

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST



WHAT THEY DO

Speech-language pathologists (also known as SLPs) help patients improve communication by developing skills for listening and comprehension, expressing thoughts and feelings, social skills, pronunciation of speech sounds, use of the voice, fluency, and cognitive communication. They also assist with alternate means of communication for non-verbal clients using technology and creative solutions, as well as work on feeding and swallowing difficulties. SLPs use a variety of assessments to identify communication and other related disorders. They provide strategies and training to clients and caregivers and make appropriate referrals to other agencies and professionals as required.

HOW THEY WORK

Speech-language pathologists work at a variety of health and community facilities, including hospitals, clinics, schools and in clients' homes. Although they may work independently with their clients, SLPs function as part of an interprofessional team that can include other therapists, physicians, and nurses.

TRAINING

To become a SLP, you must complete a Master of Science degree specializing in speech language pathology [Link to <https://www.ualberta.ca/communications-sciences-and-disorders/programs/msc-in-speech-language-pathology/index.html>]. The University of Alberta is the only Alberta-based Speech Language Pathologist training program. SLPs are regulated by the Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS IN ALBERTA 2019 (CIHI 2019 DATA)	
SUPPLY	1505
% CHANGE SINCE 2018	+1.3%
RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION	34.9
PROPORTION OF:	
FEMALES	96.5%
MALES	3.5%

VIDEO:

<https://youtu.be/PqCXGGQuW0o>

RESOURCES:

Regulatory body: Alberta College of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists <https://www.acslpa.ca/>

ALBERTA ALIS PROFILE:

<https://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/occupations-in-alberta/occupation-profiles/speech-language-pathologist/>

AHS CAREER PROFILE:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/careers/Page11754.aspx>