
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... **SPEECH & HEARING SCIENCE**

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

The [UNM Speech and Hearing Science website \(2013\)](#) describes studying Speech and Hearing sciences as “creating and disseminating basic science, assessment, and intervention knowledge about communication sciences and disorders.” Furthermore, UNM Speech and Hearing Sciences explains that a, “Bachelor's Degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences allows students to explore the mechanisms and processes of human communication and prepares students to pursue graduate education in the fields of speech-language pathology, audiology, or speech and hearing science.” UNM Speech and Hearing Sciences explains that audiologists specialize in “prevention, identification, and assessment of hearing impairment” whereas speech-language pathologists “assess and treat communication disorders such as stuttering, delayed language development, aphasia, voice disorders, and articulation problems.”

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required, however both Audiologist and Speech Language Pathologist occupations require a masters or doctoral degree. Consult [O*Net](#) for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

The UNM Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences offers a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Hearing Sciences, undergraduate minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences, and Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology. Courses are available to non-majors and to non-degree students (students who have a bachelor's degree but have not been accepted into a graduate program). You can find further information on the [UNM Speech and Hearing Science website](#).

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM's [Lobo Career Connection](#) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](#) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Healthcare

Speech and language pathologist, geriatric speech and language pathologist, audiologist, hospitals, K-12 school systems, speech language and hearing rehabilitation centers, private practice, residential treatment centers, assisted living facilities

Public Health

Health education/counseling, research laboratories and institutes, occupational health and safety, community health workers, nurse, physician, physician assistant

Education/Student Affairs

K-12/university/college teaching/administration, research, college preparation, counseling/advising

Government

Community development, Departments of Veteran Affairs, National Institutes of Health, Armed Services

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

- Gain volunteer hours of hands on experience/observation through a Speech and Language Pathologist or Audiologist during your undergraduate degree.
- Shadow professionals in fields of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the [Student Activities Center website](#).
- Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Job leads can be found on your department's website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.

STATE & NATIONAL WAGES:

Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

Location	2013				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	\$44,400	\$55,200	\$69,900	\$87,600	\$107,600
New Mexico	\$41,400	\$53,600	\$67,800	\$83,600	\$95,600

AUDIOLOGISTS

Location	2013				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	\$43,800	\$56,300	\$69,700	\$85,000	\$101,100
New Mexico	\$55,300	\$64,300	\$72,000	\$100,000	\$114,100

INFORMATIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL WEBSITES:

Therapy Jobs
American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Academy of Audiology
American Board of Audiology

<http://www.therapyjobs.com/>
<http://www.asha.org/>
<http://www.audiology.org/>
<http://www.americanboardofaudiology.org/>



<http://www.onetonline.org/>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

REFERENCES

State of Minnesota, U. S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (2013). CareerOneStop, Occupation Profile, Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Retrieved from www.careerinfonet.org

University of New Mexico, Speech and Hearing Sciences (2013). Undergraduate Program Overview. Retrieved from <http://shs.unm.edu/programs/undergraduate/index.html>