

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program ++

Associate in Applied Science

Minimum of 61 credit hours

Oklahoma City Community College offers the first and only speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) program. If you are interested in working with clients or students who are experiencing communication delays and disorders, then this field of study is for you. Speech-language pathology assistants work in public schools and healthcare settings. Speech-language pathology assistants are prepared to work with licensed speech-language pathologists. Because there is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in Oklahoma, and the numbers of children and adults needing communication services are continuing to rise, the need for SLPAs is also increasing. OCCC SLPA graduates are qualified to apply for a license from the Oklahoma Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (OBESPA) and a teaching credential for practice from the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). To apply for the SLPA program you must complete a two-part process. First, you must apply to the college to be an OCCC student. Secondly, you must apply to the SLPA program. Applications may be found online and are available February of each year. The deadline to submit your application is the first Friday in June. Applicants who are accepted begin program studies in August. Special application requirements and procedures must be followed. Students who are accepted into the program are selected based on a preferential point system.

COURSE SEQUENCE

Course ID	Course Name	Credits	Type	Min GD
Term 1				
SLPA 1013	Foundations of Speech-Language Pathology	3	Major	C
	Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will examine the evolution and acquisition of language from a social/interactional perspective. The course will focus on the acquisition of speech and language by children and adults, including the development of phonological, semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic aspects of linguistic competence. Students in this class will also explore changes that can occur during the life-span, as well as diversities of accent and dialect. Prerequisites: Satisfied through completion of the health profession application process			
SLPA 1033	Professional Issues for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants	3	Major	C
	Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will understand and demonstrate the application of concepts of professional ethics and issues, review regulations and requirements for professional practice for speech-language pathology assistants, and discuss cultural considerations for studying and treating communication sciences and disorders. Prerequisites: Satisfied through completion of the health profession application process			
SCL 1001	Success in College and Life	1	Life Skills	
	Students will learn best practices for academic, career, and personal success. Students will discover their individual strengths, interests, and values to create a personalized plan; select and utilize resources that are applicable to their growth and success; and engage as active and responsible members of the academic community. This course should be taken during a student's first semester of college work at Oklahoma City Community College and is a required course in degree plans to satisfy the Life Skills requirement. Prerequisites: ENGL 0106 or adequate reading/writing assessment scores			

Term 2

SLPA 1063	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanism	3	Major	C
	Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will consider specific theory and mechanisms directly related to the speech and hearing mechanism. Students in this class will explore concepts related to the study of the anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanisms including; terminology, structure and function of the skeletal frameworks for respiration, phonation, articulation, swallowing, and hearing. Finally, students will be introduced to concepts of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology which are related and interdependent to speech and language processing and production.			
	Prerequisites: SLPA 1013			
ENGL 1113	English Composition I	3	Gen Ed	
	The student will write well-developed compositions which demonstrate the principles of unity, coherence, and organization and which contain specific details and vivid language. The students will locate library material and incorporate researched materials into compositions.			
	Prerequisites: ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures			

Term 3

SLPA 1023	Phonetics	3	Major	C
	Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will explore phonetics, the scientific study of speech. Students will be introduced to the International Phonetic Alphabet and develop skills in the recognition, production and transcription of the sounds of the world's languages. The course will train students to produce detailed phonetic transcriptions of American English. The student will also explore aspects of phonology. Finally, regional varieties of English and delays/disorders of the speech mechanism will be explored. This course satisfies the computer proficiency requirement.			
	Prerequisites: SLPA 1063			
SLPA 1053	Language Disorders in the Exceptional Child	3	Major	C
	Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will develop an understanding of the remediation of language disorders in children and adults who demonstrate exceptionalities. The course will provide emphasis on aspects of normal language development and communication, language disorders, and language intervention. Populations that will be explored in this class include, but are not limited to toddlers and preschoolers, children with learning disabilities, adolescents with language impairment, children with Down syndrome, children with auditory impairments, and children with Autism. Along with language development this course will examine language differences and language disorders in persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.			
	Prerequisites: SLPA 1013, SLPA 1033			

Term 4

SLPA 1043	Introduction to Speech Sound Disorders	3	Major	C
	Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will understand and demonstrate concepts related to disorders of the articulatory and phonological aspects of communication. The course will provide foundational information in phonetics, phonology, and language development, and allow the student opportunities to gain understanding and knowledge of the principles used in the treatment of articulation disorders.			
	Prerequisites: SLPA 1013, SLPA 1023			
ENGL 1213	English Composition II	3	Gen Ed	
	In this advanced writing course, students will create essays that explore and evaluate a variety of issues and perspectives suggested by fiction, poetry, drama, essays, and other types of cultural texts. Students will refine and augment the writing techniques they learned in ENGL 1113 or ENGL 1103 to develop well- reasoned, well-structured arguments in a clear, fluid, and engaging prose style.			
	Prerequisites: ENGL 1103 or ENGL 1113 taken within the last year, with strong encouragement for immediate continuation.			
HIST 1483	U.S. History to 1877	OR	Gen Ed	
	After analyzing events in American history from 1400 to 1877 in such areas as revolution, geographic and social mobility, political reform, government precedents and war, students will be able to identify patterns of present day mobility, describe governmental operations in their society and help resolve conflict in society based on the student's search for change, precedents, and conflict in the American past. A general education requirement.			
	Prerequisites: ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures			
HIST 1493	U.S. History 1877 to Present	3	Gen Ed	

After analyzing events in American history from 1877 to the present in such areas as geographic and social mobility, political reform, government precedents and war, students will be able to identify patterns of present day mobility, describe governmental operations in their society and help resolve conflict in society based on the student's search for change, precedents, and conflict in the American past. A general education requirement.

Prerequisites:

ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures

Term 5

SLPA 1073	School Issues for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant	3	Major	C
	<p>Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and concepts specific to SLPAs in the public school. Topics of interest for this class include specific target populations, record keeping, billing, Individual Educational Programs (IEP), time management and scheduling, and roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Prerequisites: SLPA 1043, SLPA 1053</p>			
SLPA 1083	Instructional Procedures in Communication Disorders	3	Major	C
	<p>Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will understand and demonstrate hands-on core skills related to clinical and teaching skills development in the practice of speech-language pathology. When you have completed this course you should be able to apply fundamental therapeutic procedures to speech-language pathology treatment sessions.</p> <p>Prerequisites: SLPA 1043, SLPA 1053</p>			

Term 6

SLPA 2043	Adult Neurogenic Communication Disorders and Treatment	3	Major	C
	<p>Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will examine adult neurogenic communication disorders and treatment for use by speech-language pathology assistants in medical settings. Students will identify and define terminology and concepts of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology which are related and interdependent to speech and language processing and production. This course also examines aphasia, apraxia of speech, and the dysarthrias typically seen in adults. Cognitive disorders, as seen in traumatic brain injuries (TBI), as well as adult dysphagia issues will be discussed.</p> <p>Prerequisites: SLPA 1013, SLPA 1033, SLPA 1063</p>			
SLPA 2033	Clinical Experience I	3*	Major	C
	<p>Through clinical site participation, the student will engage in supervised clinical training in the provision of speech and language services for children and adults. Clinical content for this course will include guided practice in the management and treatment of speech and language delays and disorders across the lifespan. Students will be supervised by licensed SLPs approved or trained by OCCC. Placements for Clinical Experience I will be made near the student's residence.</p> <p>Prerequisites: SLPA 1073, SLPA 1083</p>			
PSY 1113	General Psychology	3	Gen Ed	
	<p>A survey of the major areas of study in psychology such as motivation, learning, physiology, personality, social psychology, abnormal behavior, perception, memory, cognition/thought, and treatment.</p> <p>Prerequisites: ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures</p>			

Term 7

SLPA 2023	Autism	3	Major	C
	<p>Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will become familiar with current theories and scientific evidence on the nature and etiology of autism. Best practices in the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) will be examined. Additionally, students will become familiar with inclusive practices, family concerns, multicultural issues, and community resources as they impact the lives of children and adults with ASD.</p> <p>Prerequisites: SLPA 1083</p>			
SLPA 2033	Clinical Experience I	*	Major	C
	<p>Through clinical site participation, the student will engage in supervised clinical training in the provision of speech and language services for children and adults. Clinical content for this course will include guided practice in the management and treatment of speech and language delays and disorders across the lifespan. Students will be supervised by licensed SLPs approved or trained by OCCC. Placements for Clinical Experience I will be made near the student's residence.</p> <p>Prerequisites: SLPA 1073, SLPA 1083</p>			

MATH 1503	Contemporary Mathematics	OR	Gen Ed	
	A study of the mathematics needed for critical evaluation of quantitative information and arguments (including logic, critical appraisal of graphs and tables); use of simple mathematical models, and an introduction to elementary statistics. Prerequisites: MATH 0313 or adequate math placement. Pre or Co-requisite ENGL 0203			
MATH 2013	Introduction to Statistics	3	Gen Ed	
	The student will solve problems applying the concepts of random sampling, elementary probability, testing hypotheses, descriptive measures, chi-square, regression and correlation, and analysis of variance. Prerequisites: MATH 0313 or adequate math placement; ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures			
Term 8				
SLPA 2053	Augmentative Communication	3	Major	C
	Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will demonstrate understanding and knowledge of concepts, strategies, techniques, and issues surrounding augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). AAC strategies for use with children and adults will be a focus of this class. Hands-on experience with various methods of AAC strategies and devices will provide students with a foundation for therapies utilizing AAC principles for children and adult populations. Prerequisites: SLPA 2023			
SLPA 2063	Clinical Experience II	3*	Major	C
	Through clinical site participation, the student will engage in supervised clinical training in the provision of speech and language services for children and adults. Clinical content for this course will include guided practice in the management and treatment of speech and language delays and disorders across the lifespan. Students will be supervised by licensed SLPs approved or trained by OCCC. Placements for Clinical Experience II will be made near the student's residence. Prerequisites: SLPA 2033			
Term 9				
SLPA 2013	Medical Issues for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant	3	Major	C
	Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and concepts specific to SLPAs in medical settings. Students will understand and demonstrate conceptual knowledge of dysphagia as well as implications and strategies of dysphagia management. Additional topics of interest for this class include medical terminology, specific target populations, record keeping, charting, billing, time management, scheduling, roles and responsibilities, outcome measures, ethics specific to healthcare settings, and end of life feeding issues. Prerequisites: SLPA 2043			
SLPA 2063	Clinical Experience II	*	Major	C
	Through clinical site participation, the student will engage in supervised clinical training in the provision of speech and language services for children and adults. Clinical content for this course will include guided practice in the management and treatment of speech and language delays and disorders across the lifespan. Students will be supervised by licensed SLPs approved or trained by OCCC. Placements for Clinical Experience II will be made near the student's residence. Prerequisites: SLPA 2033			
POLSC 1113	American Federal Government	3	Gen Ed	
	A study of the principles, structure, processes and functions of the United States federal government. Prerequisites: ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures			

*16-week course offered during two 8-week terms

COURSE GROUPING

Major Courses: (42 Credit Hours) (C) SLPA 1013; (C) SLPA 1023; (C) SLPA 1033; (C) SLPA 1043; (C) SLPA 1053; (C) SLPA 1063; (C) SLPA 1073; (C) SLPA 1083; (C) SLPA 2013;

(C) SLPA 2023; (C) SLPA 2033; (C) SLPA 2043; (C) SLPA 2053; (C) SLPA 2063

General Education Courses: (18 Credit Hours) English: ENGL 1113; ENGL 1213; History: HIST 1483 or HIST 1493; Mathematics: MATH 1503 OR MATH 2013; Political Science: POLSC 1113; Social Sciences: PSY 1113

Life Skills Courses: (1 credit hour) Life Skills: SCL 1001

Support Courses: NONE

All major courses require a minimum of a "C" grade.

PROGRAM NOTES

Notes: This Technical and Occupational program is designed to prepare students to enter the job force following completion. See Technical and Occupational Programs in the general information section of the catalog.

All Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) courses are offered online only. An on-campus two (2) day orientation prior to the first semester of the program is required. Students are obligated to meet a minimum of 25 observation hours and 100 direct clinical hours that will require clinical site participation. Other on-campus hands-on clinical activities will be offered periodically throughout the program sequence.

For the application procedure please see our web page: <http://www.occc.edu/health/slpa.html>

++Special Admissions Procedures: All Health Professions students are required to submit a nationwide background and pre-placement drug testing prior to clinical/fieldwork. More information will be distributed upon acceptance into your respected program.

These courses have a clinical component that requires purchase of medical liability insurance, a clinical uniform (if applicable) and a physical (with completed health packet).

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

ENGL 1113 - English Composition I

The student will write well-developed compositions which demonstrate the principles of unity, coherence, and organization and which contain specific details and vivid language. The students will locate library material and incorporate researched materials into compositions.

Prerequisites: ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures

Credits: 3

ENGL 1213 - English Composition II

In this advanced writing course, students will create essays that explore and evaluate a variety of issues and perspectives suggested by fiction, poetry, drama, essays, and other types of cultural texts. Students will refine and augment the writing techniques they learned in ENGL 1113 or ENGL 1103 to develop well-reasoned, well-structured arguments in a clear, fluid, and engaging prose style.

Prerequisites: ENGL 1103 or ENGL 1113 taken within the last year, with strong encouragement for immediate continuation.

Credits: 3

HISTORY

HIST 1483 - U.S. History to 1877

After analyzing events in American history from 1400 to 1877 in such areas as revolution, geographic and social mobility,

political reform, government precedents and war, students will be able to identify patterns of present day mobility, describe governmental operations in their society and help resolve conflict in society based on the student's search for change, precedents, and conflict in the American past. A general education requirement.

Prerequisites: ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures

Credits: 3

HIST 1493 - U.S. History 1877 to Present

After analyzing events in American history from 1877 to the present in such areas as geographic and social mobility, political reform, government precedents and war, students will be able to identify patterns of present day mobility, describe governmental operations in their society and help resolve conflict in society based on the student's search for change, precedents, and conflict in the American past. A general education requirement.

Prerequisites: ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures

Credits: 3

MATHEMATICS

MATH 1503 - Contemporary Mathematics

A study of the mathematics needed for critical evaluation of quantitative information and arguments (including logic, critical appraisal of graphs and tables); use of simple mathematical models, and an introduction to elementary statistics.

Prerequisites: MATH 0313 or adequate math placement. Pre or Co-requisite ENGL 0203

Credits: 3

MATH 2013 - Introduction to Statistics

The student will solve problems applying the concepts of random sampling, elementary probability, testing hypotheses, descriptive measures, chi-square, regression and correlation, and analysis of variance.

Prerequisites: MATH 0313 or adequate math placement; ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures

Credits: 3

POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLSC 1113 - American Federal Government

A study of the principles, structure, processes and functions of the United States federal government.

Prerequisites: ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures

Credits: 3

PSYCHOLOGY

PSY 1113 - General Psychology

A survey of the major areas of study in psychology such as motivation, learning, physiology, personality, social psychology, abnormal behavior, perception, memory, cognition/thought, and treatment.

Prerequisites: ENGL 0203, adequate placement score, or by meeting determined placement measures

Credits: 3

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT

SLPA 1013 - Foundations of Speech-Language

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will examine the evolution and acquisition of language from a social/interactional perspective. The course will focus on the acquisition of speech and language by children and adults, including the development of phonological, semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic aspects of linguistic competence. Students in this class will also explore changes that can occur during the life-span, as well as diversities of accent and dialect.

Prerequisites: Satisfied through completion of the health profession application process

Credits: 3

SLPA 1023 - Phonetics

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will explore phonetics, the scientific study of speech. Students will be introduced to the International Phonetic Alphabet and develop skills in the recognition, production and transcription of the sounds of the world's languages. The course will train students to produce detailed phonetic transcriptions of American English. The student will also explore aspects of phonology. Finally, regional varieties of English and delays/disorders of the speech mechanism will be explored. This course satisfies the computer proficiency requirement.

Prerequisites: SLPA 1063

Credits: 3

SLPA 1033 - Professional Issues for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will understand and demonstrate the application of concepts of professional ethics and issues, review regulations and requirements for professional practice for speech-language pathology assistants, and discuss cultural considerations for studying and treating communication sciences and disorders.

Prerequisites: Satisfied through completion of the health profession application process

Credits: 3

SLPA 1043 - Introduction to Speech Sound Disorders

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will understand and demonstrate concepts related to disorders of the articulatory and phonological aspects of communication. The course will provide foundational information in phonetics, phonology, and language development, and allow the student opportunities to gain understanding and knowledge of the principles used in the treatment of articulation disorders.

Prerequisites: SLPA 1013, SLPA 1023

Credits: 3

SLPA 1053 - Language Disorders in the Exceptional Child

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will develop an understanding of the remediation of language disorders in children and adults who demonstrate exceptionalities. The course will provide emphasis on aspects of normal language development and communication, language disorders, and language intervention. Populations that will be explored in this class include, but are not limited to toddlers and preschoolers, children with learning disabilities, adolescents with language impairment, children with Down syndrome, children with auditory impairments, and children with Autism. Along with language development this course will examine language differences and language disorders in persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Prerequisites: SLPA 1013, SLPA 1033

Credits: 3

SLPA 1063 - Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanism

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will consider specific theory and mechanisms directly related to the speech and hearing mechanism. Students in this class will explore concepts related to the study of the anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanisms including; terminology, structure and function of the skeletal frameworks for respiration, phonation, articulation, swallowing, and hearing. Finally, students will be introduced to concepts of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology which are related and interdependent to speech and language processing and production.

Prerequisites: SLPA 1013

Credits: 3

SLPA 1073 - School Issues for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and concepts specific to SLPAs in the public school. Topics of interest for this class include specific target populations, record keeping, billing, Individual Educational Programs (IEP), time management and scheduling, and roles and responsibilities.

Prerequisites: SLPA 1043, SLPA 1053

Credits: 3

SLPA 1083 - Instructional Procedures in Communication Disorders

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will understand and demonstrate hands-on core skills related to clinical and teaching skills development in the practice of speech-language pathology. When you have completed this course you should be able to apply fundamental therapeutic procedures to speech-language pathology treatment sessions.

Prerequisites: SLPA 1043, SLPA 1053

Credits: 3

SLPA 2013 - Medical Issues for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and concepts specific to SLPAs in medical settings. Students will understand and demonstrate conceptual knowledge of dysphagia as well as implications and strategies of dysphagia management. Additional topics of interest for this class include medical terminology, specific target populations, record keeping, charting, billing, time management, scheduling, roles and responsibilities, outcome measures, ethics specific to healthcare settings, and end of life feeding issues.

Prerequisites: SLPA 2043

Credits: 3

SLPA 2023 - Autism

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will become familiar with current theories and scientific evidence on the nature and etiology of autism. Best practices in the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) will be examined. Additionally, students will become familiar with inclusive practices, family concerns, multicultural issues, and community resources as they impact the lives of children and adults with ASD.

Prerequisites: SLPA 1083

Credits: 3

SLPA 2033 - Clinical Experience I

Through clinical site participation, the student will engage in supervised clinical training in the provision of speech and language services for children and adults. Clinical content for this course will include guided practice in the management and treatment of speech and language delays and disorders across the lifespan. Students will be supervised by licensed SLPs approved or trained by OCCC. Placements for Clinical Experience I will be made near the student's residence.

Prerequisites: SLPA 1073, SLPA 1083

Credits: 3

SLPA 2043 - Adult Neurogenic Communication Disorders and Treatment

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will examine adult neurogenic communication disorders and treatment for use by speech-language pathology assistants in medical settings. Students will identify and define terminology and concepts of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology which are related and interdependent to speech and language processing and production. This course also examines aphasia, apraxia of speech, and the dysarthrias typically seen in adults. Cognitive disorders, as seen in traumatic brain injuries (TBI), as well as adult dysphagia issues will be discussed.

Prerequisites: SLPA 1013, SLPA 1033, SLPA 1063

Credits: 3

SLPA 2053 - Augmentative Communication

Through study, online discussion and participation, the student will demonstrate understanding and knowledge of concepts, strategies, techniques, and issues surrounding augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). AAC strategies for use with children and adults will be a focus of this class. Hands-on experience with various methods of AAC strategies and devices will provide students with a foundation for therapies utilizing AAC principles for children and adult populations.

Prerequisites: SLPA 2023

Credits: 3

SLPA 2063 - Clinical Experience II

Through clinical site participation, the student will engage in supervised clinical training in the provision of speech and language services for children and adults. Clinical content for this course will include guided practice in the management and treatment of speech and language delays and disorders across the lifespan. Students will be supervised by licensed SLPs approved or trained by OCCC. Placements for Clinical Experience II will be made near the student's residence.

Prerequisites: SLPA 2033

Credits: 3

SUCCESS IN COLLEGE AND LIFE

SCL 1001 - Success in College and Life

Students will learn best practices for academic, career, and personal success. Students will discover their individual strengths, interests, and values to create a personalized plan; select and utilize resources that are applicable to their growth and success; and engage as active and responsible members of the academic community. This course should be taken during a student's first semester of college work at Oklahoma City Community College and is a required course in degree plans to satisfy the Life Skills requirement.

Prerequisites: ENGL 0106 or adequate reading/writing assessment scores

Credits: 1