



Audiology and Speech Sciences (M.Sc.)

Audiology

Audiology is the science of hearing and the study of hearing loss. It encompasses a wide variety of subjects, such as acoustics, noise pollution, diseases and defects of the ear, and the effects of hearing loss on a child's development of speech and language.

An audiologist specializes in the prevention, detection, measurement, and rehabilitation of hearing loss in children and/or adults. When an individual is referred for audiological assessment, the audiologist must determine the severity and type of hearing loss present. Hearing loss is measured with sophisticated electroacoustic equipment using tests that are specially selected to match the needs, capabilities, and age of the client.

The audiologist must be able to interpret test results quickly and accurately so that appropriate rehabilitative hearing aids, training in speech-reading and listening skills, referral for further medical investigation, or further testing by professionals in related fields can be made.

Hearing loss has far-reaching effects on a child's speech and language development and education, and on an adult's social life and employment. The audiologist is also responsible for counselling the hearing-impaired person and family about the nature and implications of hearing loss.

Speech-language pathology

Speech-language pathology involves the study and management of communication disorders. These disorders may be developmental (delayed) or acquired (after a stroke or head injury) and also include problems such as stuttering and articulation disorders.

Speech-language pathology is a young and growing profession in Canada. A speech language pathologist has the opportunity to work closely with people, and speech language pathology is an excellent career for people interested in language and other aspects of human communication.

The speech-language pathologist works directly with communicatively-impaired children or adults, in both educational and health care settings, and provides assessment of and treatment for their communication problems. The speech-language pathologist must be able to select, administer, and interpret a wide variety of assessment measures. He/she must then be able to design and carry out individualized treatment programs suited to the client's needs and abilities.

In addition to working directly with the client, the speech-language pathologist has a major role on both health care and educational interdisciplinary teams that work with the communicatively-impaired individual. He/she is a valuable resource person who provides and coordinates information about the client's ability to communicate, and the implications of those abilities for education or rehabilitation programs.





Audiology and Speech



Health Sciences Students' Association

Speech/language impairment may have far-reaching effects on social, educational, or employment aspects of a person's life. The speech-language pathologist must therefore provide counselling and support services to clients and their families.

LENGTH OF PROGRAM:

2 years, Masters of Science (MSc)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS APPLYING EACH YEAR:

25 out of 100

TUITION:

\$2500 per year

HIGH SCHOOL PRE-REQUISITES:

None. Recommended courses are Biology 12, Physics 12, Math 12

UNIVERSITY PRE-REQUISITES AND STANDARDIZED TESTS:

GRE (Graduate Record Examination, a standardized test required to get into graduate school). Pre-requisites vary greatly between schools. Contact each school for a list of prerequisites. Main focus of pre-requisites should be in Linguistics and Psychology.

EDUCATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

In Canada, audiology training and speech-language pathology training is offered at the Masters and Doctoral levels. Undergraduate preparation normally includes background courses in Psychology, Linguistics, Physiology, Statistics, Biology, and Physics. The audiologist must be able to work well with people of widely different backgrounds and experiences, and must also feel comfortable with using highly sophisticated technical equipment. The speech-language pathologist must be able to listen sympathetically and respond appropriately to a wide variety of demands and pressures while closely working with a communicatively-impaired person. This requires good health, emotional stability, humour, and an ability to communicate well with others.

REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF JOBS AFTER GRADUATION:

Audiology

Audiology is a relatively new and expanding field in Canada. Opportunities for employment are good, although it may be necessary to start out in rural areas or other provinces. In B.C., most audiologists are employed by the Ministry of Health, the Workers' Compensation Board, and hospitals. Employment opportunities also exist in municipal health departments, school boards, industry, and private agencies. A small but growing number of audiologists have established private practices. An audiologist may work alone in a small hearing clinic or along with several audiologists in a larger clinic.

Co-workers include speech-language pathologists, consulting medical staff, teachers,





equipment maintenance technicians, and clerical staff. The work setting usually includes space for a soundproof booth or suite with electro-acoustic equipment, as well as private space for interviewing counselling space.

Speech-language pathology

Speech-language pathology is an expanding field in Canada. Opportunities for employment are good in both rural and urban centers.

In B.C., speech-language pathologists are employed in provincial and municipal units, school boards, and hospitals. Employment settings also include child development centers, and some privately funded groups. A small but growing number of speech-language pathologists have established private practices.

A speech-language pathologist may work alone in a small clinic or as one of several in school boards or larger clinics. Co-workers vary according to the clinical setting, but may include other professionals with medical, paramedical (for example, occupational therapists and physiotherapists) or educational backgrounds.

INCOME:

The salaries for both audiology and speech language pathology are comparable. Generally, salary and benefits are excellent. The starting salary for audiologists in B.C. in 1991 was \$42,132.

Starting: \$49,000 per year
Average: \$56,000 per year

FUTURE JOB DEMAND:

Great potential for jobs, although there are problems with the reallocation of educational resources and health care funding to support the training of audiologists and speech language pathologists.

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION:

Consult the UBC Calendar:

UBC Audiology and Speech
Language Pathology website:

www.audiospeech.ubc.ca

The Canadian Association for
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology website:

www.caslpa.ca

Graduate Record Examination website:

www.gre.org

Graduate Administrator

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