

Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Program – 2026/2027

A Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) is a paraprofessional who provides speech and language services under the supervision of a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist.

The SLPA Program at Cal State LA consists of two courses: COMD 4960 and COMD 4965. COMD 4960 is offered every Fall semester, and COMD 4965 is offered every Spring semester.

- COMD 4960 is the classroom component in which the student will learn the professional role of a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA).
- COMD 4965 is the fieldwork component plus a class/staffing component. A grade of “B” or better in COMD 4960 is a prerequisite to COMD 4965.

Admission Requirements for Cal State LA’s SLPA Program

1. Completion of 27 units of COMD coursework (units in progress in Spring 2026 and/or planned for Summer 2026 can count towards the 27 units as long as they are completed prior to starting the program in Fall 2026).
2. No grade below “C” in any COMD course.
3. A minimum 3.0 GPA in COMD coursework (not including sign language coursework).
4. Must be a current or former undergraduate student majoring in Communication Disorders at Cal State LA.

Note that these admission requirements specify *minimum criteria only*. Achievement of the minimum requirements does *not* guarantee admission to the SLPA Program.

Requirements for SLPA Certification through the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (SLPAHADB)

For the state of California, SLPAs must be registered with California’s Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (SLPAHADB). For more information about SLPAs and how to apply for the state Certification, please visit the Board’s website www.speechandhearing.ca.gov. On the Board’s website you can also view the SLPA Application Checklist and SLPA Application for Registration at https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/forms_pubs/app_pack_slp_assist.pdf.

To become eligible for the state’s SLPA Certification through coursework at Cal State LA, students must complete:

1. The BA in Communication Disorders at Cal State LA*
2. COMD 4960 and COMD 4965 (Cal State LA’s SLPA Program)

*NOTE: This program is not available to students in the Speech-Language Pathology Master’s Preparatory Certificate program, per California State Regulations.

How to Apply to Cal State LA's SLPA Program

To apply to the SLPA Program, students must submit the following:

1. a completed online application (available in the COMD Department Canvas page)
2. electronic copies of unofficial transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended where COMD coursework was completed, except Cal State LA. If applicable, transcripts should be emailed to COMD@calstatela.edu. Note: most students who apply to this program will have taken all of their COMD coursework at Cal State LA and will not need to email transcripts.

Deadlines

Applications for the 2026/2027 SLPA Program (COMD 4960 in Fall 2026; COMD 4965 in Spring 2027) are **due April 10, 2026 by 11:59pm**. Students will be notified of admission decisions by May 3rd. Admitted students will receive instructions regarding registration.

Registration Fees

Current students at Cal State LA will pay the normal registration fees published in the Schedule of Classes. Non-matriculated students will pay Open University registration fees. [Open University](#) registration fees are currently \$320 per unit (\$960 per class) but are subject to change.

Course Descriptions

COMD 4960 is a course regarding the differences between SLPs and SLPAs, the scope of practice for SLPAs, speech-language screening, assessment, intervention, and documentation.

COMD 4965 consists of a fieldwork component and a complementary class/staffing component. The fieldwork component is an internship at a site such as a school or clinic. **Students will find their own fieldwork placements.** Students must complete a minimum of 100 fieldwork hours within the 15 weeks of the semester. The class/staffing component entails informal lectures as well as an opportunity for students to discuss their fieldwork experiences. All students must obtain an insurance policy to begin the fieldwork component. Information regarding how to comply with this requirement will be provided to each student upon admittance to the program.

NOTE: The SLPA Program at Cal State LA is only available to current and former undergraduate students majoring in Communication Disorders at Cal State LA.