

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT (SLPA) DEPARTMENT

Health Occupations Division

Cerritos College

SLPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Date:10/23/2025

Time: 6:00-7:15pm

1. Welcome

a. Attendees:

i. Faculty & Administrators: Susan McDonald (Department Chair & Program Director) and Elizabeth Riley (Dean of Health Occupations)

ii. Industry representatives: Mara Traficante (Words and Motion Director), Cinnamon Taylor (SLP at Downey Unified School District), Alba Loya (Summit Speech-Language Pathology Services)

iii. Alumni: Jesus Jeronimo

2. Introductions

3. Approval of Previous Minutes: motion to approve by Cinnamon Taylor. Seconded by Alba Loya. All in favor. Abstentions: Mara Traficante.

4. Program overview (based on 2024-2025 school year)

a. Enrollment – Full time equivalent students-549 students declare the speech-language pathologist assistant major in 2024-2025; up from 359 in 2023-2024. Increase could be due to changes in awareness of program due to pathway tracks, changes to program curriculum, more faculty that represent student population, and/or multiple supports Cerritos has put into place for students.

b. Success rates & course completion (retention)- 86% (increase of 4% from 82% in previous academic year)

c. Disaggregated data (disproportionate impact)

i. Enrollment:

Race/ethnicity: Majority of students in SLPA program continue to identify as Hispanic/Latinx. Next to 'two or more races' or 'unknown' race/ethnicity, the next smallest group is Black/African-American students.

Gender: the majority of SLPA students identify as female.

First-Generation: the students who declare themselves with this major are split between first-generation college students and non first-generation college students.

Age: the majority of SLPA students are between 25-34 years old.

ii. Success:

Race/ethnicity: All race/ethnicities (except 'unknown') are performing at 79% or higher.

Gender: Females' success rates = 86%. Males' success rates = 97%.

Unknown = 92%.

First-Generation: First-Generation student success = 89%; not first-generation student success = 84%

e. Campus collaborations:

i. ACLR 93 (Communication Skills Building for Individuals with Disabilities) in 2nd semester; 2 student clinicians assisting with 5 students with disabilities for one hour a week; student needs cover the gamut of speech-language pathology

ii. Language Enrichment Program with Child Development Center: on pause for this semester due to shortage of spaces at CDC but hope to resume in the spring as well as speech-language screenings by SLPA students; would like to incorporate the experience into one of the early intervention certificate courses

g. Curriculum changes

i. New certificates that have been approved by the Cerritos College Curriculum Committee:

-Early Intervention in Speech-Language Pathology Assisting (reviewed required coursework-see Powerpoint)

-Behavior Management (reviewed required coursework-see

Powerpoint)

-Augmentative and Alternative Communication (reviewed required coursework-see Powerpoint)

ii. Committee is in favor of these certificates.

iii. Next steps for certificates: approval by state Chancellor's office and the Los Angeles Regional Consortium (LARC) for Career and Technical Education (CTE) approval; organize schedule offerings, equipment, hiring, and publicity/recruiting

- Looking to recruit prospective occupational therapists and special educators and/or master's level BCBA's with experience in public schools for two of the behavior management certificate courses; looking to recruit an additional faculty member skilled in AAC

iii. New local Associate degree requirements; no changes in SLPA major curriculum, just changes to general studies such as English, Math, and a new ethnic studies requirement. New pathway checklist/pull sheets and applications will be written

h. New equipment

i. New iPads will be needed because the school can no longer update the ones bought 8 years ago; these will need AAC apps downloaded to them.

ii. New furniture for SL 106 classroom; need new modern lectern

i. Events faculty attended: HS building renovation reception; SoCALSEA supervision workshop

j. Recruiting efforts faculty participated in:

i. SLPA information session on 9/25/25

ii. Attended the California Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences & Disorders meeting on 9/30

k. Marketing projects faculty completed: Campus FB page & Daily Falcon advertisement for SLPA information session

5. SLPAHAD Board Meeting on December 4th and 5th on campus (Conference Center)

6. Potential job openings for students (none mentioned by industry representatives)

7. Committee member feedback

a. Early Intervention certificate:

- i. There was a point made that volunteer internships and observations may not be permitted by different regulatory agencies due to confidentiality concerns for home-based therapy, so home-based internships opportunities may vary across agency but clinics are permitted. Susan will look into it.
- ii. The Department for Developmental Services does want a parent coaching model and advisory members discussed the use of 'bagless' intervention which emphasizes the use of toys already in the child's home and family routines as materials and activities for developing language.
- ii. Laura Mize was recommended as an early interventionist who provides a lot of early intervention materials for practitioners

8. Open discussion

a. Recommendations for AAC apps: Td Snap, LAMP

b. Due to recent political events, group questioned whether students will continue to self-identify as a certain race on demographic information. Also, whether community colleges continue to be safe havens for students seeking a SLPA degree was discussed. It is likely that yes, community colleges will continue to be seen as valued sources for education and training for career and technical education programs, which both sides of the political spectrum tend to support.

9. Scheduling of next meeting & adjournment: Spring 2026. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.