

# Communication Science and Disorders



## Career Awareness Month

### Teacher/Career Counselor Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Q.** How did CSD Career Awareness Month begin?
- A.** CSD Career Awareness Month began as a collaborative effort among the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) to promote the professions of audiology, speech-language pathology, and speech-language and hearing sciences.
- Q.** What is the purpose of CSD Career Awareness Month?
- A.** CSD Career Awareness Month is an opportunity to introduce the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology as viable healthcare career options for students. Students will meet other students preparing for a career in CSD as well as professionals working in the field. Students will observe what happens in a speech and hearing clinic and will learn the skills and academic coursework needed for a career in CSD.
- Q.** What are the benefits of CSD Career Awareness Month?
- A.** CSD Career Awareness Month gives students an up-close look at a day in the life of students and professionals. Students will tour a speech and hearing clinic and attend workshops to learn about the professions, academic requirements, and financial aid options. Students will have a hearing screening to help relate the importance of the profession to their everyday lives. There is a broad assortment of activities during CSD Career Awareness Month that will pique students' interest and encourage them to learn more about the profession.
- Q.** When is CSD Career Awareness Month?
- A.** October is the month designated for CSD Career Awareness and we are encouraging CSD programs across the nation to host activities in that month.

**Q.** What types of activities are planned for CSD Career Awareness Month?

**A.** This will depend on the CSD program. Programs are given flexibility in designing the activities to fit their own situation. The typical day will begin with an orientation session where students will be introduced to invited guests and view a video presentation about the profession. Then students will break into small groups to participate in one or more activities, such as touring a speech and hearing clinic or attending a CSD 101 workshop intended to provide information about the professions, academic requirements, and funding opportunities in a little more detail. Students will also have their hearing screened.

**Q.** What does it cost to attend a CSD Career Awareness activity?

**A.** Your participation at a CSD Career Awareness activity should be at no costs but you may have to check with the program. The program may charge a fee for parking or lunch when they host students.

**Q.** What is the agenda for CSD Career Awareness Month?

**A.** This will depend on the CSD program. Programs are given flexibility in designing the activities to fit their own situation. The typical day will begin with an orientation session where students will be introduced to invited guests and view a video presentation about the profession. Then students will break into small groups to participate in one or more activities, such as touring a speech and hearing clinic or attending a CSD 101 workshop intended to provide information about the professions, academic requirements, and funding opportunities in a little more detail. Students will also have their hearing screened.

**Q.** Is the CSD Program arranging transportation to this event?

**A.** Transporting students to the event is the responsibility of the participating schools. Please check with the CSD Career Awareness Coordinator to determine if transportation can be arranged.

**Q.** How can I implement an orientation session when I don't know anything about CSD?

**A.** Information about the profession of CSD is available at <http://www.asha.org/students/> to provide teachers and career recruiters easy access to information about communication sciences and disorders.

The National Office has also created a CSD Career Awareness Month Web site at <http://www.nsslha.org/NSSLHA/students/CSDDAY.htm> to provide teachers and career recruiters with resources to prepare students for their CSD Career Awareness experience. Some of the items you will find include:

- CSD Career Awareness Month Fact Sheets – Basic information about CSD Career Awareness Month
- CSD Career Awareness Host Sites – Links to CSD programs hosting CSD Career Awareness events
- CSD Career Awareness Month Preparation Guide for Teachers/Career Counselors – Loaded with tips and suggestions on how to prepare your students for participation in CSD Career Awareness Month
- School Registration Form
- Evaluation Forms

**Q.** What students are being targeted for CSD Career Awareness Month?

**A.** Any student with an interest in health science careers, engineering, education, and medicine should attend a CSD Career Awareness Month activity.

**Q.** I'm interested in having my students participate. How do we register?

**A.** Visit the CSD Career Awareness Month Web site at <http://www.nsslha.org/NSSLHA/students/CSDDAY.htm>. The Web site will have links to sites in your area that will host activities during CSD Career Awareness Month.

Once you have identified an event in your area, simply download and complete the School Participation Form and include the Student Participation Form and, if appropriate, the Parent Consent Form (for students under the age of 18) and forward these items to the Career Awareness coordinator at the host site.

**Q.** What type of follow-up activities will be available to the students?

**A.** Students who attend CSD Career Awareness Month activities will receive a certificate for participating from the national office and a complimentary one-year subscription to NSSLHA's newsletter, *NSSLHA Now!*

**Q.** What is the *Communication Science Student Survival Guide*?

**A.** The NSSLHA Communication Sciences Student Survival Guide is a must-have resource for individuals considering a career in the disciplines of audiology, speech-language pathology, or speech, language, and hearing sciences. This comprehensive guide includes advice for students throughout their education: from the time they are in high school until they graduate with master's or doctoral degrees or begin a post-doctoral position. High school guidance counselors and mentors of students in CSD will also find this to be a valuable resource.

More information about the Guide and how to purchase a copy are available at <http://www.nsslha.org/NSSLHA/students/CSDGuide.htm>.

**Q.** Who should I contact in the National Office for more information?

**A.** Dawn Dickerson, NSSLHA's Director of Operations, is the primary contact for this activity. You may e-mail Dawn at [ddickerson@asha.org](mailto:ddickerson@asha.org) or call her at 301-897-5700, ext. 4145.