

Undergraduate Student Awareness of Professions in Communication Sciences and Disorders

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Introduction

Nearly one quarter of college students are unaware of the profession of speech-language pathology and 17% are unaware of the profession of Audiology when choosing an undergraduate college major (Emanuel et al., 2012; Puhlman & Johnson, 2019). A lack of knowledge regarding both professions may influence students with a desire to help others toward another allied health field such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, or nursing.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to evaluate knowledge of CSD professions among undergraduate students, regarding the scope of practice for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists, the educational requirements of SLPs and audiologists, and the possible employment settings for these professions.

Method

Surveyed students in Introduction to CSD and Phonetics courses. The students across surveys may not have been consistent. De-identified data were collected and stored in secure data storage system. Item analysis was conducted for frequency of response, and open-ended questions were assessed for themes. Groups were stratified according to gender, year at university, and discipline. The most common disciplines reported were Integrated Elementary Education and Psychology.

Demographics

Figure 1A
Survey Participants Identifying Gender

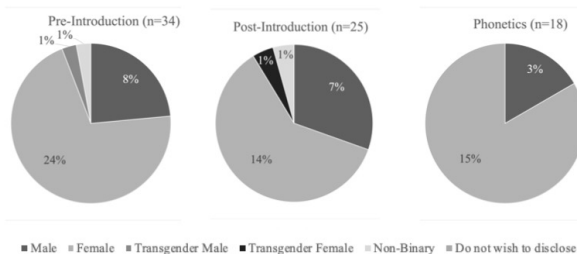


Figure 1B
Survey Participants Year at University

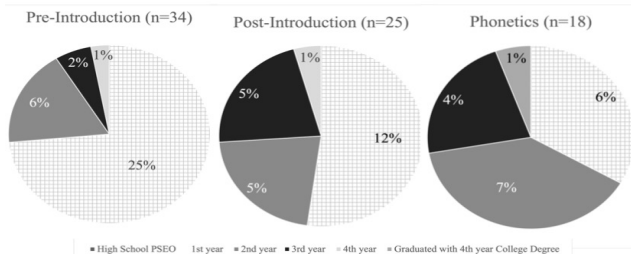


Figure 2A
Client Populations that SLPs Diagnose and Treat

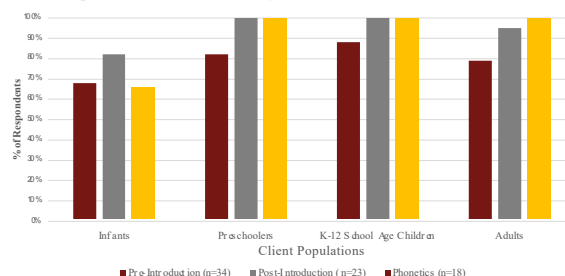


Figure 4A
Employment Settings of SLPs

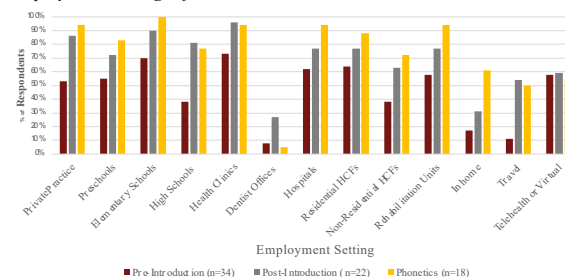
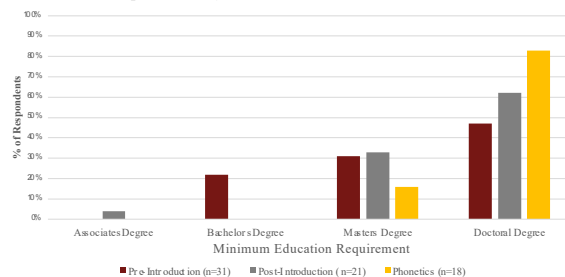


Figure 6A
Educational Requirements for SLPs



Conclusion, Limitations and Future Directions

Pre-introduction survey participants were more knowledgeable of the population treated and minimum education requirements of audiologists versus SLPs. Through progression of the courses, knowledge was gained. Limitations include non uniform and format of survey, sample size, student motivation and delivery mode. In the future, researchers should focus on addressing limitations of this study.

Figure 3A
Client Populations at Audiologists Diagnose and Treat

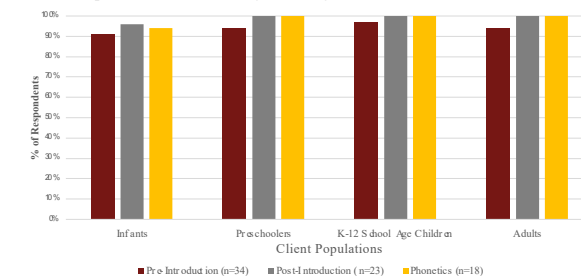


Figure 5A
Employment Settings of Audiologists

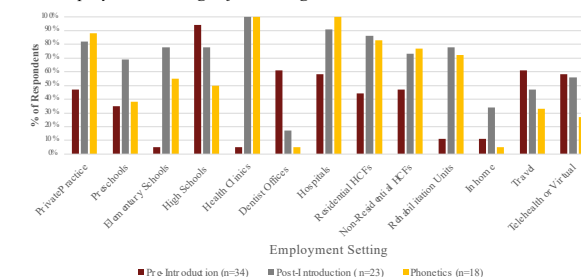
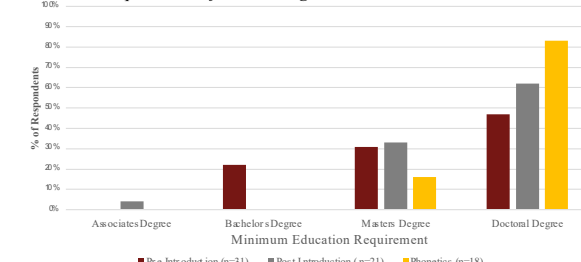


Figure 7A
Educational Requirements for Audiologists



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