Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPAs) work directly with students with communication challenges in public school settings under the supervision of a fully qualified and nationally certified speech-language pathologist (SLP). SLPAs have a significant role in enhancing the quality of services for children and adolescents that need support for speech, communication, reading, and writing. This certificate program provides the opportunity to meet the requirements for SLPA authorization in the state of Colorado, through the Colorado Department of Education to work in Colorado public schools. Candidates develop the knowledge and skills to work under the supervision of a certified SLP in the public school setting with ages 0-21. This certificate is appropriate for individuals with a BA in speech, language, and hearing sciences (SLHS), those completing a BA in SLHS (enrolled in their last semester of senior year at CU), or individuals with a BA in another field, who have completed or are completing equivalent leveling coursework (24 hours) through an approved SLHS department. See coursework required as listed under Apply (http://www.colorado.edu/slhs/online/slpa-certificate-program/requirements-admission).

The Colorado Department of Education (http://www.cde.state.co.us) currently has an “authorization” credential for SLPAs who meet qualifications to work in Colorado public schools under the supervision of qualified MA CCC-SLP speech-language pathologists. Please search for SLPA authorization.

The program at CU Boulder was developed to address shortages of qualified personnel to extend services to special education students, especially in high-need districts and rural areas in Colorado. This was accomplished through collaboration with our consortium partners at UNC and MSUD. The program is competitive and requires complete applications in electronic format. Preference for in-state students and especially qualified students in rural areas is given. A specific number of seats are reserved for Colorado students who qualify and are sponsored by BOCES to participate in the program. Out-of-state students are considered only if they can arrange a local internship in a public school setting with an MA CCC-SLP.

Requirements

Students will register for two courses to be taken in the semester for which they have been admitted. These courses are as follows:

SLHS 5032: Competencies & Strategies for the SLPA (3 credits) Fall/Spring Semester. Includes Roles and Responsibilities of the SLPA, Working in the Public Schools, Service Delivery Models, Health and Safety, Screening, Assistive Technology, Introduction to Intervention, Documentation, Self Reflection and Evaluation.

SLHS 5930: SLPA Internship (4) Fall/Spring Semester. Placement for 12-15 hours per week for a total of 180 hours including a minimum of 100 hours of direct contact (face to face interaction with students) in a public school setting under the 50% supervision of an MA-CCC SLP.