

Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are the pre-requisites for the SLPA Associates Degree program?

Students need a reading and writing Level 2 on the placement tests or higher. Delta SLPA AS degree major students must complete Comm Dis 001A, Introduction to Communication Disorders, HS 19, Human Development, and ENG 001A Reading and Composition prior to applying to the Program. Comm Dis 003, Therapy Analysis and Fieldwork, is only offered once each year during the fall semester. Applications will open once each year in the spring for enrollment in the fall term. For additional information see instructions under the Application Process.

How long does it take to complete the program?

A full time student will be able to complete the program in two years (four semesters). Program graduates will have an Associate Science Degree and be eligible to apply for State Licensure.

How do I apply to the program?

There are two categories of applicants to the Delta College SLPA program. First, are those students who are working toward the SLPA, A.S. degree. These students intend to graduate from the Delta College SLPA program. The second group of students has already completed a Bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders or Speech Language Pathology and need to complete clinical practice to obtain a State license as a SLPA. Such students need to apply under the Advanced Placement option. Please see the application process section on the website and follow the instructions pertaining to the appropriate group.

Will I be able to work while in the program?

Yes, generally students are able to work while completing this program. Each student will need to consider their own learning style and family needs to determine what is best. Courses are available online and/or in face-to-face format. Fieldwork is a component of the program. Our courses that include field work have at least part of the course required in traditional face to face instruction. Our clinical classes require time in the field either watching therapy or practicing how to do it. The clinical assignments are determined by Delta College SLPA staff. Our internship sites are in the greater Delta College region including north to Sacramento, south to Madera, east into the foothills and west to the Bay Area. We are not expanding beyond this region. We do not guarantee any specific fieldwork site. You have to be available to complete this work in the area during typical business hours. Later afternoon hours are very limited as most placements are with public schools and the students go home. Clinical hours may not be completed evenings or weekends so you will need to plan your work schedule accordingly.

If I intend to transfer to a University Program to Complete a Bachelor's Degree in the discipline should I also complete the SLPA degree?

There are several options for students who are intending to transfer to University programs to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in either Communication Sciences and Disorders or Speech Language Pathology. (Please note that a Master's degree is required to practice as a speech

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language pathologist thus requiring graduate school upon completion of the Bachelor's in this field.)

1. Students may choose to complete both the SLPA Associate's Degree and CSU transfer requirements prior to transferring to a Bachelor's degree program. This option would allow the student to apply for licensure as a SLPA and to work in that capacity while completing Bachelor's and Master's degrees in the discipline. For this option please refer to the suggested degree maps at the link on the SLPA website. Also meet with a counselor and review the requirements at the colleges that you intend to apply to for transfer. The degree maps provided are only suggestions.

2. Other students may choose to complete only a few courses in the department. They would complete Comm Dis 001A, Introduction to Communication Disorders and Comm Dis 001B, Speech, Language and Hearing Development in addition to the CSU transfer requirements. This option would not allow the student to work as a SLPA while completing Bachelor's and Master's degree in the discipline. Also, note that students with a Bachelor's in the discipline who are not ultimately accepted into graduate programs will need to complete additional course work to receive a SLPA license. Many of these students return to Delta to complete our program. Meet with a counselor and review the requirements at the colleges that you intend to apply to for transfer.

3. Finally, students may choose only to complete the SLPA Associate Degree and not to transfer for further education in the discipline. A suggested degree map is also included on the website. These are suggestions for a course sequence that would allow the student to graduate in two years. Students should develop an individual plan with the Counseling Department.

I have an AS/AA or BS/BA degree in another discipline and want to complete the SLPA program at Delta. Do I have to take all of the general education courses again?

Students will only need to complete those courses that were not included in their prior education. Make an appointment with the counseling department to review your transcript. For students whose degree was not granted from Delta College, see below.

I have taken general education courses at other colleges. How will I know if they are equivalent to Delta College courses?

To determine equivalency of courses taken at another college, each SLPA AS Degree candidate must submit an official transcript to the Evaluations Department for each college attended other than Delta. The student must then submit and Evaluation Request Form. (Delta College Home page >> Services and Support >> Evaluations >> Forms.) Further instructions are available on the Evaluations page of the website. Any questions regarding equivalency courses must be directed to the college Evaluations department. A description of the process is listed below for your convenience. Please note that "equivalencies" and "substitutions" are not the same thing.

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Equivalencies & Substitutions

Student submits Evaluation Request Form with official transcript(s) to Evaluations Office.

Then:

- Student receives an email and evaluation instructions
- Evaluator completes “Transcript Summary Form”
 - Form lists courses taken at the other college
- After each course, an equivalency (if any) is noted; otherwise it will state “Elective”

Equivalency determination (from the Evaluations Department) many courses have already been evaluated and are recorded in our database. If it is a general, non-specialized course –

- We begin by looking at the course description
- We also check for CAN or C-ID numbers that may have been assigned
- We look to see how the other college used the course for GE and/or majors
- If we cannot determine equivalency or if the course is in a specialized discipline
- The description (if provided or obtainable) is sent to the Discipline Chair
- The Discipline Chair will complete an Instructor Equivalency Form
- This form will note any courses in question as having an equivalency or being an Elective

If a course is determined to have an equivalent course at Delta it will be added to our database with any notes from the Discipline Chair the form is scanned for future reference

If a course is determined to not have an equivalent course at Delta and is to be used as an Elective. The student can attempt to use a non-equivalent course as a substitution

Degree Substitutions

- The student would submit a Course Substitution Form for the Associate Degree
- The form can be found online
- Homepage>Services & Support>Evaluations>Forms
- This form is used only to use a non-equivalent course in place of the required one
- Equivalent courses would automatically be used
- The form is then sent to the Division Dean for a decision
- The Division Dean has the say - Evaluators do not make the decision nor do they question the decision of the Division Dean

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I have a Bachelor's degree in Speech- Language Pathology or Communication Disorders. What do I need to do if I want to get a SLPA license?

Bachelor's degree students may complete the clinical practicum requirement for licensure space permitting. Priority will be given to Delta College SLPA Associate Degree students. The courses needed are: Comm Dis 005, Therapy Materials and Procedures, Comm Dis 007, Service Delivery Issues and Comm Dis 009, Assessment and Remediation. Students must pass all three courses with a "C" or better and also must meet the minimum levels of clinical competence during clinical practicum in order for the director to sign off on the Fieldwork Experience Verification Form which must be submitted to the State for Licensure. Both Comm Dis 005 and Comm Dis 007 are available fully online. Comm Dis 009 is currently offered online as a hybrid with some sessions meeting face to face and some course work completed online. . The fieldwork is set up for you through Comm Dis 009. We have contracts with agencies in the greater Delta College region, including west to the bay area, east to the foothills, north to Sacramento and south to Madera. We do not intend to expand supervision into other areas.

To sign up for the three required classes, you must first apply for admission as a Delta College student. See Admissions and Records for Information. Then you must complete the supplemental Delta College SLPA program application available once each year. We will not be adding beyond the class limit.

What is the overall cost of the program? Is financial aid available?

Regular college fees apply to this program. Additional costs might include fees for background clearance, drug test, HIPAA training, student malpractice insurance, and updated immunizations. TB skin tests are needed and can be obtained for low cost through the Public Health department or your regular health care provider. Financial aid is available to qualified candidates. Candidates should contact the financial aid department at the college for more information.

What types of facilities employ SLPAs?

Currently SLPAs are employed with school districts, private practice therapy businesses and to a limited degree in the hospital setting.

What is the salary range for an SLPA?

SLPAs are currently earning between \$18.00 and \$35.00 per hour depending upon experience, location and the inclusion of a benefit package.

What if I have a criminal record?

Fieldwork is a required component of the program. Many of the clinical facilities will require students to clear a background check for criminal history. The cost for this clearance check will be covered by the student. In addition, the Board of Speech Language Pathology,

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Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers requires all candidates for licensure to submit fingerprints which are analyzed and cleared prior to granting a license to practice as an SLPA.

Candidates with a criminal background may not be allowed to attend clinical if the offense is determined to be significant enough to warrant denial by the clinical facility. There is no specific list of offenses from which access to the facility is denied but a criminal history of violent crimes, crimes involving substance abuse, and sexually violent crimes are among those that may result in denial of access. If the applicant is not allowed into the clinical facility, he/she will not be able to meet the objectives of the SLPA program. Students with criminal histories are strongly encouraged to consider this information prior to selecting this career option and applying to the program.

English is not my strongest language; may I still be employed as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant?

The American Speech and Hearing Association has set forth the following position statement for English language proficiency skills for professionals in the field. Students should be able to:

- Develop a thorough knowledge of normal and disordered communication and communication development.
- Acquire effective intervention skills.
- Effectively communicate with clients from a variety of cultural ethnic, racial and linguistic backgrounds.
- Be able to model correctly speech or language skills targeted in therapy.
- Be able to write clearly and concisely in English using correct grammar.

Can I complete the program online?

The courses in the SLPA program are available in several formats. Some classes are available both face to face and online (Comm Dis 001A, Comm Dis 001B). Some courses are only available online (Comm Dis 005, Comm Dis 007) and the fieldwork courses are only available with a face to face component. Students will need to plan to attend classes on campus at least for both Comm Dis 003:Therapy Analysis and Fieldwork and Comm Dis 009: Assessment and Remediation.

Regardless of the format for classes, this program consists of coursework and also clinical practice. Our clinical classes require time in the field either watching therapy or practicing how to do it. The clinical assignments are determined by Delta College SLPA staff. Our internship sites are in the greater Delta College region including north to Sacramento, South to Madera, East into the foothills and West to the Bay Area. We have contracts for supervision in these areas at this time. We do not guarantee any specific fieldwork site. You have to be available to complete this work in the area during typical business hours.

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I intend to transfer to a University to pursue a Master's degree in Communication Disorders following completion of this program. Is there anything I need to do differently?

Students who intend to transfer to a four year college after completing the SLPA program should follow either the IGETC or CSU-GE transfer pattern in the Delta College Catalog. Make an appointment with a Counselor to review specifically what the differences are. For a Bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders, additional GE coursework is usually needed beyond the AS, SLPA degree to transfer to the CSUs. A course in Statistics and a physical science are required by most Communicative Disorders Bachelor's Degree programs. Statistics is accepted to meet the Math requirement for the Delta SLPA program. There are additional general education courses that are required for transfer. See the degree map with transfer tab for suggestions.