

Speech-Language Pathologist

Help people speak, understand and swallow safely. A master's degree, then schools, hospitals or your own clinic.

TYPICAL PAY

\$96,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$69k to \$124k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

6 to 7 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

School boards, hospitals, rehab centres, private clinics

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Grade 12 English, biology and a math. French is a real advantage later.
- 2 Undergraduate degree** 4 years
 Any major works, but linguistics, psychology and health sciences are common. You need specific prerequisite courses: linguistics, phonetics, statistics, anatomy and child development. Keep your average high.
- 3 Master's in speech-language pathology** 2 years
 An MSc (Master of Science) or similar, at roughly a dozen Canadian universities. Coursework plus hundreds of supervised clinical hours. Admission is very competitive.
- 4 Register with your provincial regulator** A few weeks
 In Ontario that is CASLPO (the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario). Some provinces add a short test on the rules of practice.

Pros and cons

- + Strong demand. Waitlists exist everywhere in Canada
- + Regular daytime hours, almost never nights or weekends
- + Huge range of work, from toddlers to stroke survivors
- Six years of school and a very competitive master's
- Paperwork and reports eat a big share of the day
- School caseloads can be 60 or more children

Good to know

Swallowing is a big part of the job

Hospital speech-language pathologists spend much of their time on swallowing, not speech. After a stroke, deciding whether someone can safely eat and drink is their call, and getting it wrong can cause pneu...

Only about a dozen programs

Roughly a dozen Canadian universities offer the master's degree, and each takes a small class. That is why admission is so competitive, even though the job market is wide open.

Optional boosts

Swallowing (dysphagia). AAC (augmentative and alternative communication). Fluency (stuttering). Early intervention and autism.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Speech-language pathologists, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
 College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/speech-language-pathologist>



Scan for the full clicker