit accurate speech sounds during articulation exercises.

SLPA 300 Introduction to Communication Disorders

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Units: | 3 |
| Hours: | 54 hours LEC |
| Prerequisite: | None. |
| Advisory: | Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGWR 300; OR ESLR 340 and ESLW 340. |
| Transferable: | CSU |

This course is an introduction to the field of communication disorders, including an overview and history of the profession of speech-language pathology. It includes an overview of various speech and language disorders, as well as guidelines for determining the development of typical and atypical speech and language, and a minimum of three hours of video observations.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- differentiate between typical and atypical speech and language development.
- identify major categories of communication disorders and their possible etiological factors.
- label diagrams of anatomical structures necessary for the production of speech.
- identify communication disorders in individuals of various ages with consideration of cultural and linguistic differences.
- identify various options for employment within the field, as well as professional organizations which support the field.
- analyze therapeutic processes and materials to address communication deficits from the review of multimedia sources.

Faculty

Kristina Zajic

Coordinator/Professor

| | |
|---------|--|
| Office: | ARC Main, Health & Education, 764 |
| Email: | ZajicK@arc.losrios.edu (mailto:ZajicK@arc.losrios.edu) |
| Phone: | (916) 484-8702 |
| Web: | Kristina Zajic's Profile Page (/about-us/faculty-and-staff-directory/kristina-zajic) |

Cookies Disclaimer

The American River College website uses cookies to enhance user experience and analyze site usage. By continuing to use this site, you are giving us consent to do this. Review our [Privacy Policy \(/about-us/our-values/privacy-policy\)](#) to learn more.

✕