

# Bilingual Speech, Language, and Hearing Specialists

## Bilingual Speech-Language Pathologist

**There is a large need for bilingual SLPs.** Bilingual SLPs have native proficiency or near-native proficiency in a second language or multiple other languages. Bilingual SLPs provide services to people in the languages they are proficient in just as a monolingual SLP would provide services in English. They are responsible for assessing potential disorders and providing treatment in that language, and they are also responsible for recognizing cultural differences and developmental patterns/differences in that language. They recognize what is a language disorder in the first or second language what might be a delay due to second language learning. Bilingual SLPs often consult with monolingual SLPs on how to best provide services for bilingual clients. Bilingual SLPs can work in school settings, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, private practices, and anywhere else monolingual SLPs work. The state of Illinois has special certification for bilingual SLPs in the school setting.

## Bilingual Audiologist

**Bilingual audiologists** have native proficiency or near-native proficiency in a second language or multiple other languages. Bilingual audiologists provide services to people in the languages they are proficient in just as a monolingual audiologist would provide services in English. They are responsible for diagnosing, managing, and treating hearing and balance disorders in their second language as well as in English. Bilingual audiologists can work in private practices, school settings, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and anywhere else monolingual audiologists work.

## CDS Major with World Language Minor or Double Major

- 1) EIU CDS Major Required Courses
- 2) Extended coursework and experience to develop proficiency in a second language
  - CONSIDER A MINOR or a Double Major in a second language with CDS major (see World Language in EIU undergraduate catalog).
  - The minor is 20 semester hours beyond 1102, but has options for fewer hours if student took 3 or 4 years of a world language in high school
  - To have a double major in the second language 33-35 semester hours
  - Look for additional practical opportunities to practice the language and develop proficiency through volunteer work or study abroad

## Graduate Opportunities and Alternatives

Some graduate programs specialize in **Bilingual SLP Programs** (e.g. Marquette University, Elmhurst College, University of Texas at El Paso, Indiana University-STEPs program, Portland State University, and other programs around the U.S.!) The University of Arizona has a bilingual certificate for speech pathology or audiology. A course in the Assessment of Bilingual Students is required School Support Personnel (SLPs, School Psych, School Counselor) and a language proficiency assessment is required by the Illinois State Board of education to be recognized as a bilingual service provider.

ALTERNATIVE education and career paths for a student with an undergrad major in CDS and a double major or minor in a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language include:

- 1) Apply to graduate programs for TOEFL or teacher education for the World Language
- 2) Work as a bilingual family advocate or work for an Augmentative Alternative Device company helping serve non-English speaking clients and families
- 3) Careers in tourism and hospitality have a need for individuals who are bilingual and who can bridge communication and cultural differences