

# COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

## Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Program

### Associate of Applied Science Degree

**Spring 2021**

**Application Deadline:  
November 12, 2020 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](http://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.

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE  
Nursing & Health Science Division  
425 Fawell Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137-6599  
[www.cod.edu](http://www.cod.edu)  
PHONE 630 942-8331 FAX 630 942-4222

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program at College of DuPage. This packet of information has been developed to provide you with a complete overview of our program, including the process for admission.

We have made every effort to make the information in this packet complete, however, should you have further questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

Katie Orzechowski, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Instructor, Program Coordinator, Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program  
[orzechowskik197@cod.edu](mailto:orzechowskik197@cod.edu)

## 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](http://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.

### **Program Information Disclaimer:**

This program information is published for that purpose only; however, the information in this packet is not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the student and the program. The program reserves the right to change, at any time, without notice, graduation requirements, fees and other charges, curriculum, course structure and content, and other such matters as may be within its control, notwithstanding any information set forth in the program information packet in accordance with College of DuPage policies and procedures.

### **Statement of Health**

If accepted, the health requirements must be completed 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.** The health examination is completed at the student's expense. Students will still need to be "cleared" by Edward Corporate Health. Once given a "clearance form", students will go to [CastleBranch.com](http://CastleBranch.com) to upload their health documents to the medical document manager piece. Students will have unlimited access to personal health records beyond program completion. Along with the health record piece, the Drug Test and Background Check is completed through [CastleBranch.com](http://CastleBranch.com).

If applicants do not submit the necessary paperwork, do not obtain the required examinations and vaccinations, and/or are unable to obtain clearance to participate in all the program's clinical activities, without restrictions and/or precautions, they may be considered ineligible for the program and can be withdrawn from the program courses in which they are registered.

### **Statement on Medical Care and Health Insurance**

Students are responsible for their own medical care and health insurance while in the program. Students must possess health care insurance in order to train at the clinical affiliate. The student is responsible for any costs that may be incurred related to personal injuries he/she may acquire while performing activities at the clinical affiliate. The affiliating

clinical facility and/or College of DuPage cannot be held liable for such injuries. Please visit the [Student Health Insurance website](#) for additional details.

Students are required to provide evidence of current health insurance coverage. Please follow specific guidelines as instructed for submitting proof of insurance.

### **Statement on Medical Malpractice Insurance**

Malpractice insurance is required and is included in the clinical education tuition costs on an annual basis. That is, the cost of the insurance is included with the tuition costs for SLPA 2112. Students must be officially registered and listed on the instructor's class roster to be covered by the malpractice insurance.

### **Statement on Transportation**

Students are responsible for finding their own transportation to and from the College and Clinical Site. No special accommodations will be made for students with transportation problems. Students who accept a position in the program should be willing and able to travel to any site to which they may be assigned including those outside of District #502.

### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

The College prohibits discrimination in its admissions, employment, and educational programs or activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, arrest record, military status or unfavorable military discharge, citizenship status, and physical or mental disability. The College will protect an individual's right to express their viewpoint or opinion, so long as it does not violate State or Federal law and is not detrimental to the College.

This Policy against discrimination applies throughout all College environments, whether on campus, at work assignments off campus, at College-sponsored social functions, or otherwise.

Procedures to facilitate the College's prohibition of discrimination will be promulgated consistent with the Policy. (Board Policy 20-5).

### **Student E-Mail Policy**

College of DuPage will send all official communications to you through your official COD email (dupage.edu). You will no longer be able to use a preferred email account. You do have the option to forward these communications to a personal email account if you wish.

Check out your COD email to get the message about:

- Official COD communications
- Financial aid communications
- Petition to graduate
- Transfer credit evaluation
- Prerequisite proof Sensitive
- FERPA-related communications
- Transcript order Important messages from instructors

[https://cod.edu/student\\_life/resources/information\\_technology/email/email-policy.aspx](https://cod.edu/student_life/resources/information_technology/email/email-policy.aspx)

### **Citizenship/Visa Status**

If you are not a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident of the U.S., and if you have any questions or concerns regarding your eligibility to participate in health sciences programs, please contact the [International Student Office](#), SSC 2225, (630) 942-3328, e-mail: [intlstdt@cod.edu](mailto:intlstdt@cod.edu).

Qualified applicants will be considered out-of-district in the admissions ranking process if they are **not** a:

- U.S. citizens
- Permanent residents

### **Statement on Drug Testing and Criminal Background Testing**

A drug test and Criminal Background Check are required prior to starting a clinical rotation in the Speech Language Pathology Assistant program. Several clinical affiliates may also require finger printing. The costs of these requirements are the responsibility of the student. You will be informed by the Program Coordinator when you will need to complete these requirements. **Please do not complete them until instructed to do so.** Results of testing may result in inability to attend clinical experiences and therefore dismissal from the program.

### **Criminal Background Check Information**

All health care workers and student health care workers are required to undergo a criminal background check in order to work in a clinical setting. A student with a positive background check containing disqualifying conditions as defined by Federal and State law will not be allowed to enter the clinical portion of the program. A student with a positive background check containing disqualifying conditions as defined by Illinois State Law ([225ILCS46/25](#)) and 77 Ill Adm. Code 955 Section [955.160](#) will not be allowed to enter the clinical portion of this program, thus preventing the student from obtaining mandated certification and/or licensure.

**NOTE: You may have been convicted and not sent to jail.** People are often fined or given probation or conditional discharge rather than jail time, but these are still considered convictions. If you are unsure as to whether an arrest resulted in a conviction, contact the county in which you were arrested and speak to a representative in the Circuit Clerk's office, State's Attorney's office or your attorney.

### **Technical Standards of Acceptance**

#### **Standard Skills in Health Career Programs**

To participate in any Health Career program at College of DuPage that has a direct patient care or clinical education component, applicants must possess additional non-academic skills. These occupational standards are consistent with the duties of the entry-level professional in that field and are set by the individual program. These skills, which protect the health and well-being of patients, may include but are not limited to the ability to the list below. Please refer to the Health Science programs' [Essential Functions](#).

- Lift, push, pull and/or carry greater than 100 pounds
- Lift and transfer patients to and from wheelchairs, stretchers, beds and imaging tables
- Move, adjust and manipulate equipment
- Position patients for exams
- Respond appropriately to sounds such as the patient's voice and movements at a normal conversational volume
- Respond appropriately to equipment signals such as sound and light
- Manipulate the necessary hospital equipment for patient care such as dials, switches, push buttons & keyboards
- Perform for a prolonged period without breaks in a typical shift of eight hours
- Communicate orally and in writing with patients, doctors and other personnel clearly and effectively, and have the ability to follow verbal and written directions

### **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 offered in the evening, 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 for class an average of two times per week each semester. Classes meet from 6 to 9 or 9:50 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. No classes are held Friday evenings. 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

## **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**

#### **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
4. Communication and Professionalism Multiplier

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 13-14 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**

Preference in admission is given to residents of District 502 who meet the stated minimum acceptance criteria for the program. Priority for admissions are a) In-district applicants; b) Out-of-district applicants working full-time in-district (proof of in-district employment will be required each semester); c) Out-of-district applicants including those students with a joint or chargeback agreement; d) International; e) Other.

## **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 hours per day, for the entire semester. 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).

Students working daytime hours will have the opportunity to continue their employment without disruption during the first four semesters of the program. However, arrangements must be made by students to be available three full days per week during their final semester in the program. These three days will be determined at the coordinator's 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 are responsible for their own transportation to and from clinical sites, which are located throughout the greater Chicago metropolitan area. 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 12, 2020.

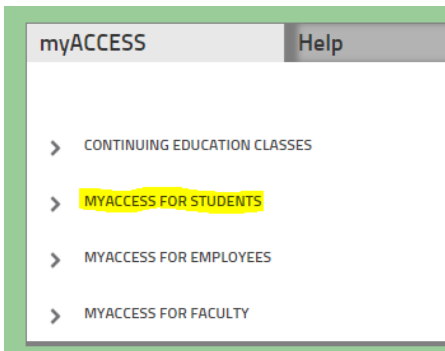
**NOTE:** Admission Committees for all Health Science programs has the right to deny admission to any applicant that they feel is unable to fulfill these essential functions as described.

***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 [http://cod.edu/registration/records/trans\\_eval\\_listing.aspx](http://cod.edu/registration/records/trans_eval_listing.aspx) for details.

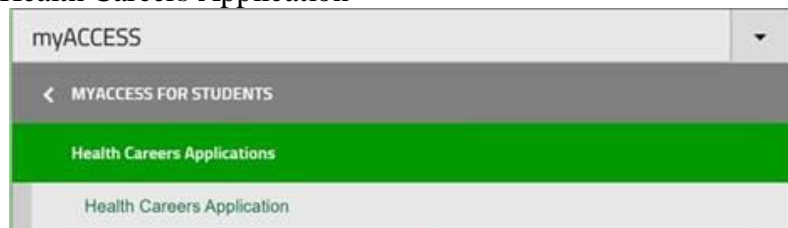
4. Complete the **non-refundable \$50 [Health Career Selective Enrollment Program Application](#)** online by logging into the student portal at <https://inside.cod.edu>
  - Click on myACCESS for Students



- 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 2 proofs of residency to the **Office of Student Registration Services, Student Services Center (SSC) Room 2221** by the program application deadline date.  
**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](mailto:hsadmissions@cod.edu). See page 12 for questions.
7. **Complete the following prerequisites by the end of the Fall 2020 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. 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

coordinator 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.

8. 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 2022.
  - 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 Science application fee and submit any/all supporting documents as listed on the Admissions Checklist of the Application Packet requirements (if applicable).



# 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)

## 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): \_\_\_\_\_ /10

SLPA 1101 Introduction to Speech Language Pathology Grade:

Calculation:

Final Grade Percentage x .1

\*\*SCORE <80% are denied candidacy and removed from applicant pool

3. **Communication and Professionalism Multiplier:** \_\_\_\_\_

The final grade achieved in SLPA 1101 will be multiplied by .1 to achieve a point value then multiplied again using the Communication and Professionalism Multiplier. Students will be rated on their verbal and written communication skills, motivation for entering the SLPA field, cooperation, attendance and punctuality, class participation, attentiveness in class, responsibility, and ability to follow verbal and written directions. The Communication and Professionalism Multiplier ranges from 1.25 to .5 and is based on the student's demonstration of "soft skills" and professionalism in SLPA academic courses (SLPA 1101 and SLPA 1105). One unexcused absence or unexcused tardy in SLPA 1101 or 1105 will not affect the multiplier, but each additional unexcused absence will result in a .5 deduction in the multiplier/each additional unexcused tardy will result in a .25 deduction in the multiplier.

For example, if a student achieves an 80% the point equivalent is 8 out of 10 points ( $80 \times 0.1 = 8$ ). If the student achieves highest marks with the multiplier (exceptional verbal and written communication skills, motivation for entering the field, cooperation, attendance and punctuality, class participation, etc.) and is not absent/tardy more than once the multiplier score will be 1.25 and the student's final score will be 10 ( $8 \times 1.25 = 10$ )

4. **ESSAY QUESTIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_ /3

Excellent = 3 points

Good = 2 points

Fair = 1 points

Poor = 0 points

**TOTAL POINTS:** \_\_\_\_\_