

FAQs website

What are the pre-requisites for the program?

At this time we do not have any prerequisites in place in order to take courses in the program. We highly recommend a reading level of 3, writing level of 3 and math level of 2 on the placement tests in order to be successful in the courses. Also, students should follow the recommended sequence of courses as presented in the catalog. Students should not take the final class, Communicative Disorders 009 – Assessment and Remediation, until they are also finishing the general education requirements. This class should be taken last when ready to graduate so that your clinical practice occurs just before you are applying for jobs.

How long does it take to complete the program?

A full time student will be able to complete the program in two years (four semesters). Program graduates will have an Associate Science Degree and be eligible to apply for State Licensure.

How do I apply to the program?

There are two categories of applicants to the Delta College SLPA program. First, are those students who are working toward the SLPA, A.S. degree. These students intend to graduate from the Delta College SLPA program. The second group of students has already completed a Bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders or Speech Language Pathology and need to complete clinical practice to obtain a State license as an SLPA. Please see the application process section on the website and follow the instructions pertaining to the appropriate group.

Will I be able to work while in the program?

Yes, generally students are able to work while completing this program. Each student will need to consider their own learning style and family needs to determine what is best. Courses are available online and/or in face-to-face format. Fieldwork is a component of the program. Our clinical classes require time in the field either watching therapy or practicing how to do it. The clinical assignments are determined by Delta College SLPA staff. Our internship sites are in the greater Delta College region including north to Sacramento, south to Madera, east into the foothills and west to the Bay Area. We are not expanding beyond this region. We do not guarantee any specific fieldwork site. You have to be available to complete this work in the area during typical business hours. Clinical hours may **not** be completed evenings or weekends so you will need to plan your work schedule accordingly.

I have an AS/AA or BS/BA degree in another discipline and want to complete the SLPA program at Delta. Do I have to take all of the general education courses again?

Students will only need to complete those courses that were not included in their prior education. Make an appointment with the counseling department to review your transcript. For students whose degree was not granted from Delta College, see below.

I have taken general education courses at other colleges. How will I know if they are equivalent to Delta College courses?

To determine equivalency of courses taken at another college, each candidate must submit an official transcript to the Evaluations Department. A letter must accompany the transcript requesting evaluation for SLPA program and general education courses. Also request that a copy of the evaluation be sent to you. Any questions regarding equivalency courses must be directed to the college evaluations department.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Speech- Language Pathology or Communication Disorders. What do I need to do if I want to get a SLPA license?

Bachelor's degree students may complete clinical practicum requirement for licensure space permitting. Priority will be given to Delta College SLPA Associate Degree students. The course needed is Comm Dis 009, the last course in the SLPA curriculum. This class consists of fieldwork – 80 hours and theory - 3 units. The class is currently offered online. The fieldwork is set up for you through the course. We have contracts with agencies in the greater Delta College region, including west to the bay area, east to the foothills, north to Sacramento and south to Madera. We do not intend to expand supervision into other areas.

To sign up for the Comm Dis 009 course, you must first apply for admission as a Delta College student, see registration for information. Then you must complete the supplemental Delta College SLPA program application. You must then submit copies of your official transcripts showing your Bachelor's degree or else you will be denied access for not having met the prerequisite courses. Obtain a registration time for the upcoming semester. Go online and sign up for the class. We will not be adding beyond the class limit.

What is the overall cost of the program? Is financial aid available?

Regular college fees apply to this program. Additional costs might include fees for a Livescan background clearance. TB skin tests are needed and can be obtained for low cost through the Public Health department or your regular health care provider. Financial aid is available to qualified candidates. Candidates should contact the financial aid department at the college for more information.

What types of facilities employ SLPAs?

Currently SLPAs are employed with school districts, private practice therapy businesses and to a limited degree in the hospital setting.

What is the salary range for an SLPA?

SLPAs are currently earning between \$15.00 and \$25.00 per hour depending upon experience and location.

What if I have a criminal record?

Fieldwork is a required component of the program. Many of the clinical facilities will require students to clear a background check for criminal history. The cost for this clearance check will be covered by the student. In addition, the Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology requires all candidates for licensure to submit fingerprints which are analyzed and cleared prior to granting a license to practice as an SLPA.

Candidates with a criminal background may not be allowed to attend clinical if the offense is determined to be significant enough to warrant denial by the clinical facility. There is no specific list of offenses from which access to the facility is denied but a criminal history of violent crimes, crimes involving substance abuse, and sexually violent crimes are among those that may result in denial of access. If the applicant is not allowed into the clinical facility, he/she will not be able to meet the objectives of the SLPA program. Students with criminal histories are strongly encouraged to consider this information prior to selecting this career option and applying to the program.

English is not my strongest language; may I still be employed as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant?

The American Speech and Hearing Association has set forth the following position statement for English language proficiency skills for professionals in the field. Students should be able to:

- Develop a thorough knowledge of normal and disordered communication and communication development.
- Acquire effective intervention skills.
- Effectively communicate with clients from a variety of cultural ethnic, racial and linguistic backgrounds.
- Be able to model correctly speech or language skills targeted in therapy.
- Be able to write clearly and concisely in English using correct grammar.

Can I complete the program online?

You may take our courses online. All courses will be available online through spring of 2011. We are in the process of evaluating the efficacy of this type of instruction and have not made a final determination as to how long we will leave the classes online. We likely will return to at least a portion of the program being in a face to face format beginning in the fall of 2011.

Regardless of the format for classes, this program consists of coursework and also clinical practice. Our clinical classes require time in the field either watching therapy or practicing how to do it. The clinical assignments are determined by Delta College SLPA staff. Our internship sites are in the greater Delta College region including north to Sacramento, South to Madera, East into the foothills and West to the Bay Area. We have contracts for supervision in these areas at this time. We do not guarantee any specific fieldwork site. You have to be available to complete this work in the area during typical business hours.

I intend to transfer to a University to pursue a Masters degree in Communication Disorders following completion of this program. Is there anything I need to do differently?

Students who intend to transfer to a four year college after completing the SLPA program should follow either the IGETC or CSU-GE transfer pattern in the Delta College Catalog. Make an appointment with a Counselor to review specifically what the differences are. For a Bachelors degree in Communication Disorders, additional GE coursework is usually needed beyond the AS, SLPA degree to transfer to the CSUs. A course in Statistics and a physical science are required by most Communicative Disorders Bachelor's Degree programs. Statistics is accepted to meet the Math requirement for the Delta SLPA program.