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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prerequisite Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 2530 Speech and Hearing Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 2890 Language Acquisition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3511 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3540 Phonetics and Phonological</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3600 Audiology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Courses for Certificate**  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 | 3       |
| SLHS 4610 Aural Rehabilitation             | 3       |
| SLHS 4510 Language Disorders               | 3       |
| SLHS 4500 Principles of Assessment and     | 3       |
| Intervention                               |         |
| SLHS 4550 Speech-Language Pathology        | 7       |
| Assistant Methods (Fall/Spring online)     |         |

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.

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 1st year as prerequisites to the methods/internship courses taken the 2nd year.

1st fall
SLHS 2530 Speech and Hearing Science
SLHS 2890 Language Acquisition
SLHS 3540 Phonetics and Phonological Awareness
SLHS 3600 Audiology I

1st spring
SLHS 3511 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech
SLHS 3580 Speech Sound and Fluency Disorders
SLHS 4510 Language Disorders
SLHS 4610 Aural Rehabilitation

2nd 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 SLPA’s 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 SLPA’s 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

SLPA’s are not allowed to perform the following tasks:

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