



Department of Speech-Language Pathology

California State University San Marcos 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road San Marcos, CA 92096-0001  
Tel: 760.750.7374 Fax: 760.750.3353

**Job Duties of Speech-Language Pathologists versus Speech Language Pathology-Assistants**

	<u>Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)</u>	<u>Speech Language Pathology-Assistant (SLPA)</u>
Represent themselves as an SLP?	Yes	<b>No</b> The SLPA must disclose their name and registration status as a SLPA, as granted by the state, on a name tag worn at all times while working, in at least 18 point type.
Independently provide services?	Yes SLPs provide therapy services independently.	<b>No</b> A SLPA cannot be hired without an SLP as a supervisor. SLPAs are not trained for independent practice. They supplement the services of a licensed SLP.
Provide Services?	Yes SLPs provide direct and indirect services.	Yes By assisting the SLP in the following activities without clinical interpretation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides direct treatment by following treatment plans provided by the supervising SLP</li> <li>• Document performance (e.g. data collection)</li> <li>• Program or share information regarding augmentative and alternative communication devices (AAC)</li> </ul>
Create treatment plans?	Yes	<b>No</b> A SLPA cannot write, develop, or alter/modify a treatment plan in any way.
Participate in prevention?	Yes	Yes By assisting the SLP with screening procedures, but without clinical interpretation.
Independently administer diagnostic tests, formal or informal evaluations, swallowing screenings/checklists?	Yes	<b>No</b> However SLPAs are able to assist the SLP during assessments, including, but not limited to, assisting with formal documentation, preparing materials, and performing clerical duties for the supervising SLP.
Comply with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations, and reimbursement requirements?	Yes	Yes
Follow ASHA code of ethics?	Yes SLP Code of Ethics <a href="https://www.asha.org/code-of-ethics/">https://www.asha.org/code-of-ethics/</a>	Yes Any individual who is working in a support role (technician, aide, assistant) under the supervision of an SLP or speech scientist must be knowledgeable about the provisions of the code. Although some SLPAs may choose to affiliate with ASHA as associates, the Code of Ethics does not directly apply to assistants. <a href="https://www.asha.org/policy/sp2013-00337/">https://www.asha.org/policy/sp2013-00337/</a> In addition SLPAs must adhere to the ASHA SLPA Code of Conduct. <a href="https://www.asha.org/policy/assistants-code-of-conduct/">https://www.asha.org/policy/assistants-code-of-conduct/</a>



## Job Duties of Speech-Language Pathologists versus Speech Language Pathology-Assistants Continued...

<p><b>Follow ASHA code of ethics?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b>  <a href="https://www.asha.org/code-of-ethics/">https://www.asha.org/code-of-ethics/</a></p>	<p><b>Yes</b>  Any individual who is working in a support role (technician, aide, assistant) under the supervision of an SLP or speech scientist must be knowledgeable about the provisions of the code. Although some SLPAs may choose to affiliate with ASHA as associates, the Code of Ethics does not directly apply to assistants.  <a href="https://www.asha.org/policy/sp2013-00337/">https://www.asha.org/policy/sp2013-00337/</a></p>
<p><b>Hold administrative roles?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b> By assisting the supervising SLP in the following administrative activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparing materials</li> <li>• scheduling</li> <li>• data collection</li> <li>• checking and maintaining equipment and supplies</li> <li>• recordkeeping</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conduct research, trainings or community education?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b> By assisting the supervising SLP with research projects, in-service training, and family or community education.</p>
<p><b>Participate in formal parent conferences, case conferences, or any interdisciplinary team?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b> Only if the supervising SLP is present.</p>
<p><b>Act as an interpreter/translator?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b> Only when competent to do so.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b> When competent to do so, as determined by the supervising SLP; a SLPA is able to act as an interpreter for non-English speaking patients or clients and their family members.</p>
<p><b>Sign documents as an SLP?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>No</b> The SLPA cannot sign documents in place of an SLP.</p>

References:

- <https://www.asha.org/assistants-certification-program/slpa-faqs/>  
<https://www.asha.org/certification/2020-slpa-certification-standards/>