



# UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

### **What does a speech pathologist do?**

Speech-language pathologists work with people who cannot make speech sounds, or cannot make them clearly; those with speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering; people with voice quality problems, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice; those with problems understanding and producing language; and those with cognitive communication impairments, such as attention, memory, and problem solving disorders. They may also work with people who have oral motor problems causing eating and swallowing difficulties.

### **What does an audiologist do?**

Audiologists work with people who have hearing, balance, and related problems. They use audiometers, computers, and other testing devices to measure the loudness at which a person begins to hear sounds, the ability to distinguish between sounds, and the nature and extent of hearing loss. Audiologists interpret these results and may coordinate them with medical, educational, and psychological information to make a diagnosis and determine a course of treatment.

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists should be able to effectively communicate diagnostic test results, diagnoses, and proposed treatment in a manner easily understood by their clients. They must be able to approach problems objectively and provide support to clients and their families. Because a client's progress may be slow, patience, compassion, and good listening skills are necessary. Annual salaries range from starting, \$27,000, to salaries for those with terminal degrees and experience, \$88,000.

### **What education is required?**

Of the States that regulate licensing, almost all require a master's degree or equivalent. Other requirements are 300 to 375 hours of supervised clinical experience, a passing score on a national examination, and 9 months of postgraduate professional clinical experience.

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is located within the **School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno**. Three degree programs are offered: bachelor of science, master of science, and doctor of philosophy. The program is fully accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

### **Where can I get more information?**

- American Academy of Audiology, 8201 Greensboro Dr., Suite 300, McLean, VA 22102
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.  
Internet: <http://www.asha.org>
- <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos085.htm>
- Ann Diggins, Director of Recruitment, University of Nevada, School of Medicine  
2040 W. Charleston, Suite 400, Las Vegas, NV 89102; (702) 671-6457  
<http://www.unr.edu/spa/>
- Gina Sella, Education Outreach Coordinator, University of Nevada, School of Medicine  
Mail Stop 198, Reno, NV 89557; (775) 784-6063 ext. 2016