

Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists

An employment guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists NOC 3141

Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists NOC 3141 may also be called:

- *amplification audiologist*
- *certified audiologist*
- *clinical / diagnostic audiologist*
- *dispensing audiologist*
- *industrial audiologist*
- *pediatric audiologist*
- *research audiologist*
- *speech therapist*
- *speech & hearing therapist*
- *educational speech-language pathologist*

1. What Would I Do?

Audiologists diagnose, evaluate and treat individuals with peripheral and central hearing loss, tinnitus and balance problems.

Speech-language pathologists diagnose, assess and treat human communication disorders including speech, fluency, language, voice and swallowing disorders.

Audiologists' duties may include:

- develop and administer audiometric tests and examinations using specialized instruments and electronic equipment to diagnose and evaluate the degree and type of patients' hearing impairment
- plan and implement rehabilitation programs for patients, including selection, fitting and adjustment of amplification devices, such as hearing aids, and teaching speech (lip) reading
- provide information to patients and families regarding the nature, extent, impact and implications of hearing loss and treatment
- establish personalized care plans working as a member of an interdisciplinary team

Speech language pathologists' duties may include:

- administer tests and examinations and observe patients to diagnose and evaluate speech, voice, resonance, language, cognitive-linguistic and swallowing disorders
- may use tools that range from books and toys, to linguistic analysis software, sophisticated sound analysers and electronic communication devices
- develop, plan and implement remedial programs to correct speech, voice, language, resonance, cognitive-linguistic and swallowing disorders
- establish group and personalized care plans working as a member of an interdisciplinary team
- provide advice and educational services to patients and families regarding communication and swallowing disorders

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3141>

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Audiologists should be:

- patient
- sensitive and compassionate
- tactful
- detail-oriented
- able to work well with your hands

Speech Language Pathologists should be:

- patient
- compassionate

They should have:

- knowledge of other languages
- an interest in language and psychology

Most audiologists and speech-language pathologists work in clean, well-lit and well-equipped offices. The majority work in hospitals, schools or community clinics. Other working environments include rehabilitations centres, colleges and universities, health departments, government agencies and research laboratories, and some choose to be in private practice and work in their own offices.

Some audiologists and speech-language pathologists provide home health care which requires extensive daily travel, especially in small communities. Full-time professionals generally work a 36-hour week, which may include working evenings and weekends to meet clients' needs.

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3141>
- **Career Cruising** database (Profiles for 'Audiologist' and 'Speech language pathologist') <http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

WorkBC reports that the *median* annual salary for Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists in British Columbia is approximately \$81,338 with a \$39.00 *median* hourly wage rate across the province.

JobBank Canada lists hourly wages for BC’s regions where audiologists & speech language pathologists can expect to make:

Hourly Wages for Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists, NOC 3141

Location	Wage (\$/hr)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	31.80	38.90	45.95
Cariboo Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kootenay Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lower Mainland - Southwest Region	32.25	38.90	43.94
Nechako Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Coast Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northeast Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thompson–Okanagan Region	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	31.80	38.90	45.95

Table from Job Bank Canada Wage Report <http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/home-eng.do?lang=eng>

Audiologists & speech language pathologists who are employed on a full-time basis often receive benefits such as dental coverage, paid vacation, sick leave and contributions to retirement plan contributions. Self-employed audiologists & speech language pathologists must provide their own benefits.

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3141>
- **Career Cruising** database (Profiles for ‘Audiologist’ and ‘Speech language pathologist’)
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4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

Demand for audiologists & speech language pathologists is driven by a growing and ageing population, greater public health awareness, and new medical technologies and

procedures. Industry reports that audiologists and speech-language pathologists are needed throughout B.C. There is increased demand in northern and remote areas

Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists, NOC 3141 Employment Outlook

1.6% Expected annual demand growth rate (2015-2025)	490 Job openings (2015-2025)
N/A - Data not available or not provided due to data quality issues	
Occupation Outlook for B.C.:	
% of job openings from replacement	61%
% of job openings from expansion	39%

and in particular, public health audiologists are in slightly higher demand in the interior and rural/remote areas of the province.

The range of techniques and services provided by audiologists and speech-language pathologists will continue to change due to new service demands. Life-saving procedures have a greater success rate than in the past, resulting in a higher occurrence of communicative disorders. In addition, increased concern over occupationally induced hearing disorders, and early detection of communication problems in children, has significantly expanded the public role of the audiologist and speech-language pathologist.

JobBank Canada reports that for the 2016-2018 period, the employment outlook is expected to be good for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists (NOC 3141) in British Columbia.

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3141>
- **JobBank Canada, Employment Outlook**,
<http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/home-eng.do?lang=eng>

5. How do I become an Audiologist or Speech Language Pathologist?

Education:

Audiologists are required to have a master's degree in science with a major in audiology; *speech-language pathologists* are required to have a master's degree in science with a major in speech-language pathology.

Certification:

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) (<http://www.sac-oac.ca/>), formerly known as the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA), provides 'Clinical Certification' of both audiologists and speech language pathologists. SAC Clinical Certification requires the appropriate Master's degree from an accredited university and successful completion of the **SAC clinical certification exam**. Although *certification is voluntary*, it significantly assists in your application for licensing. For further information, see:

Clinical Certification: <http://www.sac-oac.ca/sac-clinical-certification>

Certification Exam: http://www.sac-oac.ca/certification-exam?_ga=1.250233092.308197330.1480116812

Licensing:

In B.C, both audiologists and speech language pathologists must be licensed through the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC

(<http://www.cshhpbcc.org/>). In B.C., audiologists are also required to obtain a separate license as *Hearing Instrument Practitioners* in order to dispense hearing aids. This license requires specialized training/education and successful completion of two exams administered by the College. For further information, see:

- Registering as an Audiologist or Speech Language Pathologist:
http://www.cshhpbcc.org/aud_and_slp_not_currently_registered_in_another_canadian_jurisdiction.htm
 - Certified Audiologist registering as Hearing Instrument Practitioner:
http://www.cshhpbcc.org/student_hearing_instrument_practitioner_audiologists.htm
 - Non-Audiologist registering as Hearing Instrument Practitioner
http://www.cshhpbcc.org/student_hearing_instrument_practitioner_non_audiologists.htm
- **non-audiologists require successful completion of 2- or 3-year Canadian diploma program in hearing aid dispensing
<http://www.cshhpbcc.org/docs/guidelinesforhipstudents.pdf>

Sources:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3141>

6. How Do I Find A Job?

Where would I work?

Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists work for:

- *hospitals, community and public health centres*
- *extended care facilities*
- *day clinics*
- *rehabilitation centres*
- *educational institutions*

Finding Advertised Jobs

Jobs are advertised in a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines and online job sites.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and, in *The Province* on Sundays.

Job White Pages

- **JOB Freeway.com**

<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/jobfreewaycom>

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

Access at VPL locations only

Online Job Postings

- **BC Association of Speech/Language Pathologists & Audiologists
BCASLPA**

<http://www.bcaslpa.ca/professional/careers/find-a-job/>

- **Canadian Academy of Audiology**

<https://canadianaudiology.ca/professional-resources/job-postings/>

- **Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC)**

<http://www.sac-oac.ca/careers-volunteering/career-postings>

- **BC's Provincial Health Authorities**

BC's health authorities provide health services to British Columbians in all BC regions

- **Vancouver Coastal Health Authority**

<http://careers.vch.ca/>

- **Fraser Health Authority**

<http://careers.fraserhealth.ca/Search-Jobs.aspx>

- **Interior Health Authority**

<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/Careers/Pages/default.aspx>

- **Northern Health Authority**

<http://careers.northernhealth.ca/>

- **Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)**
<http://www.phsa.ca/Careers/default.htm>
- **Vancouver Island Health Authority**
<http://www.viha.ca/careers/>
- **Indeed.ca**
http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
<http://ca.indeed.com/Audiologist-jobs-in-Vancouver>
<http://ca.indeed.com/Speech-Language-Pathologist-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>
<http://ca.indeed.com/hearing-instrument-practitioner-jobs-in-Vancouver>
- **Neuvoo**
<http://neuvoo.ca/en>
- **WorkBC**
<https://www.workbc.ca/JobSeekers/SearchResults.aspx>
- **BC Jobs.ca**
<https://www.bcjobs.ca/>
- **BC JobConnect**
<https://www.bcjobconnect.ca> **must have permanent resident number**
newcomers can post their skills, education and work experience to BC employers looking for workers

Finding "Hidden Jobs"

Many job vacancies are not advertised. The resources below will help you *with finding jobs in this "hidden" job market.*

Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers who are in this industry. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **BC Association of Speech Language/Pathologists & Audiologists**
<http://www.bcaslpa.ca/public/find-a-professional/>
- **College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC**
<http://www.cshhpbcc.org/docs/registry.pdf>
- **Speech-Language & Audiology Canada**
<http://www.sac-oac.ca/public/find-professional>

- **Reference Canada**

<http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "audiologists" and click LOOKUP. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button. You can also enter "speech" and select headings including, "speech & hearing therapy" and/or "speech pathologists"

Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

Networking, Volunteering and Temporary Agencies

Many positions are filled by people who have been recommended by someone they know. Networking, working as a volunteer or registering with a temporary employment agency are good ways of helping you find jobs and meet people in your industry.

Networking and the Hidden Job Market:

When looking for work, be sure to talk to friends, relatives and neighbours. They may know someone who is hiring! Working as a volunteer, attending events, and joining clubs and associations are good ways to gain "Canadian experience." They are also good ways to meet people to learn about the local job market.

Volunteer opportunities

- **Volunteer BC**

<http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/>

- **GoVolunteer.ca**
<http://govolunteer.ca/>
- **Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC)**
<http://www.sac-oac.ca/careers-volunteering/volunteer-sac> **must be member of SAC to view volunteer opportunities**
- **Asante Centre**
http://www.asantecentre.org/Employment_And_Volunteering.html [centre provides services related to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other complex developmental needs]
- **BC Association of Speech/Language Pathologists & Audiologists**
<http://www.bcaslpa.ca/professional/about/get-involved/>
- **BC Family Hearing Resource Society: Volunteers**
<http://www.bcfamilyhearing.com/giving/donations-and-memberships/volunteers>
- **North Shore Stroke Recovery Centre**
<http://www.nssrc.org/volunteers.html> [under the direction of the Speech Language Pathologist, volunteers work one-to-one with members who are receiving speech therapy and may assist in group sessions]
- **Sea to Sky Aphasia Camp**
<http://www.seatoskyaphasiacamp.com/faqs/> [see: How can I get involved in the Sea-to-Sky Aphasia Camp? Can I volunteer for the camp?]
- **Stroke Recovery Association of British Columbia**
<http://strokerecoverybc.ca/volunteer/>
- **University of British Columbia: Dept. of Linguistics**
<http://linguistics.ubc.ca/undergrad/current-students/volunteering-and-paid-employment-opportunities/>
- **Vancouver Coastal Health Authority: Volunteers**
<http://www.vch.ca/get-involved/volunteer/> [the Authority provides speech & language services, see: http://www.vch.ca/locations-services?search_term=speech,language]
- **Fraser Health Authority**
<http://www.fraserhealth.ca/about-us/volunteer/>

- **Providence Health Care**
<http://www.providencehealthcare.org/volunteers>
- **Western Institute for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing:** Seniors Outreach
<http://www.widhh.com/programs-services/counselling-services/seniors-outreach/>
- **Charity Village**
<http://charityvillage.com/>
<https://charityvillage.com/jobs/find-jobs.aspx?type=adv> [in 'Position Type' box, select 'unpaid volunteer position']

For additional tips see:

- **Networking for Employment**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Networking for Employment]
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Getting Canadian Work Experience]

7. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your experience. Use the library catalogue, <http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

For more information see:

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
Go to <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca>
[Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]

8. Where Can This Job Lead?

Recent graduates often obtain positions in public health clinics and non-profit child development agencies. Audiologists and speech-language pathologists may specialize in a specific treatment area or age group. Some may also teach, consult or conduct research. Audiologists and speech-language pathologists can advance to supervisory, management or administrative positions with experience and training.

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/3141>

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **UBC School of Audiology & Speech Sciences**
<http://audiospeech.ubc.ca/>
- **Speech-Language & Audiology Canada**
<http://www.sac-oac.ca/>
- **BC Association of Speech/Language Pathologists & Audiologists**
<http://www.bcaslpa.ca/>
- **Canadian Academy of Audiology**
<https://canadianaudiology.ca/>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.