I Didn't Get Into Grad School. What's Next?

Now that your tassel has been turned and your diploma framed, it's time to figure out "what's next" if you didn't get into the graduate school of your choice. Here are some tips that will help get you over the hump.

1. Don’t be deterred. It’s unfortunate that you were not accepted into a graduate program, but it’s certainly not the end of the world. The careers of audiology and speech language pathology are growing in popularity, but the academic programs available to prepare future audiologists and speech-pathologists are limited in faculty and size to meet the rising demand.

2. Apply again and early. The good news is that you've already been through the process, so applying to graduate school (again) should be a lot easier (see Student’s Say: Craft a Stand-Out Application).

   Contact your faculty advisor or the Career Planning and Placement office of your alma mater. Have someone review your application materials and your letters of reference. Make sure that those letters best reflect your skills and competencies. If they do not, then use the summer to identify others who can provide you with a stronger letter.

   Most schools look at applicants' grades and test scores first, so consider re-taking GREs and/or communication sciences and disorders classes in which you earned less-than-stellar grades.

3. Be of service to others. Part of the fear of not getting into graduate school may be trying to figure out what to do about your school loan debt. Consider applying for AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Teach for America or similar programs that may provide you with a stipend to work. In some cases, you may be able to have a portion of your student loan debt deferred or waived by working for these organizations.
4. Apply for a job (or internship) in a hospital, clinic, nursing home, child care facility, or private practice. It's important that you maintain your clinical and practical knowledge while you wait to get into graduate school. Look for opportunities to be around health care professionals in your area of interest. The extra work experience and knowledge you acquire may strengthen your graduate school application.

5. Attend the Graduate School Fair at the ASHA Convention. The 2015 ASHA Convention will be held at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado, November 12–14, 2015. Plan to stop by the NSSLHA Experience for the Graduate School Fair on Friday, November 12. This is your opportunity to meet face-to-face with representatives from more than 60 academic programs.

Remember your dream of becoming an audiologist or speech-language pathologist isn't necessarily over—it just may be delayed. Using the extra time to recover from undergraduate demands, learn new skills or enhance your existing skills, and to network more effectively could be just the magic you need for success the second (or even third) time around.

Branch Out and Become a Leader

Leadership needs to be developed and nurtured. Allow your natural leadership abilities to blossom. Plant the seeds today by applying to the MSLP and cultivate your leadership skills.

ASHFoundation's Scholarships and Student Research Grants—Apply Now!

Scholarships, ranging from $5,000–$10,000, are available for students pursuing graduate and doctoral degrees in the communication sciences and disorders. Research grants of $2,000 each are available for students proposing research projects to initiate a one-year research study in the area of clinical rehabilitative audiology or early childhood language development.

It's Time to Celebrate! Exclusive Discount for Faculty & Students in the ASHA Store

Celebrate 50 years of academic accreditation by commemorating a milestone of your own! Use this exclusive discount for faculty & students to celebrate your professors, your fellow graduates and your program. Use Promo Code CAA30 to save 30% on merchandise and gift items; valid through 4/30/2015.

Clinical Fellowships

Speech-Language Pathologists
T.E.A.M. 4 Kids
Surprise, AZ

Speech-Language Pathologist
Redlands Community Hospital
Redlands, CA

Speech-Language Pathologist
The Speech Clinic, Inc.
Wilmington, DE

Speech and Language Pathologist
Little Star Therapy Services, Inc.
Miami Lakes, FL

Speech-Language Pathologist
Connections Therapy Center
Maryland

F/T, P/T SLP-CCC/CF
Speech Connections, LLC
North Carolina

Speech-Language Pathologist
Cobb Pediatric Therapy Services
United States

SLP Opportunities Available!
EBS Healthcare
Nationwide

Visit ASHA’s Online Career Center for more CF opportunities.