

4 Years to Career Success Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

First Year

- Explore your career goals, interests, values and skills. Write them down and discuss with your advisor, a faculty member, mentor, or a CCO career coach in the [Center for Career Opportunities, or CCO](#) to formulate your career plan.
- Learn about the many different career paths available through courses like SLHS 11501 and SLHS 21500.
- Actively participate in the SLHS Learning Communities events and programs with fellow students and guest speakers.
- Join [student organizations](#) related to your area of interest like All for Autism, Adopt-A-Grandparent Club, etc, and volunteer for events to engage with desired populations like in retirement communities or working with children.
- Join student branch of professional organizations like [National Student Speech Language Hearing Association \(NSSLHA\)](#), [Student Academy of Audiology \(SAA\)](#), and [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\)](#).
- Get to know your professors (they can be mentors, advisors, future recommendation letter-writers) by actively participating in class and using office hours to ask questions to learn more or better understand challenging concepts.
- Identify your learning style and adjust accordingly as you transition to college courses. What are your study habits? What strategies help you learn best? Visit the [Academic Success Center](#) for tips to studying smarter with resources like workshops, supplemental instructions, and peer coaching.
- Focus on doing well in courses, especially science and math courses, to maintain a strong college GPA. Seek out available resources like [the help centers and tutors](#).
- Consider your interest in research, which solves problems in the field. [Start looking into HHS faculty areas of research](#). Also, learn more about the work of your [SLHS professors](#); contact those whose work interests you to observe in their lab or clinic.
- Find out your Top 5 myStrengths results by attending a [Strengths 101 workshop](#). Identify your top strengths and how you can use them in your college and career success planning.
- Utilize the [Center for Career Opportunities, or CCO](#) to create an updated resume adding your college experiences.
- Over Summer:
 - Consider finding a summer job or volunteer experience that involves working with people (children or adults, with or without disabilities).
 - Seek out opportunities to job shadow a speech pathologist, audiologist, linguist, or applied behavioral analyst and [record on the Clinical Observation Form](#) as appropriate.

Second Year

- Review your career goals and re-evaluate your interests, values and skills based on courses taken and summer experiences. Again, write them down and discuss with your advisor, a faculty member, mentor, or a [CCO career coach](#) to update your career plan. Identify career goals for year two and inform your academic advisor.
- Check out [study abroad](#) opportunities and discuss with your academic advisor to determine how to fit into your 4 year academic plan.
- Seek out leadership opportunities through committees in [student organizations](#) or student branches of professional organizations [National Student Speech Language Hearing Association \(NSSLHA\)](#), [Student Academy of Audiology \(SAA\)](#), and [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\)](#)
- Learn how to practice using your strengths in a team setting by attending a [Strengths 201 workshop](#).
- Continue to develop professional relationships with faculty and advisors in the department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. Engage in your courses, attend office hours, and ask questions.
- If interested, consider doing research by [starting to look into HHS faculty areas of research](#) and [SLHS professors](#). Contact those whose work interests you to observe the research happening in their lab or clinic.
- Set up job shadow observations in the SLP/Audiology Clinics and track on [the clinical observation form as appropriate](#).
- Continue taking a variety of courses – explore all aspects of the field. Find areas that really speak to your strengths and interests. Take advantage of [related coursework in other departments](#) as well as SLHS. Look for special topics courses in specialty areas or [consider adding a minor](#).
- If considering a research-oriented career, especially a Ph.D., TALK to FACULTY.
- Gain relevant skills through a summer job or volunteer experience that involves working with people (children or adults, with or without disabilities) or shadowing a speech pathologist or audiologist. Even working in another clinical context (ENT office, dentist, etc. will be useful).
- Review and update your resume using the [Center for Career Opportunities, or CCO](#) adding new experiences.
- Over Summer:
 - Consider finding a summer job or volunteer experience that involves working with people (children or adults, with or without disabilities).
 - Seek out opportunities to job shadow a speech pathologist, audiologist, linguist, or applied behavioral analyst and [record on the Clinical Observation Form](#) as appropriate.

Third Year

- Review your career goals. Re-evaluate your interests, values and skills based on past experiences. Discuss with your advisor, a faculty member, clinical instructor, mentor, or a [CCO career coach](#) to update your career plan. Review GPA and competitive requirements for career goals.
- Practice learning how to [self-reflect](#) on your past experiences and how those tie into your career goals.
- Keep building professional relationships with faculty, clinical instructors, and advisor.
- Explore what your strengths means by attending a [Strengths 301 workshop](#) and learn how to use in your career plans.
- If planning on graduate school/professional program:
 - Begin GRE or appropriate aptitude test preparation based on plans to attend graduate school or other professional program
 - Identify schools to apply for, check each ones application and admission requirements
 - Identify the faculty members and working professionals in the field that can write strong professional recommendation letters citing your skills and qualifications for graduate school/professional program.
- Update your resume into a CV focused on going to graduate school/professional program when working with the [Center for Career Opportunities, or CCO](#), the [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#), and then seek feedback from your faculty mentor.
- Continue volunteer/clinic-related activities and [record on the Clinical Observation Form](#) as appropriate.
- Create [your LinkedIn profile to build a professional social media presence](#) for the rest of your career and have the CCO review.
- Practice enhancing your skills to talk about your experiences and strengths using [Big Interview](#), a virtual interviewing platform, for job or graduate school interviews. Then schedule a [Peer Mock Interview](#).
- In Spring, attend [Purdue's Health Professions Expo](#) to speak with graduate schools/professional programs and learn admissions requirements.
- In Spring or next Fall, consider [taking BIOL 39600 Pre-Health Planning Seminar](#), a 10 week course devoted to preparing for graduate school/professional program admissions.

Fourth Year

- Review your career goals. Re-evaluate your interests, values and skills based as you go into your final year based on courses and experiences. Discuss with your advisor, a faculty member, clinical instructor, mentor, or a [CCO career coach](#) to update your career plan. Review GPA and competitive requirements for career goals.
- Plan to spend equivalent of semester “coursework” preparing applications in fall. Consider [taking BIOL 39600 Pre-Health Planning Seminar](#), a 10 week course devoted to preparing for graduate school/professional program admissions.
- Stop by a [Strengths Break](#) to chat about your Top 5 Strengths and discussing them in the next career step.
- Take time to really [self-reflect](#) on your college experiences, job shadows, observations, and Strengths have prepared you for your career goals.
- Utilize your Strengths to write your personal statement of intent/personal statement if applying to graduate school/program programs. Allow time to seek feedback from multiple sources: faculty member, clinical instructor, mentor, [Office of Pre-Professional Advising](#), and [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#), as each will provide different insights.
- Reach out to faculty, clinical instructors, and mentors to ask for letters of recommendation at start of fall semester. Consider who has witnessed you demonstrate your preparedness for the academic rigor and aptitude required to successfully complete a program.
- Reflect on your top 5 Strengths and college experience to incorporate examples into your personal statement, cover letter and interview answers.
- Update [your LinkedIn profile to build a professional social media presence](#). Connect with professors, advisor, mentor, fellow students, groups, and professionals in the field to build relationships.
- Practice enhancing your skills to talk about your experiences and strengths using [Big Interview](#), a virtual interviewing platform, for job or graduate school interviews. Then schedule a [Peer Mock Interview](#).
- Update [your myCCO account](#) by uploading updated resume and setting up job search agents.
- Set up [a job search strategies appointment with a CCO career coach](#). Identify industry fields, companies, and career titles in your target area of interest. Use your LinkedIn and Purdue alumni network to build your relationships through informational interviews.
- Attend [on campus](#) and virtual career fairs to meet with employers needing candidates with your acquired skill set.