The SLPA certificate prepares students who wish to obtain the Colorado Department of Education Authorization for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs). This authorization requires that students have:

1) A bachelor’s degree in Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences (SLHS) or a bachelor’s degree plus SLHS Leveling Certificate coursework.

AND

2) Successful completion of an approved SLPA Methods and Internship course (SLHS 4550 at MSU Denver)

MTH 1110, SLHS 1500/ENG 2010, and BIO 2310 are optional prerequisites for certificate-seeking students who have a bachelor’s degree in another field and may be waived upon request. Entrance to the SLPA Methods and Internship course requires a 2.5 GPA in prerequisite SLHS (or equivalent) courses that were completed no longer than 10 years ago.

### Prerequisite Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 2530</td>
<td>Speech and Hearing Science (Fall, Spring)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 2890</td>
<td>Language Acquisition (Fall, Spring, online)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3511</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology of Speech (Fall, Spring)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3540</td>
<td>Phonetics and Phonological Awareness (Fall, Spring)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3600</td>
<td>Audiology I (Fall, Spring)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal: 16

### Required Courses for Certificate

Both degree and non degree-seeking students must have completed the above SLHS prerequisites prior to taking the certificate courses below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 3580</td>
<td>Speech Sound &amp; Fluency Disorders (Spring, Maymester) (co/prereq. SLHS 3540)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 4500</td>
<td>Principles of Assessment and Intervention (Fall) (prereq SLHS 2890, SLHS 3580, SLHS 4510). Students possessing a bachelor's degree in another field may complete an alternative assignment to fulfill this requirement.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 4510</td>
<td>Child Language Disorders (Spring) (prereq SLHS 2890)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 4610</td>
<td>Aural Rehabilitation (Spring) (prereq SLHS 2890 and SLHS 3600)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS 4550</td>
<td>Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Methods (Fall/Spring online) (prereq. all certificate courses except SLHS 4610 which may be taken as a coreq.)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are required to submit a signed letter of intent, academic transcripts and two signed letters of reference to the program coordinator for review and approval. The application deadline is in mid-April for fall semesters and mid-October for spring semesters. See the website, [www.msudenver.edu/slhs](http://www.msudenver.edu/slhs), or contact the department, 303-615-0045, for specific deadline information.

Total: 19

A grade of “C” or better is required in each certificate course.
In 2003, the Colorado Department of Education approved a Type I Authorization: School Speech-Language Pathology Assistant. To qualify for this authorization, individuals must:

1. possess a bachelor’s degree in speech, language, hearing sciences (SLHS) or its equivalent (equivalent = 24 hours of SLHS foundation coursework including coursework in: speech/hearing science, anatomy/physiology of speech, audiology I, aural rehabilitation, phonetics, language acquisition, language disorders, speech disorders, and principles of assessment/intervention),

AND

2. Complete an approved Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) program/methods course that includes an internship with a minimum of 100 direct contact hours with a certified SLP. At MSU Denver, our online SLHS 4550 meets this requirement.

**SLPA Course Schedule**

Students with a bachelor’s degree in another field should expect to take one-and-a-half years to complete the SLPA certificate at MSU Denver. The leveling content courses are taken the 1st year as prerequisites to the methods/internship courses taken the 2nd year.

1st fall
SLHS 2530 Speech and Hearing Science  
SLHS 2890 Language Acquisition  
SLHS 3540 Phonetics and Phonological Awareness SLHS 3600 Audiology I

1st spring
SLHS 3511 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech  
SLHS 3580 Speech Sound and Fluency Disorders  
SLHS 4510 Child Language Disorders  
SLHS 4610 Aural Rehabilitation

2nd fall or spring
SLHS 4550 SLPA Methods  
Online credit seminar + 13 hours/week internship in schools

**Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Job Description**

The role of SLPAs is to support clinical services provided by SLPs to, primarily, students in public schools. No school district can employ an SLPA without assigning a certified SLP as supervisor. It is within the scope of responsibilities for SLPAs to perform the following tasks:

- assist the SLP on speech, language, and hearing screenings and assessments
- follow the treatment or intervention plans developed by the SLP
- document student performance on records, charts, or graphs and report such to the SLP
- assist with clerical duties such as preparing materials and scheduling students
- perform checks and maintenance of equipment
- support the SLP in research projects and in-service trainings
- collect data in areas to be determined by the SLP
SLPAs are not allowed to perform the following tasks:

- administer diagnostic tests or interpret test results
- screen students for feeding or swallowing disorders
- participate in parent conferences or team meetings without the SLP being present
- provide counseling for students or their families
- develop or modify a student’s individualized education plan (IEP)
- sign any formal document
- select students for or dismiss students from intervention services
- share confidential information with anyone other than the SLP

**Education**

___ Option 1: bachelor’s degree in SLHS

___ Option 2: bachelor’s degree in a field other than SLHS with 24 hours of required coursework in SLHS from an accredited institution. Knowledge of communication processes, human communication, and disorders verified through transcript review.

**Specific Knowledge and Skills**

___ Option 1: Completion of an SLPA practicum course (SLHS 4550) which includes 100 hours of direct service to children under the supervision of a certified, licensed SLP with at least 3 years of experience.