What is Speech-Language Pathology?

Speech-language pathology is the profession dealing with the assessment and management of communication disorders due to speech and language breakdown.

As a speech-language pathologist you will assess and treat children and adults who have a wide range of communication difficulties. These difficulties may include stuttering, problems with speech sound production or acquiring language; voice disorders; the loss or impairment of speech and language in adults who have a stroke or brain injury. A further important aspect of speech-language pathology is the assessment and management of children and adults who have difficulties with feeding or swallowing.

Speech Language Pathologists:
- work with children and adults with dyslexia
- can help prevent stuttering in young children
- work with young babies who cannot feed or swallow properly
- set up alternative communication systems for individuals who cannot speak
- work with children who are born with a cleft lip/palate
- work with adults who have impaired communication after a car accident.

Is Speech-Language Pathology for me?

If you are passionate about communication and want to make a difference in peoples’ lives then this may be the career for you!

The field offers wide clinical and research opportunities. Speech-language pathologists work with individuals, groups and communities of all ages, not only on assessment and management of communication disorders, but also promoting health and communication and disability prevention.

Speech-language pathologists may work in pre-schools, schools, special schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, community clinics or private practice. Students who can speak languages in addition to English will find these languages a very important asset.

If you obtain the BSc Speech-Language Pathology degree, you will be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as a Speech-language Pathologist.

If you need more information about our programme, or about studying at the University of Cape Town, please contact the admissions office on (021) 406 6328 or (021) 406 6347 or email: fhs-admiss@uct.ac.za