COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Program

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Spring 2025

Application Deadline:
November 7, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Note: Please see specific program registration or admission packets for detailed information on when to begin completing health requirements, drug tests, CPR, criminal background checks and proof of insurance submission. Timing varies depending upon either entrance to or participation in the clinical component of a given program. Funds paid to Edward Corporate Health or to a personal health care provider/ source, CastleBranch.com, insurance companies, and funds used towards CPR completion are not eligible for any sort of refund from College of DuPage if the required course(s) are not successfully completed.

Students are not accepted into this program until they receive an official acceptance e-mail from College of DuPage Nursing & Health Sciences Division.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Program

Thank you for your interest in the Speech Language Pathology Assistant program. Speech Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) are emerging professionals who, under the supervision of licensed Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs), provide treatment and screening services related to communication problems. SLPAs work in a multitude of settings, including schools, clinics, early intervention programs and rehabilitation facilities. SLPAs provide services for a wide variety of individuals, from infants to the elderly, with a variety of issues and disorders. Working under the supervision of an SLP, an SLPA can enhance the quality of life of the individuals served by:

- Eliminating or minimizing the impact of communication disorders and enhancing functional communication, thereby allowing individuals to communicate wants and needs effectively and comprehend linguistic input.
- Enhancing cognitive skills, thereby allowing individuals to effectively function in their activities of daily living and increase their independence.

Without such intervention, individuals with communication disorders may experience social isolation and limitations in educational and professional opportunities.

This packet provides basic information regarding the SLPA program. Information is also available on the SLPA program web site: https://cod.edu/academics/programs/slpa/index.aspx. Additional information about the fields of speech language pathology and audiology is also available at the American Speech Language Hearing Association web site www.asha.org. For additional questions or more information on the SLPA program at College of DuPage, please do not hesitate to contact the SLPA Program Coordinator, the Office of Admissions & Outreach at (630) 942-2626, a Health Sciences Program Advisor at (630) 942-2259 or the Nursing and Health Sciences Division at (630) 942-8331. Applications submitted by students who have not completed SLPA 1101 and SLPA 1105 or are not currently enrolled/have not previously completed them will **NOT** be considered for admission. In this circumstance, the student will forfeit his/her application fee.

Policies and Procedures
All Nursing and Health Science Division policies and procedures are found on our Division website. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they have reviewed and understand the policies and procedures. The Nursing and Health Science Division reserves the right to change, at any time, without notice, these policies and procedures.

Estimate of Program Cost
Please visit the Program Costs webpage for estimated cost.

Program Profile
The Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) program at College of DuPage is an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program consisting of 25 hours of general education courses and 39 hours of SLPA program courses for a total of 64 credits. Graduates of the SLPA program at COD are eligible to apply for state licensure through the Illinois Department of Professional Regulations. SLPA program courses are spread sequentially over the course of five consecutive semesters. Please note that College of DuPage and the Speech Language Pathology Assistant program reserve the right to revise curricula without notice.

Classes
With the exception of the practicum experience and classes during the final semester in the program, students will be on campus or virtual for class an average of two times per week each semester. Some program courses may be blended courses, whereby a component of the course is held online; this reduces on campus seat time by up to 40%. All SLPA courses are offered one time per year (with the exception of SLPA 1101 and SLPA 1105, which are offered both in Summer and Fall semesters)

Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program Curriculum Map

The following program sequence assumes that general education requirements have been completed. Additionally, these sequences do not take into account the potential need for elective credits. Students may apply to and be accepted in the SLPA program prior to completion of general education requirements; in such cases, their course sequences must be adjusted accordingly and the program may require additional time to complete. Students will not be allowed to enroll in Clinical Practicum (SLPA 2112) until all general education classes have been completed. It is expected that students will be prepared to graduate upon completion of all SLPA program courses.

SLPA Course Sequence

First Year
Summer or Fall: Pre-admission Courses:

SLPA 1101 Introduction to Speech Language Pathology 4 credit hours

SLPA 1105 Phonetics 3 credit hours

Spring:

SLPA 1106 Speech Disorders and Intervention Across the Lifespan I 4 credit hours

SLPA 1109 Language Development 3 credit hours

Summer:

SLPA 1107 Speech Disorders and Intervention Across the Lifespan II 2 credit hours

SLPA 1112 Introduction to Audiology 2 credit hours

Second Year
Fall:

SLPA 1110 Language Disorders and Intervention Across the Lifespan 4 credit hours

SLPA 2101 Clinical Methods and Documentation 4 credit hours

Spring:

SLPA 2102 Professional Issues and the SLPA 4 credit hours

SLPA 2104 Augmentative Communication 3 credit hours

SLPA 2112 Clinical Practicum 6 credit hours

Determination of Acceptance

The number of students admitted to the SLPA program is limited by the availability of clinical sites. Selection for admission is determined using a numerical point system based on the following categories:

1. Final percent grade earned (not letter grade) in SLPA 1101 (or other course if student has taken the equivalent of SLPA 1101 at another institution)
2. Quality of written essays submitted on application form
3. Progress toward fulfilling general education requirements

An 80% or above in the Intro course is required for acceptance - scores below this will not be considered for application, regardless of the remaining application materials.

See Merit Evaluation Rubric on page 12 with specific categories and possible points.

Applicants will be notified of their admission status via e-mail by the College of DuPage Nursing & Health Sciences Division. Individuals offered admission must respond via e-mail (as directed in the acceptance letter) by deadline date stated in the Acceptance Letter, or the offer is withdrawn. Candidates who decline an offer of admission, or accept but fail to register for classes, are not guaranteed admission at a later date. Requests for admission are not automatically carried over to the following year. Applicants not accepted to the program may apply the following year; it is strongly recommended that individuals considering reapplying speak with the program coordinator regarding possible methods for improving their chances of admission.

Following acceptance to the SLPA program, students are expected to comply with the rules, regulations and procedures of College of DuPage, the SLPA program and the affiliating clinical sites. Noncompliance is grounds for dismissal from the SLPA program.

Program Admission Preference
Each program with out-of-district clinical sites (see list of participating programs below) may admit a maximum of 20% of out-of-district applicants to the program, based on merit. The 20% maximum policy would only apply to out-of-district applicants who do **not** have access to a particular program in the **community college district in which they reside**. Students coming from districts with a particular program within their district would only be considered if there were open seats after all qualified candidates from in-district and out-of-district without programs were accepted.

If there are insufficient numbers of qualified in-district applicants, the maximum percentage of out-of-district students accepted can be exceeded until the program achieves full enrollment, with the approval of the Dean of Nursing & Health Sciences.

- Computed Tomography
- Health Information Technology
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology (MRI)
- Mammography
- Nuclear Medicine (DMIN)
- Nursing (ADN)
- Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)
- Proton Therapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Radiography (DMIR)
- Respiratory Care
- Sonography (Ultrasound) DMIS
- Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)
- Surgical Technology

Priority for Admission
a. In-District applicants
b. Out-of-District who are part of the CAREER Consortium Agreement (meaning your residing community college does not offer the particular program in which you are applying)
c. Out-of-District applicants working full-time in-district (proof of in-district employment will be required each semester)
d. Out-of-District applicants (who are not part of the CAREER Consortium Agreement) including those students with a joint or chargeback agreement and International students

Requirements after Acceptance
Once admitted to the program, students receiving less than 80% in any SLPA course are placed on academic probation for a period no shorter than one semester, although this duration may be substantially longer. Students receiving a 69% or below in any SLPA course or practicum are dismissed from the program. A dismissed student may apply for readmission to the program in the fall semester of the following school year, however the student is not guaranteed readmission. If the student is readmitted, the failed course must be repeated.

In order to ensure students acquire knowledge relevant to their clinical practice, students may be required to make up portions of failed exams or projects regardless of earning a passing grade in class.

Please note: Acceptance into the SLPA program does not guarantee successful program completion.

Licensure
While the SLPA program at COD meets and exceeds the minimum requirements set forth within section 1465.20b.4 of the Rules for the Administration of the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Act. Graduates are eligible to apply for a license, successful completion of the SLPA program does not guarantee licensure in the State of Illinois. Individuals in any of the following categories may have difficulty obtaining a license or may be denied licensure:
- Individuals who have been convicted of a criminal offense in state or federal court.
- Individuals who have been convicted of a felony.
- Individuals who had or have any disease that interferes with one's ability to perform the essential functions of the profession.
- Individuals who have been denied a professional license or privilege to sit for a licensing exam, or had a license or permit disciplined by the State of Illinois or elsewhere.
- Individuals who have been discharged other than honorably by the armed services or a city, county, state or federal position.

Additionally, applicants who do not have a social security number may have difficulty obtaining a license. Potential applicants may refer questions to the Illinois Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation, Springfield, IL.

Clinical Education
The purpose of clinical education is to allow the student to apply the theoretical principles of the didactic portion of the SLPA program. Students will enroll in practicum during the final (spring) semester of the program. Practicum placement will consist of experience in a clinical setting three days per week (Monday to Friday), eight or more hours per day, for the entire semester. This is dependent on the supervisor's schedule. A fee for professional liability insurance is charged to the student at the beginning of the clinical practicum and must be paid prior to beginning the practicum assignment. This fee is approximately $52 (subject to change).

Clinicals may be three days a week and will be determined at the clinical chairs discretion, based on clinical site availability and need. **Weekend and evening placements are not available.** Students are recommended to devote full-time attention to the final semester of the program due to the intensive nature of the clinical practicum and the two academic classes and therefore are recommended to minimize or eliminate work requirements in order to maximize success in the program.Students typically will not be assigned to a site where they have been or presently are an employee or volunteer. Students may not be supervised by personal acquaintances. Students must attend the sites to which they are assigned. While efforts will be made to consider the students' home address in the determination of clinical practicum placements, some practicum sites may require travel time of up to an hour to the site due to limited availability of clinical sites

Progress on General Education Requirements
It is not necessary for students to complete general education requirements in full prior to beginning SLPA program courses. However, it is strongly recommended that substantial progress be made toward completion of these requirements prior to beginning the program coursework and will be taken into consideration during the admission committee review.

It is expected that students will be prepared to graduate upon completion of all SLPA program courses. **Students must have all general education requirements and electives completed by the end of their fourth semester in the program.** A student who has not successfully completed all general education coursework and electives by the end of his/her fourth semester may not complete his/her clinical practicum placements and may be dismissed from the program.

Admission Criteria

Students interested in the Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) program must complete all of the following steps in order to be considered for admission by the deadline of November 7, 2024.
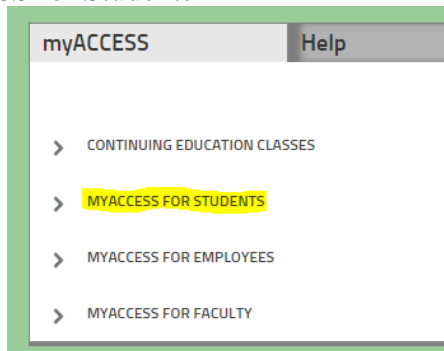
NOTE: Admission Committees for all Health Science programs has the right to deny admission to any applicant that they feel is unable to fulfill these essential functions as described.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all materials listed below have been completed and received by the designated office, by the application deadline.

1. Attend a highly recommended **Speech Language Pathology Assistant** Advising Session

2. If you have not been admitted to College of DuPage, please complete the **non-refundable** $20 College of DuPage General Admissions Application online. **This application is for general admissions to College of DuPage only; it is not an application to the Health Sciences Limited Enrollment Speech Language Pathology Assistant program.**

3. To ensure that all of your eligible credits are evaluated towards the admission requirements, turn in **ALL** official Transcripts from institutions that you have attended. Immediately:
   a) Submit your official transcript(s) to College of DuPage, Office of Student Records. **If College of DuPage is the only institution you have attended, you do not need to request official transcripts.**
   b) Verify receipt of your transcript(s). Login to your myACCESS account, click on 'myACCESS for Students', then select '**My Profile**'. The receipt status of your transcript will be listed under '**Transcript Institutions**'.

   NOTE: If you have an international transcript from high school or college, it must first be evaluated. Please visit the following website https://cod.edu/records/international-transcript-evaluation.aspx for details.
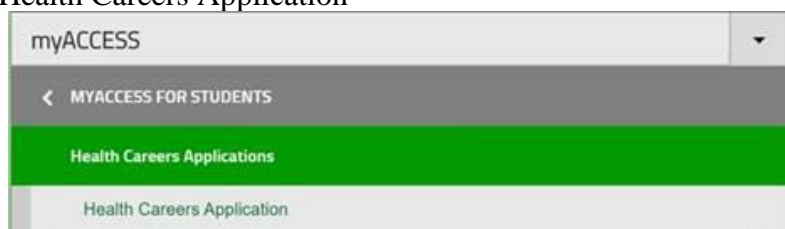
4. Complete the **non-refundable** $50 Health Career Selective Enrollment Program Application online by logging into the student portal at https://inside.cod.edu
   - Click on myACCESS for Students

- Click on the Health Careers Applications link

- Select Health Careers Application

- Select **Speech Language Pathology Assistant Degree** when asked "What selective enrollment program are you applying to?"

Once the application is submitted, you may not change the term or program. If you do not have a credit card, you can purchase a prepaid credit card from your local retailer

5. Complete the College of DuPage Residency Verification form and provide proof of residency to the **Office of Student Registration Services, Student Services Center (SSC) Room 2221** by the program application deadline date. You **MUST** send from your **@dupage.edu** e-mail address.
   Note:
   a) **If this residency requirement has not been submitted to Registration by the program application deadline date, you will not be considered for admission**
   b) **Separate Residency Verification Forms must be submitted for each program application.**

6. Completion of the College of DuPage Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program Written Essay Questions must be typed and e-mailed as a PDF or JPG attachment to hsadmissions@cod.edu. See page 9 for questions. **Essay questions will be available in Spring 2024 semester; please continue to check the packet.**

7. Complete a **Criminal Background Check** through CastleBranch.com
   a) Go to CastleBranch.com and enter package code: **OL15bg**
   b) **Payment Information** – At the end of the online order process, you will be prompted to enter your Visa or MasterCard information.
      1. You will receive a **Release Form** when placing your order and it will be in your CastleBranch To-

Do List

2. <mark>Complete and return the CastleBranch Release Form by e-mailing to expedite@castlebranch.com or faxing to 910-343-9731</mark>

3. Please note, that your background check will **not** get processed until the release form is received so please return to them asap.

c) **View your results**: Your results will be posted directly to your MyCB account. You will be notified if there is any missing information needed in order to process your order. Although 95% of background check results are completed within 3-5 business days, some results may take longer. Your order will show as **"In Process"** until it has been completed in its entirety. Your school's administrator can also securely view your results online with their unique username and password.

d) **If you need assistance, please contact CastleBranch** at 888-723-41263 and a Castle Branch Representative will be available.

8. E-mail the completed Health Requirement Acknowledgement Form (page 10) to hsadmissions@cod.edu

9. **Complete the following prerequisites by the end of the Fall 2024 semester:**
    a) SLPA 1101
    b) SLPA 1105

Enrollment in and completion of Introduction to Speech Language Pathology (SLPA 1101) and Phonetics (SLPA 1105) at College of DuPage with at least a final grade of "B" or better and within the last 5 years (Fall 2019-Fall 2024). Students earning a "C" or below in SLPA 1101 or SLPA 1105 are not eligible for admission; they are welcome to retake the course and apply to the program after earning a grade of "B" or better.

Prospective students who have completed an introductory course or phonetics in the field at a different institution must submit a copy of their grade report or transcript including the grade received. The SLPA program chair reserves the right to request additional information, including but not limited to, the course description from the course catalog and a copy of the course syllabi. You must also submit the final percentage grade obtained.

10. While it is not a requirement, it is highly recommended that the majority of your general education courses be completed. All general education courses must be completed prior to Spring 2025.
    a) Highly recommend Biology as your science course
    b) Highly recommend Psychology as your social/behavioral science course

"All application documents delivered to the College of DuPage pertaining to a health sciences admissions file become the property of the College of DuPage and will not be returned to applicants. This includes but is not limited to transcripts, letters of recommendation, clinical evaluation forms or outside test reports."

Requests for admission are **not** automatically carried over to the following cycle. Applicants who were not accepted for the cycle in which they originally applied are asked to pay the $50 **non-refundable** Health Career application fee and submit any/all supporting documents as listed on the Admissions Checklist of the Application Packet requirements (if applicable).

Applicant Name: _____   COD ID Number: _____

College of DuPage

Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program Spring 2025
Essay Questions

1. What are your leadership, teamwork, and communication skills and how will you use those skills to contribute to the SLPA Program at COD?

2. How do you define the term communication disorder and what is the general role of SLPA in the treatment process?

3. Mention the 5 components of language and explain their importance in the communication process.

4. Briefly share your SLPA personal statement; be sure to include why you want to be an SLPA, your goals during and after the program, and any relevant experience working with communication disorders.

College of DuPage
Health Career Programs
Health Requirement Acknowledgement

Part of this program is to complete health requirements prior to the first clinical rotation. Please see the health requirement packet for details. **Please do not complete these requirements until you are instructed to do so.** Along with the health requirements, you will also complete a drug test and background check.

Failure to submit the necessary paperwork, obtain the required examinations and vaccinations, and/or are obtain clearance to participate in all the program's clinical activities, without restrictions and/or precautions, you may be considered ineligible for the program and can be withdrawn from the program courses in which you are registered.

I, hereby, acknowledge that:

a. I have reviewed the Health Requirement packet for the program and understand that the program has specific requirements that must be completed during specific time periods as directed.

b. I have reviewed and understand that enrollment and participation in the clinical component of the program is subject to the practices and requirements of the clinical site, which may necessitate additional health requirements.

c. I understand that my failure to complete the health requirements mandated by the program and/or the clinical site may prevent either my registration into the program or continuation in the program.

_____   _____

Signature   Date

_____

Print

_____

Program Name

Email to clinicalrequirements@cod.edu or return to:
College of DuPage Nursing & Health Science Division Office, HSC 1220

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT MERIT EVALUATION

(Subject to Change)

For your reference only; admissions committee completes this form. Do not fill out and submit

NAME: _____ ID NUMBER: _____ DATE: _____

Residency Verification Form	Yes or No (circle)
Essay Questions	Yes or No (circle)
Health Requirement Acknowledgment Form	Yes or No (circle)
Background Check	Yes or No (circle)

POINTS

1. **COLLEGE CREDIT HOURS:**   _____ /3
   Associate's   = 3 points
   12+ credit hours   = 2 points
   3 to 8 credit hours   = 1 point
   0 credit hours   = 0 points

2. **PRE-REQUISITE COURSE** (or equivalent):   _____ /20
   SLPA 1101 & 1105:
   Calculation:
   Final Grade Percentage x .1
   **SCORE <80% are denied candidacy and removed from applicant pool

3. **ESSAY QUESTIONS:**   _____ /3
   Excellent   = 3 points
   Good   = 2 points
   Fair   = 1 points
   Poor   = 0 points

   TOTAL POINTS: _____