

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Program

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Spring 2027

One application cycle per year

Program starts only in the Spring semester

Program is in-person only and admits approximately 20 students per cycle

Application Deadline: November 5, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Program Chair:

Dr. Gloriana Cruz ClinScD, CCC-SLP
(630) 942-2436 or cruzg610@cod.edu

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.

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

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 classes and electives 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 and electives have been completed prior to Spring 2028 semester. 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 by using a numerical point system based on the following categories:

1. Final percent grade earned (not letter grade) in SLPA 1101 & SLPA 1105 (or other course if student has taken the equivalent of SLPA 1101 & SLPA 1105 at another institution)
2. Quality of written essays submitted on application form
3. Progress toward fulfilling general education classes and elective requirements

80% or above in the prerequisite courses are required for acceptance - scores below this will not be considered for application, regardless of the remaining application materials.

See Merit Evaluation Rubric on page 9 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.

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.

Application Criteria

NOTE: Admission Committees for Health Science programs have the right to deny admission to any applicant that they feel is unable to fulfill the essential functions and technical standards or abide by the policies and procedures as described within the provided links, and in this packet.

Decision letters are sent via e-mail approximately 4-6 weeks from the deadline date

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 (SLPA) [Information Session](#).

_____ 2. Health Insurance proof – **Does not need to be submitted**
Students are expected to provide proof of a **Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan** prior to the start of the program. The comprehensive health insurance plan must cover you **throughout the length of your clinical experience**, which in most cases, consists of the entire length of the program. If you are in need of health insurance, please see important dates below and visit <https://cod.studentbenefitplans.com/bpg-insurance-individual/>.

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 1st through mid-January - Open Enrollment (only option to apply)

If you miss open enrollment but have a qualifying life event, you can apply during a [Special Enrollment Period](#).

*While we **cannot** guarantee your official acceptance into the program, you need to be aware that there is short timeframe of when you can purchase a health insurance plan. The purpose of this step is to make you aware that the time to research is **NOW**. Purchasing health insurance outside of this timeframe may take months and prohibit your admittance into the program.*

NOTE: Obtaining health insurance is NOT an application requirement so nothing needs to be submitted, but it is a requirement to be in the program.

_____ 3. If you are not a College of DuPage student, complete the **non-refundable \$20** [College of DuPage General Admissions Application](#) online. **This application is for general admission to College of DuPage only; it is not an application to the Health Career Selective Enrollment SLPA program.**

_____ 4. 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.
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). Log into myACCESS account, click on 'myACCESS for Students', 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.

- _____ 5. 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

- _____ 6. Complete the [College of DuPage Residency Verification form](#) and provide proof of residency to the **Office of Student Registration Services** by e-mailing to registration@cod.edu by the program application deadline date. You **MUST** send from your **@dupage.edu** e-mail address.

Note:

- **If this residency requirement has not been submitted to Registration by the program application deadline date, you will not be considered for admission.**
- **Separate Residency Verification Forms must be submitted for each program application.**

- _____ 7. 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.

- _____ 8. Complete a **Criminal Background Check** through disahealthcare.com

- a) Go to Disahealthcare.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. **Complete and return the CastleBranch Release Form by e-mailing to expedite@disahealthcare.com or faxing to 910-343-9731**
 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 Disa Healthcare** at 888-723-4263 and a Disa Healthcare Representative will be available.

- _____ 9. E-mail the completed Health Requirement Acknowledgement Form (page 10) to hsadmissions@cod.edu

- _____ 10. **Complete the following prerequisites by the end of the Fall 2026 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 2021-Fall 2026). 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.

_____ 11. While it is not a requirement, it is highly recommended that the majority of your general education courses classes and electives be completed (see list below). All general education courses and electives must be completed prior to Spring 2028 semester.

- e) Highly recommend Biology as your science course
- f) Highly recommend Psychology as your social/behavioral science course

General Education Classes and Elective Guide

ENGLI-1101 or ENGLI-1105 - 3 Credits Required

SPEEC-1100, SPEEC-1120, or SPEEC-1150 - 3 Credits Required

PHYSICAL/LIFE SCIENCES - Minimum of 3 Credits

MATH-1100 or higher. Except MATH-1104 or MATH-1120 - 3 Credits Required

HUMANITIES/FINE ARTS - 3 Credits Required

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES - 3 Credits Required

GLOBAL MULTICULTURAL/CONTEMPORARY LIFE SKILLS - 2 Credits Required

ELECTIVES - 7 Credits Required of elective coursework

"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).

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

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 GENERAL EDUCATION & ELECTIVE 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: _____