While many CSD students opt to pursue graduate studies, many undergraduate alumni are pursuing successful careers in other areas listed below.

**Careers and Career Fields**

- Head Start Disabilities Coordinator
- Teacher of English as a second language
- Teacher’s aide/Teaching Assistant
- Academic Advisor for Students with Disabilities
  - Youth worker
- Early Childhood Educator
  - Special Educator
  - Literacy Educator
  - Substitute Teacher
  - Technical consultant
- Medical Sales Representative
- Augmentative Communication Systems Sales
- Science Writer
- Textbook Publisher
- Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA)
  - Audiology Assistant
- Rehabilitation Counselor
- Vocational Rehabilitator
- American Sign Language Interpreter
- Disability Eligibility Interviewer
  - Ear Technician
- Recreational Therapist
  - Nurse
- Social Worker

**Strategies for CSD students pursuing the non-professional track in any of these career fields include:**

- Join the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) while in school.
- Plan for a lifetime of learning to stay abreast of new trends in the field and to fulfill continuing education requirements for licensure.
- Volunteer in a healthcare setting to gain experience working with people in all age groups.
- Display a desire to help and work with people who have disabilities.
- Develop excellent communication and computer skills.
- Gain experience with a diverse range of clients and client systems including individuals, families, groups, communities, and minorities.
Students who wish to be a Licensed Assistant in Speech-Language Pathology and AUD assistants in Texas need to obtain 25 hours of observation prior to applying for an assistant’s license. Learn more at the Texas Department of State Health Services web site:

Requirements: Board Rules 22 TAC, Ch. 741, Sec. 741.65 – State Board of Examiners
- Baccalaureate degree with 24 semester hours in SLP and/or audiology; with at least 18 hours in speech-language pathology;
- Twenty-five (25) hours of clinical observation;
- Twenty-five (25) hours of clinical assisting experience; and
- A supervising licensed SLP

Procedures for application process: Texas Administrative Code, Ch. 741, Sec. 741.112(e)
www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech

Speech Language Pathology Assistant Salary Information (Texas):
Starting salaries (The 10th percentile) for this occupation are $25,670.

The median salary for this occupation is $35,160.

The top earners for this occupation have an annualized salary of $48,280.

**Source: NACE Salary Calculator in partnership with Job Search Intelligence

Observation Hours Effective Fall 2013 (UT-Austin):
Students who wish to complete the 25-hour observation requirement for the Texas State Licensure and/or ASHA certification will be required to enroll in a one-hour observation course.

Enrollment in the course will make you eligible to observe on and off campus. Students with upper-division standing and twelve semester hours of coursework in communication sciences and disorders may enroll in the course. On and off campus observation will only count toward the observation requirement if completed while you are enrolled in the one-hour observation course. Students who meet the prerequisite may register for the course during their access period.

Final Advice:
Be sure to visit the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) website for frequently asked questions and the minimum recommended qualifications. In addition, be sure to check each states’ laws as they vary and differ from ASHA’s guidelines and requirements. Check specific state regulations to determine amount of supervision required and qualifications necessary for supervisors of assistants in a particular state.

Career Advisors are available to assist you in exploring your career options, with the job/internship process, and as you consider other careers outside of the CSD professional track. Contact CCS at 471-9421 to schedule an appointment for one-on-one career advising or through STAR.

Spring 2014