



## **GUIDE TO MAJORS AT STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN: SPEECH PATHOLOGY/ AUDIOLOGY**

Choosing a major can be stressful, but it is important to understand that you can pursue almost any career regardless of which major you choose. While there are some exceptions, most entry-level positions simply require general transferable skills—those that can be learned in one setting and applied in another. Relevant experience through internships and activities is generally more important to employers than a major. It is best to choose an area that you find interesting and where you have the ability to do well.

### **What is the Speech Pathology/ Audiology Major?**

The objective of the Speech Pathology and Audiology program is to prepare students for acceptance to graduate programs, so that they may achieve their goals of helping children and adults with speech, language, voice, swallowing, balance and hearing disorders. The major consists of courses with a natural progression from basic sciences to clinical coursework introducing the tools for evaluative and rehabilitative strategies.

There is a Speech Pathology and Audiology club on campus as well as a chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA).

### **What can I do with a Major in Speech Pathology/ Audiology?**

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists work with people who cannot produce speech sounds or cannot produce them clearly; those with speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering; people with voice disorders, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice; those with problems understanding and producing language; those who wish to improve their communication skills by modifying an accent; those with cognitive communication impairments, such as attention, memory, and problem solving disorders; and those with hearing loss or balance problems. A master's degree is the most common level of education among speech-language pathologists. Licensure or certification requirements also exist, but vary by state.

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists work in a variety of settings. Some settings Speech Pathology/ Audiology majors may work in include:

- Child Day Care Centers
- Free-standing Clinics
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Outpatient Care Centers
- Private Practice
- Public or Private Schools
- Specialized Development Centers
- Visiting Nurse Programs

## **Skills and Abilities**

Speech-language pathologists should be able to effectively communicate diagnostic test results, diagnoses, and proposed treatment in a manner easily understood by their patients and their families. They must be able to approach problems objectively and be supportive. Because a patient's progress may be slow, patience, compassion, and good listening skills are necessary. Some of the additional skills and abilities cultivated through the Speech Pathology/ Audiology major include:

### Analysis

- Attention to detail
- Intense concentration
- Interpreting data
- Reasoning logically
- Mastery of special equipment and tests to assess the severity of communication problems

### Communication

- Articulating sounds
- Conveying information
- Listening intently
- Preparing reports
- Presenting alternative explanations
- Reading critically
- Writing effectively

### Diagnosis and Treatment

- Consultation skills
- Defining hypotheses
- Gathering data
- Planning and developing treatment plans
- Translating theory into action
- Working with research

### Human Relations

- Assessing needs
- Recognizing social processes
- Understanding human relationships
- Working as part of a team
- Working with family members