

Student Track

YOU'VE ALMOST EARNED YOUR DEGREE! WHAT'S NEXT? PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE AS AN SLP!

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"What excites you about Speech-Language Pathology?" Let's explore this very important question and learn valuable tips for highlighting your unique interests and skills that will help you land a CF position!

CONNECTING PASSION TO PRACTICE: SPECIALIZATION IN THE FIELD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

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According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2016), scope of practice “outlines the breadth of professional services offered” within a profession (p. 3). For speech-language pathologists, our scope of practice can be very wide. Conversely, according to Broadhead et al. (2018) scope of competence “refers to the range of professional activities of the individual practitioner that are performed at a level that is deemed proficient” (pp. 425). Developing specialized skills for work with low incidence populations within our scope of practice is one way to develop a unique scope of competence. Such specialization often leads to high marketability within the field. One such scope of competence is developing listening and spoken language skills with children who are deaf/hard of hearing. According to A.G. Bell (2023), there are only 768 nationally certified Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) Specialists in the United States. I will share my professional journey as a speech-language pathologist to becoming a LSL therapist. We will learn about the national shortage of LSL-competent professionals, the principles of LSL specialization, and the common and uncommon contexts in which LSL Specialists practice. We will also discuss how to create opportunities for developing specialized skills in LSL, as well as other specializations more generally, even during graduate school.