

Catalog Description

The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program is designed to prepare trained speech-language pathology assistants to assist speech-language pathologists in the speech and language development of communicatively disordered children and adults. They will be trained to conduct screenings for speech-language and hearing disorders (without interpretation), administer treatment assistance as prescribed by the speech-language pathologist, and provide support assistance to the speech language pathologist. They will work with infants, children, young adults and seniors in educational, clinical and medical settings such as schools, day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes and clinics.

The Associate of Arts program offers an intensive course of study in the area of speech and language disorders, including supervised treatment and field experience in a variety of settings. Upon completion of the AA degree program, the graduate is eligible for a certificate of completion and registration as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant by the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Examining Board.

Goals of the Program

1. To train students for employment as Speech-Language Pathology Assistants through meeting the state of California registration requirements for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants.
2. To provide the educational requirements necessary to pass the State of California registration and licensing requirements for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants.
3. To equip students with the knowledge, fieldwork experience and core technical skills within the field of Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.
4. To promote professional standards of the individual to meet the requirements of the State of California, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Code of Ethics and the community.
5. To provide for students a career ladder potential to transfer to the four-year university level.

Program Objectives: Graduates will be prepared in the following areas:

1. Demonstrate the ability to relate to clients/patients in a supportive manner.
2. Use appropriate forms of polite and professional communication and conduct with clients, staff, family and caregivers.
3. Use language and behavior appropriate to a person's developmental and educational level, communication style and communication disorder.
4. Communicate in a clear, precise and accurate manner in oral and written forms all information relevant to the care of the client and/or caregiver to the speech language pathologist.
5. Maintain confidentiality and other appropriate workplace behaviors.
6. Follow health and safety precautions.
7. Accurately and correctly assist the speech-language pathologist with speech-language and hearing screenings (without interpretation).
8. Calculate appropriate data relating to client screening data.
9. Accurately implement documented treatment plans or protocols developed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.
10. Respond to changes in behaviors or protocols in an appropriate and timely manner.
11. Demonstrate time management skills.
12. Document patient/client performance (e.g., tallying data for the speech-language pathologist to use: preparing charts, records, and graphs).
13. Assist the speech-language pathologist during assessment of patients/clients.

14. Record clear, precise and accurate data concerning client, family, and or caregiver in relation to therapeutic regime, responses and outcomes.
15. Set up, operate, perform checks and maintenance of a wide variety of required clinical and office equipment.
16. Develop and present appropriate educational materials that are age appropriate, culturally sensitive and disorder sensitive.
17. Assist with departmental operations (scheduling, record keeping, office management systems, safety/maintenance of supplies and equipment).
18. Collect data for quality improvement
19. Support the supervising speech-language pathologist in research projects, in-service training and public relations programs.
20. Participate in continuing education, in-service and life long learning.
21. Demonstrate a clear understanding of job responsibilities, compliance with regulations, reimbursement requirements and ethical awareness.
22. Demonstrate clear interpersonal communication skills and professional ethics consistent with being a member of the speech-language pathology team.
23. Develop a collaborative and transdisciplinary approach to working skills.

Major requirements for the associate degree:

Human Development 107.3 units

Child Growth and Development

Developmental stages of children from conception through adolescence. Covers major theories of development (biosocial, cognitive, and psychosocial) and their application to parenting, teaching and other interactions with children.

Human Development 107L. 1 unit

Child Growth and Development Laboratory

Emphasizes the dynamic forces underlying growth and change in the young child as related to physical, language and social development. Introduces basic methods of observing and recording behavior.

Human Development 205.3 units

Exceptionality and Special Needs in Human Development

Study of diseases and disorders found in children resulting in exceptionality, including mental retardation, visual, speech and hearing impairments; behavior disorders, learning disabilities and physical and health impairments.

Speech Communication 151.3 units

Voice and Diction for Effective Communication

Basic speech and voice production. Anatomy and physiology related to respiration (breathing/loudness), phonation (sound/pitch), and articulation (diction/clarity). Practice in improving vocal skills for effective communication.

Sign Language 110. 3 units

Beginning Communication with the Deaf

An introduction to the manual alphabet and basic signs used by the deaf, designed to provide a broad base of conversational skills used among the deaf.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant 118.1 unit
Introduction to Speech-Language Pathology Assisting

Overview of the field of speech-language pathology, professional standards, legal and ethical issues and scope of responsibilities of the speech-language pathologist and the speech-language pathology assistant in health care and educational settings.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant 119.3 units
Speech, Language and Hearing Development

Study of normal speech, hearing and language development across the life span. Topics will include communication development in bilingual populations and differentiation of normal from disordered communication.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant 120.2 units
Clinical Management and Procedures

Organizational and functional skills required in the speech-language pathology workplace. Includes interdisciplinary and supervisory relationships, client and public interaction, safety issues, technical writing, data collection, record keeping and computer applications.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant 150.1 unit
Clinical Observation

Beginning clinical observation of practices and procedures required in speech-language pathology. Observation sites will be both educational and medical.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant 160.3 units
Introduction to Communication Disorders and Treatment

An overview of communication disorders, including classification, assessment and remediation of speech, language, swallowing and hearing disorders in children and adults. Role of the speech-language pathologist and audiologist in educational and medical settings.

Speech Communication 170.3 units
Introduction to Phonetics

Study of the articulatory foundations of the description and classification of speech sounds. Introduces the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), physiological properties of the speech-producing mechanism, and methods of transcription. Emphasis will be on American English along with the comparison to the sound systems of other languages.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant 180.3 units
Screening Processes and Intervention Procedures

Screening tools, processes and intervention procedures used for clients with communication disorders. Administration of screening tests and completion of protocols. Equipment utilized in therapeutic treatment.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant 190.2 units
Clinical Fieldwork I

Application of supervised clinical practice procedures as required of a speech-language pathology assistant in an educational setting.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant 200. 3 units
Adult and Geriatric Communication Disorders

Speech, language, and hearing disorders experienced by the adult and geriatric populations. Assessment tools and treatment strategies used to treat acquired disorders such as adult aphasia, dysarthria, and hearing loss.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant 250.2 units
Clinical Fieldwork II

Advanced application of clinical practice procedures in a clinical or medical setting by the speechlanguage pathology assistant under the supervision of a speech-language pathologist.

General Education Requirements:

Anthropology 104.3 units (same as English 104. 3 units)

Language & Culture

General introduction to the processes of human communication. Includes the relationship between language and culture, acquisition of first and second language, languages in contact, sociolinguistics and the effects of both language and culture on inter/intra group communication.

Biology 109/ 109L.4 units

Fundamentals of Biology

Principles of biology stressing the relationship of all organisms from anatomical, physiological and ecological points of view.

OR

Biology 149.4 units

Anatomy and Physiology

Human anatomy and physiology stressing the interrelationships between normal structure and function.

OR

Biology 239.4 units

General Human Anatomy

Structure of the human body. Systems, organs, and tissues are studied from human skeletons, models, charts, slides and CD-ROM programs.

English 101.4 units

Freshman Composition

Expository and argumentative essays and the research paper.

English 104. 3 units (same as Anthropology 104. 3 units)

Language & Culture

General introduction to the processes of human communication. Includes the relationship between language and culture, acquisition of first and second language, languages in contact, sociolinguistics and the effects of both language and culture on inter/intra group communication.

Psychology 100.3 units

Introduction to Psychology

Addresses principles of research, perception, development, learning, motivation, emotion and abnormal behavior. Emphasizes application of psychological principles to personal adjustment.

Speech Communication 101.3 units

Introduction to Interpersonal Communication

Introduction to communication theory, listening, perception, language usage, non-verbal communication and conflict management.

Speech Communication 103.3 units

Introduction to Intercultural Communication

A general view of the sociological, psychological and historical background of world cultures. Special emphasis on the methods, skills and techniques necessary for effective intercultural, cross cultural and interracial communication. Stresses the development of analytical thinking and writing skills.

Exercise Science Health Education 105.1.5 units

First Aid and Personal Safety

Instruction in accident prevention and immediate care to accident victim. Certificate available upon completion.

Exercise Science Health Education 107.2.0 units

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Instruction in artificial respiration and manual artificial circulation that is recommended for use in cardiac arrest cases.

Math 060.4 units

Elementary Algebra

The first course in algebra. Includes solutions and applications of first and second degree equations; geometric concepts, graphs; inequalities, exponents, polynomials, algebraic fractions and functions.

Psychology 140.3 units

Psychology of Adulthood and Aging

Examines psychological and related biological and social changes that occur in adulthood and old age. Designed to help students understand their own and others aging and to prepare student for occupations dealing with older people.

Note: To complete the AA degree requirement, students need to fulfill the requirements for American Institutions, Reading, Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development section F2, and successfully complete Computer Science 100 (proficiency examination no acceptable).

Admission into the Program

Admission into Santa Ana College and the Santa Ana Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program has an open door policy. Admission is granted to anyone who is a high school graduate, has a certificate of high school proficiency or is 18 years of age or older who can profit from instruction or is a high school student qualifying for Career Advanced Placement Program.

Students need to make an appointment with the Program Director or College counselor to review transcripts for transfer of credits, pre-requisite course work and work experience.

Observation and Fieldwork Requirements

Observation: 24 hours of observation of practices and procedures used in speech-language pathology are required. Observation sites will be both educational and medical. Observation requirements are fulfilled by the completion of Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program 150, Clinical Observation, 1 unit.

Clinical Fieldwork Requirements: (Must See Program Coordinator prior to enrollment in either Speech Language Pathology Assistant 190 or 250)

The clinical fieldwork assignments consist of two semesters:

Fall Semester: 6 hours per week in an educational setting plus 4 hours arranged.

Spring Semester: 6 hours per week in a medical/clinical setting plus 4 hours arranged.

Students receive credit for all tasks associated with assisting a certified, credentialed and/or licensed speech-language pathologist.

The fieldwork experiences are not intended to develop independent

practice. The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program has been designed to be a late afternoon-evening program to accommodate the large number of students who are working. All general education classes and the requirements for the major classes with the exception of Observation and Fieldwork courses are offered in the late afternoon or evening times. Working students need to be aware that they will need to have flexibility in their work schedules to meet the fieldwork site requirements which may vary from one day a week, to two mornings or afternoons, etc...

Fieldwork Placement

Students will have an opportunity to request fieldwork site placements based on their areas of interest, strengths and goals for employment.

Objectives for Fieldwork Experience. Objectives for student learning:

I. Written and oral communication and interpersonal skills

- A. To use appropriate forms of polite and professional communication with client, staff, family and caregivers.
- B. To restate information/concerns expressed by the client, family, and caregivers as appropriate
- C. To act with courtesy and respect in various communication situations, including telephone, face-to-face interactions, e-mail
- D. To use language appropriate to a person's developmental age, educational level, communication style, and communication disorder
- E. To greet family and client and identify self as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant
- F. To respond appropriately to client, family, and caregiver emotional states/ behaviors

II. Understanding critical supervision issues

- A. Implement treatment protocols only after appropriate training, and only as prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist
- B. Use screening instruments only after training, and only as prescribed by the speech-language pathologist

III. Administration of screening assessments and observational checklists with assigned students or pediatric clients as directed by the speech-language pathologist.

- A. Complete screening protocols accurately
- B. Score screening instruments accurately
- C. Communicate screening results and all supplemental information to supervisor

IV. Performance of individual and group treatment activities as prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.

- A. Demonstrates knowledge of treatment objectives and plans
 - 1. Demonstrates understanding of patient/client disorder and needs
 - 2. Identify correct versus incorrect responses
 - 3. Describe behaviors by demonstrating a knowledge of the patient's/client's overall level of progress
 - 4. Verbally report and provide appropriate documentation of assigned activities
- B. Provide appropriate stimuli to elicit target behaviors as prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist
- C. Provide instructions that are clear, concise and appropriate to the client's developmental age, level of understanding, language use, and communication style
- D. Follow treatment protocol as developed and prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist
- E. Provide accurate feedback based on the correctness of the client's response consistent with the treatment protocol prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist
- F. Identify and describe clinically relevant patient, family and caregiver behaviors to the supervising speech-language pathologist
- G. Maintain on-task or redirect off-task behavior of clients in individual or group treatment consistent with the client's developmental age, communication style, and disorder as prescribed by the speech-language pathologist
- H. Provide appropriate behavioral reinforcement consistent with the client's developmental age, culture, and communication disorder as prescribed by the speech-language pathologist
- I. Implement treatment goals and objectives in the sequence specified in the treatment protocol by the speech-language pathologist
- J. At the beginning of treatment, accurately explain to the client the treatment tasks in the treatment protocol as prescribed by the speech-language pathologist
- K. At the end of sessions, accurately review and summarize client performance according to the protocol prescribed by the speech-language pathologist
- L. Prepare treatment materials before the beginning of treatment sessions as directed by the speech-language pathologist
- M. Prepare age-appropriate and culturally sensitive treatment materials appropriate to the client's developmental age and communication disorder as prescribed by the speech-language pathologist
- N. Start and end the treatment session on time
- O. Set up and operate clinical equipment as prescribed by the speech-language pathologist, such as assistive listening devices, augmentative and alternative communication devices, and computers with specific communication software
- P. Design and prepare charts, records and graphs

Maintain Clinical Documentation

- A. Sign documents to be reviewed and co-signed by the supervisor
- B. Prepare and maintain client charts and records in manner prescribed by the speech-language pathologist
- C. Administer client satisfaction measures as directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist
- D. Accurately record target behaviors as prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist

Compute Clinical Data

- A. Accurately calculate chronological age of the client from clinical records or based on client/caregiver report
- B. Correctly calculate percentages, frequencies and ranges
- C. Correctly determine percentiles and standard scores from test manuals as prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist
- D. Correctly record target behaviors as prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist

Uphold Ethical Behavior and Maintain Confidentiality

- A. Identify self as an assistant and in all written and oral communication with client, family, caregivers, and staff
- B. Maintain client records in a secure manner at all times as prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist
- C. Discuss confidential client information only at the direction of the supervising speech-language pathologist
- D. Demonstrate ability to explain to the supervising speech-language pathologist the scope of information that should be discussed with the client, family, caregivers, and professionals
- E. Maintain accurate records representing assigned work time with clients

Oral and Written Communication

- A. Use professional terminology correctly in communication with the supervising speech-language pathologist
- B. Maintain legible records, log notes, and written communication in a manner prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist

Follow Health and Safety Precautions

- A. Implement appropriate infection control procedures and universal precautions consistent with the employer's standards and guidelines
- B. Implement injury prevention strategies consistent with the employer's standards and guidelines and state regulations