



METROPOLITAN STATE  
COLLEGE of DENVER

**Communication Arts and Sciences**  
**Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences**

**Speech, Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Certificate**

The SLPA certificate prepares students who wish to obtain the Colorado Department of Education Authorization for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs). This authorization requires that students have:

- 1) a bachelor's degree in Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences (SLHS) or a bachelor's degree plus SLHS Leveling Certificate coursework. **(At least 60% of certificate coursework must be completed at Metro State.)**  
**AND**
- 2) Successful completion of an approved SLPA Methods and Internship course (SLHS 4550 at Metro State)

MTH 1110, SLHS 1500/ENG 2010, and BIO 2310 are optional prerequisites for certificate-seeking students who have a bachelor's degree in another field and may be waived upon request. Entrance to the SLPA Methods and Internship course requires a 2.5 GPA in prerequisite SLHS (or equivalent) courses that were completed no longer than 10 years ago.

<b>Prerequisite Courses</b>			<b>Credits</b>
SLHS 2530	Speech and Hearing Science (Fall, Spring)		3
SLHS 2890	Language Acquisition (Fall, Spring, online)		3
SLHS 3511	Anatomy and Physiology of Speech (Fall, Spring)		3
SLHS 3540	Phonetics and Phonological Awareness (Fall, Spring)		3
SLHS 3600	Audiology I (Fall, Spring)		3
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>15</b>
<b>Required Courses for Certificate</b> Both degree and non degree-seeking students must have completed the above SLHS prerequisites prior to taking the certificate courses below.			
SLHS 3580	Speech Sound & Fluency Disorders (Spring, Maymester) (co/prereq. SLHS 3540)		3
SLHS 4610	Aural Rehabilitation (Spring) (pre-req SLHS 2890 and SLHS 3600)		3
SLHS 4510	Language Disorders (Spring) (pre-req SLHS 2890)		3
SLHS 4500	Principles of Assessment and Intervention (Fall) (pre-req SLHS 2890, SLHS 3580, and SLHS 4510). Students possessing a bachelor's degree in another field may complete an alternative assignment to fulfill this requirement.		3
<b>SLHS 4550</b>	<b>Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Methods (Fall/Spring online)</b> (pre-req. all certificate courses except SLHS 4610 which may be taken as a co-req.) Students are required to submit a letter of intent, academic transcripts and two letters of reference to the program coordinator for review and approval by April 15 for fall semester 2011 and October 15 for spring.		<b>7</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>19</b>
A grade of "C" or better is required in each SLHS prerequisite and certificate course.			

In 2007, the Colorado Department of Education approved a Type I Authorization: School Speech-Language Pathology Assistant. To qualify for this authorization, individuals must:

1. possess a bachelor's degree in speech, language, hearing sciences (SLHS) or its equivalent (equivalent = 24 hours of SLHS foundation coursework including coursework in: speech/hearing science, anatomy/physiology of speech, audiology I, aural rehabilitation, phonetics, language acquisition, language disorders, speech disorders, and principles of assessment/intervention),  
**and**
2. complete an approved Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) program/methods course that includes an internship with a minimum of 100 direct contact hours with a certified SLP. At Metro State, our online SLHS 4550 meets this requirement.

### **SLPA Course Schedule**

Students with a bachelor's degree in another field should expect to take one-and-a-half years to complete the SLPA certificate at Metro State if prerequisites courses are started fall semester. The leveling content courses are taken the 1<sup>st</sup> year as prerequisites to the methods/internship courses taken the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> fall**

SLHS 2530 Speech and Hearing Science  
SLHS 2890 Language Acquisition  
SLHS 3540 Phonetics and Phonological Awareness  
SLHS 3600 Audiology I

#### **1<sup>st</sup> spring**

SLHS 3511 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech  
SLHS 3580 Speech Sound and Fluency Disorders  
SLHS 4510 Language Disorders  
SLHS 4610 Aural Rehabilitation

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> fall or spring**

SLHS 4550 SLPA Methods  
Online 3 credit seminar + 13 hours/week internship in schools

### **Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Job Description**

The role of SLPAs is to support clinical services provided by SLPs to, primarily, students in public schools. No school district can employ an SLPA without assigning a certified SLP as supervisor. It is within the scope of responsibilities for SLPAs to perform the following tasks:

- assist the SLP on speech, language, and hearing screenings and assessments
- follow the treatment or intervention plans developed by the SLP
- document student performance on records, charts, or graphs and report such to the SLP
- assist with clerical duties such as preparing materials and scheduling students
- perform checks and maintenance of equipment
- support the SLP in research projects and in-service trainings
- collect data in areas to be determined by the SLP

SLPAs are not allowed to perform the following tasks:

- administer diagnostic tests or interpret test results
- screen students for feeding or swallowing disorders

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- participate in parent conferences or team meetings without the SLP being present
- provide counseling for students or their families
- develop or modify a student's individualized education plan (IEP)
- sign any formal document
- select students for or dismiss students from intervention services
- share confidential information with anyone other than the SLP

### **Education**

\_\_\_ Option 1: bachelor's degree in SLHS that included coursework in speech/hearing science, anatomy/physiology of speech, audiological evaluation, aural rehabilitation, phonetics, language acquisition, language disorders, speech disorders, and principles of assessment/intervention),

\_\_\_ Option 2: bachelor's degree in a field other than SLHS with 24 hours of required coursework in SLHS (above-specified areas) from an accredited institution. Knowledge of communication processes, human communication, and disorders verified through transcript review.

### **Specific Knowledge and Skills**

\_\_\_ Completion of an SLPA practicum course (SLHS 4550) which includes 100 hours of direct service to children under the supervision of an ASHA certified, licensed SLP with at least 3 years of experience. Demonstrated competency in all specified SLPA areas.