

**Speech-Language Pathologists** work with people who cannot make speech sounds, or cannot make them clearly; those with speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering; people with voice quality problems, 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; and those with cognitive communication impairments, such as attention, memory, and problem solving disorders. They also work with people who have oral motor problems causing eating and swallowing difficulties. Speech and language problems can result from a variety of problems including hearing loss, brain injury or deterioration, cerebral palsy, stroke, cleft palate, voice pathology, mental retardation, or emotional problems. Problems can be congenital, developmental, or acquired. Speech-language pathologists use written and oral tests, as well as special instruments, to diagnose the nature and extent of impairment and to record and analyze speech, language, and swallowing irregularities.

**Audiologists** work with people who have hearing, balance, and related problems. They use audiometers, computers, and other testing devices to measure the loudness at which a person begins to hear sounds, the ability to distinguish between sounds, and the nature and extent of hearing loss. Audiologists interpret these results and may coordinate them with medical, educational, and psychological information to make a diagnosis and determine a course of treatment. Hearing disorders can result from a variety of causes including trauma at birth, viral infections, genetic disorders, exposure to loud noise, or aging. Treatment may include examining and cleaning the ear canal, fitting and dispensing hearing aids or other assistive devices, and audiologic rehabilitation (including auditory training or instruction in speech or lip reading). Audiologists may recommend, fit, and dispense hearing aids.

### Salary Information:

- Speech Language Pathologist/Audiologist  
\$68,350 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)
- ***Audiologist for the Rochester, New York area:***  
\$56,100 Median Salary (Career One Stop, 2008)  
[\*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

### Transfer Information:

- A Master's degree is required for entry into the Speech Pathology and Audiology fields.

### Additional Information:

- American Academy of Audiology: [www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org)
- NYS Audiology/Speech-Language Pathology License Info:  
[www.op.nysed.gov/speech.htm](http://www.op.nysed.gov/speech.htm)

