

# Communication Science and Disorders



## Career Awareness Month

### Preparation Guide for Teachers and Career Recruiters

The goal of CSD Career Awareness Month is to introduce the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology as viable healthcare career options for students. Many people, however, have a limited knowledge of the professions and are not sure how to introduce their students to the career.

CSD Career Awareness Month gives students with a limited understanding of the professions an up-close look at a day in the life of students actively pursuing an education in the profession and professionals working day-to-day in the field. 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.

This guide is designed to help teachers and career recruiters prepare students for participation in CSD Career Awareness Month activities. Teachers and career recruiters can use the guide to:

- Learn how to prepare students for CSD Career Awareness Month
- Learn how to conduct an orientation session for students attending CSD Career Awareness Month
- Get suggestions for follow-up activities after CSD Career Awareness Month
- Help students develop a CSD Career Action Plan

## Table of Contents

How To Prepare Students For CSD Career Awareness Month.....	3
How To Register Your Participation In CSD Career Awareness Month Activities.....	4
How To Conduct An Orientation Session for Students Attending CSD Career Awareness Month .....	5
Suggestions For Follow-Up Activities After CSD Career Awareness Month .....	6
Helping Students Develop A CSD Career Action Plan .....	7

---

## HOW TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR CSD CAREER AWARENESS MONTH

The professions of audiology and speech-language pathology may be unfamiliar to a student that is not deaf or hard of hearing or that has not had an opportunity to work with a speech therapist. Teachers or career recruiters can help maximize the CSD Career Awareness experience for the students in the following ways:

**Learn more about the professions** – Visit the ASHA Web site at <http://www.asha.org/students/> to learn more about the professions and the resources available to students.

**Identify interested students** – Consider inviting students that have expressed an interest in health science careers to participate in CSD Career Awareness Month. Culturally and linguistically diverse students, male students, as well as students with an interest in medicine, engineering, education, and/or physical therapy should also be seriously persuaded to attend.

**Facilitate a student orientation session to review the CSD Career Awareness schedule and school policies and procedures on field trips** – It is not necessary for a student attending CSD Career Awareness Month to have a thorough knowledge of the profession but a student that has a preliminary knowledge will have a more valuable experience. You can help your students by preparing them in advance. More information on facilitating an orientation session is available in the next section of this Guide.

**Coordinate out-of-school time and arrange transportation to the Host CSD Career Awareness event site** – CSD Career Awareness Month activities will be held during the school day at most sites. Please arrange to have students away from the school for that period of time as well as arrange for appropriate transportation. Most Host CSD Career Awareness sites will not provide transportation for students to attend activities. Check with the CSD Career Awareness Coordinator should those services be necessary for your participation.

**Accompany students to the site** – For those teachers/career recruiters that are unfamiliar with the profession this is a great opportunity for you to learn and experience as well. Feel free to attend sessions/activities and to ask questions!

**Complete the Educator's Evaluation Form and return it to the CSD Career Awareness Coordinator** – Help us improve the quality of programming by providing feedback to the national office. Download and complete the evaluation form from <http://www.nsslha.org/NSSLHA/CSDday/> and return them to the CSD Career Awareness Coordinator. Your comments will be used to make the program better for other students and educators.

**Arrange follow-up activities after CSD Career Awareness Month for students to reinforce their exposure to CSD careers** – This guide provides a list of follow-up activities that can be used to keep students engaged in learning more about the professions. Read further for more suggestions in this area.

---

## **HOW TO REGISTER YOUR PARTICIPATION IN CSD CAREER AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES**

Local schools and individual students interested in attending CSD Career Awareness activities should pre-register their attendance with the host site. Pre-registration will allow the host location to have a better idea of the number of students attending and the specific grade levels (high school vs. undergraduate) that will be attending.

This data is also important to the national office because it is what we will use for follow-up activities with students.

To register your schools (or individual student's) participation in CSD Career Awareness activities simply:

- Visit the CSD Career Awareness Month Web site at <http://www.nsslha.org/NSSLHA/students/CSDDAY.htm>.
- Locate a program in your area that is hosting CSD Career Awareness Month activities at a date and a location appropriate for your students. Note the name and contact information for the CSD Career Awareness Coordinator.
- Download and complete the School Participation Form, Student Participation Form, and the Parent Consent Form (for students under the age of 18). These forms will provide the CSD Career Awareness Coordinator with preliminary information about the students attending, including their special needs and area of interests.
- Forward all forms to the CSD Career Awareness Coordinator.
- The Coordinator will review the forms and send you back information confirming the attendance of your students and any other important information concerning the logistics of the event.

---

## HOW TO CONDUCT AN ORIENTATION SESSION FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING CSD CAREER AWARENESS MONTH

One- two weeks before the scheduled visit, teachers or career recruiters should host an orientation session to prepare students for CSD Career Awareness Month. Teachers and career recruiters can help students have a better experience by:

- **Reviewing the CSD Career Awareness activity agenda with the students (if available).** Ensure that the students understand the goals of the day:
  - To explore the profession of communication science and disorders
  - To meet students studying for a career in CSD as well as professionals working in the field
  - To observe what happens in a speech and hearing clinic
  - To learn what skills and academic coursework are needed for a career in CSD.
- **Talking to the students about communication science and disorders.** Before they attend the orientation session, ask the students to visit the Web sites of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association at <http://www.asha.org/students/> and the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association at [www.nsslha.org/students/](http://www.nsslha.org/students/) to learn more about the professions.
- **Asking the students to make a list of questions.** Reward those students who come back to school with the most answers to their questions.
- **Reviewing your school's policies and procedures for students on field trips.** Remind students that they are visiting a workplace. They may be exposed to treatment sessions and/or patients getting treatment for some disorders. Students should be cautioned against teasing or laughing or sharing what they've seen in a malicious manner.
- **Talking with students about dress code.** Be sure that they know to wear semi-professional attire. Ties and panty hose may not be necessary but jeans with holes and t-shirts with offensive logos or pictures are not be appropriate.

---

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES AFTER CSD CAREER AWARENESS MONTH**

One- two weeks after your students have attended a CSD Career Awareness Month activity host a debriefing session to allow students to talk about what they learned and to tell them how they can continue to learn more about the profession.

Teachers and career recruiters can help students continue their exposure to a career in communication science and disorders by:

**Reviewing with students the questions they prepared before attending CSD Career Awareness Month** and the answers they collected. Reward students who were able to get answers to the majority of their questions. Compile a list of the responses and distribute to students for future reference.

**Talking to students about their CSD Career Awareness Month experience.** Ask each student to tell what they learned about a CSD career that they didn't know before. Keep track of their responses and use those responses to talk with them about misperceptions of the profession.

**Reviewing with students what they learned about the academic requirements and skills needed for a career in CSD.** As an assignment, ask students to develop a CSD Career Action Plan that they can use as an outline for pursuing a career in CSD. (More instructions for the CSD Career Action Plan are given below.)

**Working with the students to prepare a CSD Career Action Plan.** Help those students that seriously want to consider this career action plan their exposures and contacts. More about the Career Action Plan is available in the guide.

**Regularly visiting the ASHA Web site for career resources.** The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Web site at [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) is a resource for career recruitment materials. Browse the wide assortment of resource that are available to teachers and career recruiters, invite professionals in your area to come and speak with students, order complimentary brochures and other resources from the ASHA Products catalogue to share with students.

**Encouraging students to purchase the Communication Science Student Survival Guide.** 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>.

**Visiting the National Job Shadow Day Web site** at <http://www.jobshadow.org/> and enrolling students in a job shadowing opportunity for CSD-related careers.

---

## HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP A CSD CAREER ACTION PLAN

Students with an interest in CSD will gain a better understanding of the professions and how to select a career when they can match their current academic preparation and personal skills with the academic requirements and skills needed for a successful CSD career. This activity allows students to compare their own skills with what's required for a CSD career and to develop an action plan for achieving future academic and career goals.

1. Remind students that they still have time to complete their education and their own personal skills inventory to pursue a career in CSD.
2. Remind students that they were fortunate to share experiences of CSD students and professionals and to learn about the knowledge and skills needed for a career in CSD. Even though school, can be quite challenging at times, the reward is a job that is interesting and financially rewarding.
3. Explain to students that they will have an opportunity to apply what they learned to planning for their own futures. Ask students to complete the CSD Career Action Plan Worksheet available on the CSD Career Awareness Month Web site <http://www.nsslha.org/NSSLHA/students/CSDDAY.htm>. At the end of the 15 minutes, review the forms and answer any questions about education levels needed for careers or how to obtain skills in addition to those taught in school.
4. End the discussion by explaining to students that it is never too soon or too late to get the skills they need for the career they want. However, they each must make a plan of action and a commitment to follow through. By establishing personal goals to increase their education and their skills, they are making a better future for themselves.
5. Encourage students to keep their CSD Career Action Plans in a safe place and check them every 6 months to monitor their progress.