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.  
AND
2) Successful completion of an approved SLPA Methods and Internship course (SLHS 4550 at MSU Denver)

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</td>
<td>Speech and Hearing Science (Fall, Spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 2890</td>
<td>Language Acquisition (Fall, Spring, online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3511</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology of Speech (Fall, Spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3540</td>
<td>Phonetics and Phonological Awareness (Fall, Spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3600</td>
<td>Audiology I (Fall, Spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**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 (Spring, Maymester) (co/prereq. SLHS 3540) | 3 |
| SLHS 4500            | Principles of Assessment and Intervention (Fall) (prereq 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 |
| SLHS 4510            | Child Language Disorders (Spring) (prereq SLHS 2890) | 3 |
| SLHS 4610            | Aural Rehabilitation (Spring) (prereq SLHS 2890 and SLHS 3600) | 3 |
| **SLHS 4550**        | Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Methods (Fall/Spring online) (prereq. all certificate courses except SLHS 4610 which may be taken as a coreq.) | 7 |

Students are required to submit a signed letter of intent, academic transcripts and two signed letters of reference to the program coordinator for review and approval. The application deadline is in mid-April for fall semesters and mid-October for spring semesters. See the website, [www.msudenver.edu/cas](http://www.msudenver.edu/cas), or contact the department, 303-352-7092, for specific deadline information.

| **Total**            | 19 |

A grade of “C” or better is required in each certificate course.
In 2003, 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 MSU Denver, 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 MSU Denver. 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 Child Language Disorders
- SLHS 4610 Aural Rehabilitation

**2nd fall or spring**
- SLHS 4550 SLPA Methods
  - Online 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
- 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

___ Option 2: bachelor’s degree in a field other than SLHS with 24 hours of required coursework in SLHS from an accredited institution. Knowledge of communication processes, human communication, and disorders verified through transcript review.

**Specific Knowledge and Skills**

___ Option 1: Completion of an SLPA practicum course (SLHS 4550) which includes 100 hours of direct service to children under the supervision of a certified, licensed SLP with at least 3 years of experience.