

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

APPLICATION PERIOD: FALL 2025 CLASS

Deadline: March 1, 2025

**Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute
2855 Hickory Boulevard
Hudson North Carolina 28638**

Program Information

The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant curriculum prepares graduates to work under the supervision of a Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, who screens for speech, language, and hearing disorders and treats individuals with various communication disorders. Courses provide instruction in methods of screening for speech, language, and hearing disorders and in following written protocols designed to remediate individual communication problems. Supervised field experience includes working with patients of various ages and with various communication disorders.

Graduates may be eligible for registration with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist and must be supervised by a Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist. They may be employed in health care or education settings.

Students entering the SLPA program are expected to display mastery of the English language with proficient oral and written communication skills. The student must be able to model articulation and language behavior correctly.

Applicants may complete non-SLPA courses prior to acceptance, but this is not a requirement.

To insure the public health and safety of all patients many of our clinical affiliation sites require personal criminal background checks and/or drug screening in order for the student to participate in clinical education at that site.

Most disciplines of Health Sciences require registration, certification or licensure to practice in the health care field. Most examining boards require proof of good moral character to apply to take the registration, certification or licensure examination. If you have further questions, please contact the N.C. Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists at 336-272-1828.

An applicant may be denied admission if his/her physical or emotional health indicates an impairment in the ability to provide safe and effective care to the public. Conduct in accordance with the standards of Licensed Speech-Language Pathologists' professional Code of Ethics is required.

Admission Process

The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant program is a two-year program with a limited class size. Acceptance into the program is first-come, first-served based upon completion of ALL admissions requirements. Approximately 24 students are accepted into the program each year. Other eligible students remain on a waiting list for future admittance. CCC&TI offers the SLPA program collaboratively with Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) and Mitchell Community College (MCC). Applicants must indicate on the CCC&TI application if they plan be a part of the SLPA program from either CPCC or MCC. **Students are notified of their acceptance during the month of March to begin the program the upcoming August.**

*****Refer to NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE section of this document for more details*****

Admission Requirements

The following requirements must be completed before an applicant can be considered for admission to the program.

1. **CCC&TI application.**

Applications are available online at www.cccti.edu.

2. **Official documentation of high school graduation/high school equivalency.**

A high school graduate should request an official transcript to be sent to CCC&TI indicating date of graduation. This is required even if the applicant holds a college degree.

Applicants with a high school equivalency must provide official documentation to CCC&TI from the granting institution.

Reproduced copies of documents are not acceptable.

3. **Official transcripts of any college work.**

The applicant should request colleges to mail transcripts directly to CCC&TI.

If currently enrolled at another college, request a transcript now and another one at the completion of courses.

College transcripts must be received and evaluated in order to determine placement test exemption and/or awarding of college transfer credit.

4. **Gateway English and math readiness**

Applicant must be eligible to enter the program required gateway (college-level) English and math courses without a co-requisite or have successfully passed English and math transition courses as follows:

ENG 002 with a grade of P2

MAT 003 with a grade of P1

Contact one of the following in the Health Sciences Admissions Office for questions about English and math readiness:

Caldwell Campus

Last Names A-F: Amy Huffman 828.726.2710 or ahuffman@cccti.edu

Last Names G-L: Cristian McLaughlin 828.726.2704 or cmclaughlin@cccti.edu

Last Names M-Z: Ruthie Price 828-726-2711 or rprice@cccti.edu

Watauga Campus

Movita Hurst 828-297-3811 *5200 or mhurst@cccti.edu

5. **Information Session**

To become a qualified applicant, all students must complete an Information Session with the program director, Jessica Raby: <https://visit.cccti.edu/event/470052> or sign up by scanning the provided QR code.



After you attend the Speech Language Pathology Assistant Information session, a confirmation form will be emailed to you. You will need to complete this confirmation form to receive credit for completing this requirement.

6. MAR (Minimum Admissions Requirements) Review

Contact the Health Sciences Admissions Office to schedule the MAR Review as soon as ALL the above admissions requirements (steps 1-5) have been completed. During the MAR Review, the Health Sciences Admissions Office will review your file for completion. If all admissions requirements have been met, you will be assigned a consideration date which determines the order in which students are accepted. Schedule the MAR review by contacting one of the following:

Caldwell Campus

Last Names A-L: Amy Huffman 828.726.2710 or ahuffman@cccti.edu

Last Names G-L: Cristian McLaughlin 828.726.2704 or cmclaughlin@cccti.edu

Last Names M-Z: Ruthie Price 828-726-2711 or rprice@cccti.edu

Watauga Campus

Movita Hurst 828-297-3811 *5200 or mhurst@cccti.edu

Note: When considering whether to admit an individual into a specific program of study, the College shall take into account that federal law prohibits states from granting professional licenses to undocumented immigrants. Furthermore, graduation from a CCC&TI health science program alone does not guarantee that the student has met all eligibility requirements for licensure, certification, or registry required in order to practice in the related medical field. Prospective students should contact the appropriate agency prior to enrollment if they have any questions concerning their eligibility for credentialing examinations and legal ability to practice.

The SLPA consideration date is given after completing ALL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The 24 students with the earliest consideration dates will be notified of acceptance to the 2025 Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program in March 2025. Additionally, other complete applicants will be notified of either “alternate” or “complete” status. All complete students must respond to their notification letter by the established deadline communicated within the letter to secure their position on the waiting list. Complete applicants may be considered (by order of consideration date) if an accepted student declines or is disqualified before the start of the program.

All other SLPA applicants who were incomplete with admissions requirements at that time will receive notification of his/her admission status via CCC&TI student email accounts and letter mailing during March each year. The notification will require a student response to keep their SLPA application pending for the next application period.

After Acceptance - At the time an applicant receives their acceptance notification letter, the following requirements will be expected. Failure to submit proper and complete documentation by the deadlines specified will result in forfeiture of their seat in the class.

1. Physical examination.

An accurate and satisfactory completed student medical form (health form) which includes appropriate documentation of immunizations by the health care provider or county health department and physical exam results must be submitted to Certified Background Check Medical Document Management **by September 1st of the first semester of enrollment.** The physical examination form may be downloaded from the Certified Background web site when the order is placed. **Each student will be responsible for the cost of the electronic health form tracking.**

Requirements include current TB (1 step) skin test (within 12 months), mumps/measles/rubella blood titer or vaccine, proof of chicken pox immunity by vaccination or blood titer, and current immunizations for tetanus and diphtheria. It is required to complete and submit a COVID-19 vaccination status form. More information about this form and how to access it are at the provided link under Vaccination Protocols: <https://www.cccti.edu/COVID-19/Default.asp>. The student is also encouraged to obtain Hepatitis B immunizations. Otherwise, the decision to decline the Hepatitis B immunizations must be formally documented.

2. Infant, Child and Adult CPR certification.

One of the following is required: Red Cross, American heart, national safety. A copy of the CPR certification should be submitted **by September 1st of the first semester of enrollment.**

3. Criminal background checks/Drug screening/ other expectations.

Criminal background checks and/or drug screenings are required for the student to participate in the clinical component of each SLP course. A signed acknowledgement statement must have been submitted to the Health Sciences Admissions office as an admissions requirement (a copy of the form will be given to the applicant to sign during the information session – see admissions requirement #5). All costs associated with criminal background checks and drug screenings are the responsibility of the student.

The students will assume responsibility for all health care or emergency room costs they might incur during their clinical rotations.

The student will assume the responsibility for travel to and from the clinical site and all associated costs.

The student will complete a final evaluation of all clinical rotation sites, including faculty and educational experience.

4. Progression Policy

A grade of “D” or “F” in any general education coursework must be repeated and completed with a grade of “C” or above as outlined in the SLPA curriculum sequence in order to progress to each subsequent semester of the program. Additionally, all SLP prefixed courses must be completed with a final grade of 80 or above. Failure to maintain this program standard will result in student dismissal from the program. Refer to the SLPA Program Manual for further details.

Please note: Each applicant is responsible for:

- ***completing admission requirements***
- ***confirming receipt of letters and documents in the admissions office***
- ***keeping CCC&TI informed in writing of any personal information changes***
- ***keeping copies of all documentation submitted to CCC&TI.***

Technical and Physical Requirements

1.9 Equal Opportunity

Policies for admission, promotion and graduation shall be implemented without discrimination or bias.

The potential student must be without any physical or cognitive impairment that substantially limits the student's ability to meet critical criteria (theoretical and clinical requirements of each SLPA course). This includes the ability to speak, understand and document clearly using the English language.

1.10 Technical and Physical Requirements for the Speech Language Pathology Assistant program

Students must possess the capability to complete, with or without reasonable accommodations, the entire clinical curriculum. The professional curriculum requires demonstrated proficiency in a variety of cognitive, problem solving, manipulative, communication and interpersonal skills. To achieve these proficiencies, the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Program requires that each student be able to meet the following technical standards.

Observation

Students must be able to accurately observe patients' physical status including body type, posture, ability to ambulate, fine motor skills, response to sensory stimuli, and the structure and function of the oral, pharyngeal, and respiratory mechanisms. Additionally, students must be able to accurately observe clients' behavior including verbal and nonverbal communication patterns. Finally, students also must be able to comprehend text, numbers, and graphs.

Communication

Students must be able to communicate effectively, sensitively, and efficiently with clients and colleagues; comprehend technical, procedural and professional materials; and follow instructions. Students must possess the ability to readily communicate observations and findings, prepare progress notes, correspondence, and treatment reports in a clear, logical and professional manner. Students must be able to perceive the speech of clients and accurately judge its quality. They must be able to readily comprehend language expressed in oral, graphic, and gestural forms. The speech and English language skills of a student must be such that colleagues and clients readily understand them. Moreover, students must be able to model desired exemplars of voice, fluency, articulation, and oral/nasal resonance, as well as features of English grammar and syntax, consistent with the objectives for clients in treatment. Finally, the students' speech and language skills must be intelligible to allow for administration of speech and language screening instruments in a reliable and valid manner.

Motor Coordination

Students must be able to travel to various clinical practicum sites; access and control equipment (e.g., computers, audiometers, assistive technology, etc.); safely and reliably perform an oral mechanism examination, and engage in oral manipulation (e.g., oral musculature palpation, laryngeal massage) as needed.

Intellect

A student must be able to problem solve effectively, and analyze, integrate and synthesize data concurrently in a multi-task setting. In addition, students must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of anatomical structures, physiology, pathology and equipment.

Overview of Professional Dispositions, Behavior, and Essential Functions

Students must possess the emotional health required to exercise good judgment, and timely and safely carry out responsibilities. They must be able to adapt to change, display flexibility and learn to function in stressful situations. The students must exhibit empathy for others and focus on the needs of clients. They must exhibit polite behavior, integrity, manage criticism, be reliable and punctual and be respectful in relations with colleagues, faculty and clients. SLPA program students are expected to progress from awareness and understanding to demonstrating, mastering and integrating the following Professional Dispositions, Behavior and Essential Functions. These are required for successful progression through the program.

- 1) Professionalism: The ability to maintain appropriate hygiene, dress, and demeanor and to follow departmental policies and procedures.

- 2) Collaboration: The willingness and ability to work together with students, faculty and clients.
- 3) Honesty/Integrity: The ability to demonstrate moral excellence and trustworthiness. Also see the CCC&TI Catalog: <https://cccti.smartcatalogiq.com/2023-2024/college-catalog/>.
- 4) Respect: The ability to demonstrate consideration and regard for self and others regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender, or religious affiliation.
- 5) Reverence for Learning: Be able to demonstrate reverence for knowledge, experience, and being prepared for academic and clinical responsibilities.
- 6) Emotional Maturity: The ability to control emotions by exhibiting appropriate social behavior in the classroom and clinical setting and during other program activities and interactions.
- 7) Flexibility: The willingness to accept and adapt to change. The student is expected to have the flexibility to function effectively under stress; that is, the individual is expected to be able to learn to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many clients.
- 8) Sensory/observational/modeling skills: The ability to recognize typical and disordered fluency, articulation, voice, resonance, respiration, oral and written language, hearing and balance, cognition and social interactions related to communication. Also the ability to model target behaviors related to voice, articulation, fluency, language and resonance
- 9) Communication skills: The ability to demonstrate social awareness and the communication skills (including written, verbal and nonverbal) necessary for establishing rapport with clients, conducting clinical sessions, interacting with colleagues, faculty, other professionals.
- 10) Motor-coordination skills: The ability to perform the physical activities and examinations necessary to making, manipulating, and using necessary equipment without violating treatment/screening protocol and with best therapeutic practice. Sustain necessary physical activity required for classroom and clinical activities. Be responsible for transportation to clinical and academic placements.

Caldwell Campus Disability Services
Telephone: 828-726-2746

Watauga Campus Disability Services
Telephone: 828-297-3811 ext. 5263

Curriculum for Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (A45730)

Semester	Course Number	Class Name	Class	Lab	Credit
Fall I	ACA 115 or	Success & Study Skills or	0	2	1
	ACA 122	College Transfer Success			
	BIO 163	Basic Anatomy & Physiology	4	2	5
	PSY 150	General Psychology	3	0	3
	SLP 111	Ethics & Standards for SLPAs	3	0	3
	SLP 140	Normal Communication	3	0	3
			13	4	15
Spring I	CIS 110	Introduction to Computers	2	2	3
	ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3	0	3
	PSY 241	Developmental Psychology	3	0	3
	SLP 112	SLPA Anatomy and Physiology	3	0	3
	SLP 130	Phonetics/Speech Patterns	2	2	3
			13	4	15
Summer I	COM 120 or	Intro Interpersonal Communication or	3	0	3
	*COM 231	Public Speaking			
	MAT 110	Math Measurement & Literacy	2	2	3
	SLP 120	SLPA Administrative Procedures & Mtg	2	0	2
	SLP 150	Comm. Disorders in Diverse Populations	3	0	3
			10	2	11
Fall II	*ENG 112 or	Writing Research in the Disciplines or	3	0	3
	ENG 114	Prof. Research & Reporting			
	PSY 265	Behavioral Modification	3	0	3
	SLP 211	Developmental Disorders	3	2	4
	SLP 215	Treatment Intervention in SLP	3	2	4
	SLP 220	Assistive Technology	1	2	2
			13	6	16
Spring II	SLP 212	Acquired Disorders	3	5	5
	SLP 230	SLPA Fieldwork	0	12	4
	SLP 231	SLPA Fieldwork Seminar	3	0	3
		Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	3	0	3
			9	17	15
Total			57-58	33	71-72

*Denotes classes accepted or preferred by higher institutions.

Estimated SLPA Program Costs

Item	Estimated Expense	Occurrence
Tuition*	\$1216.00 max per semester \$6265.00 est. for two year program	\$76.00 per semester hour + \$35 per fall/spring semester activity fee + \$3 per course campus service fee
Liability (Malpractice) Insurance	\$13.00	Fall semester annually
Accident Insurance	\$6.00	Fall semester annually
Immunization Tracker***	\$38.00	To Be Completed by September 1 (plus any additional fees associated with any needed immunizations)
CPR Certification	Varies	To Be Completed by September 1
Background	\$59.75	1 st Spring semester (some students may have to pay additional fees depending on the clinical site requirements)
Drug Testing***	\$46.00	2 nd Fall semester (some students may have to pay additional fees depending on the clinical site requirements)
Graduation Fee	\$25.00	2 nd Fall semester
Registration exam**	\$250.00 (paid to Castle Worldwide)	2 nd Spring semester
Estimated Textbooks	Fall (1) \$400 Spring (1) \$350 Fall (2) \$500 Spring (2) \$250	This is only an estimate and will vary depending on the classes taken and whether students opt to purchase or rent textbooks.
Professional Organization Membership	\$25.00 \$60.00	Fall semester annually NCSHLA NSSLA
Travel	Varies	Students are responsible for travel to and from school and clinical sites plus any parking fees Students are responsible for travel for field trips and community service projects.

* May be subject to change without notice as determined by the General Assembly of North Carolina

***Subject to change as determined by CastleBranch.com

**Subject to change without notice as determined by Castle Worldwide. NOTE: The first time a student takes the NCSHLA Registration Exam through Castle Worldwide the cost is \$250.00. If a student needs to re-take the exam the cost is \$500.00.

For additional information, please contact:

Ruthie Price, B.A.
Coordinator, Health Sciences Admissions
828-726-2711
Email: rprice@cccti.edu

Amy Huffman, B.A.
Director, Admissions and Academic Planning
828-726-2710
E-mail: ahuffman@cccti.edu

Movita Hurst (Watauga Campus)
Counselor, Student Services
828-297-3811 *5200
mhurst@cccti.edu

Jessica Raby, MA, CCC-SLP
Program Director, Speech-Language Pathology
Assistant
828-726-2370
jraby@cccti.edu

Since health program standards are mandated by accrediting and regulatory agencies, revisions to the above information may be necessary. Efforts will be made to keep changes to a minimum and finalized one year in advance of the starting date of the program; however, the college reserves the right to revise any part or section as necessary.

Revised 04/11/24