

Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists [NOC 2021: 31112 / NOC 2016: 3141]

Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists

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:

- use sophisticated equipment to measure hearing loss and select, fit and dispense hearing aids for patients
- educate interested groups and professionals on hearing loss prevention, developing and administering hearing screening tests for schools and industries, and promoting community noise reduction
- 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
- Conduct research related to hearing and hearing disorders

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/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
- **Career Cruising** database (Profiles for 'Audiologist' and 'Speech language pathologist') <https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

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

You 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 & Career Cruising

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

WorkBC reports that the *median* annual salary for Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists in British Columbia is \$87,407 with a \$41.91 *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:

| Community/Area | Wages (\$/hour) | | |
|---|-----------------|--------|-------|
| | Low | Median | High |
| British Columbia | 28.00 | 41.91 | 48.61 |
| Lower Mainland–Southwest Region | 28.00 | 41.91 | 48.61 |
| Thompson–Okanagan Region | 28.00 | 41.91 | 48.61 |
| Vancouver Island and Coast Region | 33.00 | 42.00 | 60.00 |

Table from Job Bank Canada Wage Report <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

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 Cruising

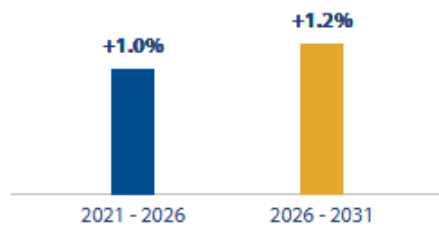
4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

Demand for audiologists & speech language pathologists is driven by a growing and ageing population, greater public health awareness, and new medical technologies and procedures. JobBank Canada anticipates a shortage of these professionals over the next 10 years.

Industry reports that audiologists and speech-language pathologists are needed throughout B.C. In particular, there is increased demand in northern and remote areas of the Province. As employers outside of the Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island regions have difficulties finding workers, the B.C. provincial government has offered loan forgiveness to audiologist and speech-language pathology graduates who commit to work in underserved regions of the province.

Employment Outlook 2021-2031

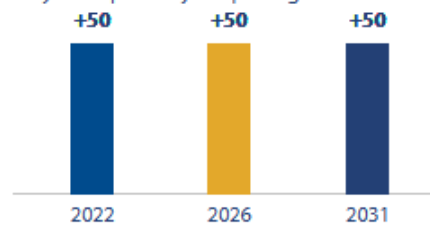
Forecasted average employment growth rate



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Job openings

10 year expected job openings: 520



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Composition of job openings



Source: B.C. Labour Market Outlook

Chart from WorkBC

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.

Sources:

- WorkBC Career Profile
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Explore-Careers.aspx>
- JobBank Canada, Job Prospects
<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-job-outlooks>

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.

Licensing:

To practice as an Audiologist, Speech Language Pathologist or Hearing Instrument Practitioner in BC, you must be registered with the ***College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC***. Registration requires specialized training/education and successful completion of exams administered by the College.

For further information, see:

- **College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia**

<https://cshbc.ca/>

- **Registering as an Audiologist or Speech Language Pathologist:**
<https://cshbc.ca/applicants/>
- **Internationally Educated Applicants**
<https://cshbc.ca/applicants/internationally-educated-applicants/>

Certification:

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) 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:

- **SAC Certification:**
<https://www.sac-oac.ca/membership-certification/sac-certification>

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.

Online Job Postings

- **Speech & Hearing BC**

<https://speechandhearingbc.ca/professional/careers/find-a-job/>

- **Canadian Academy of Audiology**

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

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

<https://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**

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

- **Fraser Health Authority**

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

- **Interior Health Authority**

<https://jobs.interiorhealth.ca/>

- **Northern Health Authority**

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

- **Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)**

<http://www.phsa.ca/Careers>

- **Island Health Authority**

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/careers>

- **Indeed.ca**

https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search

<https://ca.indeed.com/Audiologist-jobs-in-Vancouver>

<https://ca.indeed.com/Speech-Language-Pathologist-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>

<https://ca.indeed.com/hearing-instrument-practitioner-jobs-in-Vancouver>

- **Talent.com**
<https://ca.talent.com/jobs>
- **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.

- **Speech & Hearing BC**
<https://speechandhearingbc.ca/#professional-map>
- **College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC**
<https://cshbc.ca.thentiacloud.net/webs/cshbc/register/#/>
Search by city
- **Speech-Language & Audiology Canada**
<https://www.sac-oac.ca/find-speech-language-pathologist-or-audiologist-service>
- **Reference Canada**
<https://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**

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

- **GoVolunteer.ca**

<http://govolunteer.ca/>

- **Asante Centre**

<https://www.asantecentre.org/careers> [centre provides services related to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other complex developmental needs]

- **BC Family Hearing Resource Society Volunteers**

<https://www.childrenshearing.ca/donor-information/volunteer/>

- **Children's Hearing and Speech Centre of BC**

<https://www.childrenshearing.ca/donor-information/volunteer/>

- **After Stroke BC**

<https://strokerecoverybc.ca/volunteer/>

- **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

- **Wavefront Centre Seniors Outreach**
<https://www.wavefrontcentre.ca/services/seniors-outreach/>
- **Fraser Health Authority**
<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/about-us/volunteer-opportunities>
- **Providence Health Care**
<https://www.providencehealthcare.org/volunteers>

For additional tips see:

- **Networking for Employment**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/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, <https://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**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/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. You may specialize in a specific treatment area or age group. Some may also teach, consult or conduct research.

With experience and training you can advance to supervisory, management or administrative positions.

Source: WorkBC

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **UBC School of Audiology & Speech Sciences**
<https://audiospeech.ubc.ca/>
- **Speech-Language & Audiology Canada**
<https://www.sac-oac.ca/>
- **Speech & Hearing BC**
<https://speechandhearingbc.ca/>
- **College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC**
<https://cshbc.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/>.