

Supplemental Material S1. Open-ended questions and codes.

Survey question	Responses
How did you decide where to enroll among the programs where you were accepted?	105
Applied to one program (25.7%, $n = 27$)	
Type of instruction/location (online, in-state, in-person) (24.8%, $n = 26$)	
Specifics about the program (reputation, mission, coursework, requirements, faculty) (17.1%, $n = 18$)	
Logistics (timeline, schedule, convenience, ability to work full time, cost of program) (16.2%, $n = 17$)	
Personal research and networking (12.4%, $n = 13$)	
Other responses (post-program employment opportunities, prior affiliation with university) (3.8%, $n = 4$)	
What was your primary goal in applying for a doctoral program?	115
More knowledge and skills (research/advanced clinical skills) (38.3%, $n = 44$)	
Career opportunities/career advancement (32.2%, $n = 37$)	
Obtain a doctorate (13.9%, $n = 16$)	
Leadership skills (7.8%, $n = 9$)	
Other responses (improve speech-language pathology field, job expectations, equal footing with other professionals) (4.4%, $n = 5$)	
Salary increase (3.5%, $n = 4$)	
What do you see as the advantages of the SLPD degree?	120
More knowledge (expertise, confidence) (40.8%, $n = 49$)	
Career advancement (higher pay, networking, opportunities, leadership opportunities) (21.7%, $n = 26$)	
Logistics and practicalities (modalities, timeline, work schedule, cost of program) (15.8%, $n = 19$)	
Others (mentorship/dissertation/capstone/SLPD over PHD/respect/prestige/additional credential) (11.7%, $n = 14$)	
Not focused on research (clinical focus) (10.0%, $n = 12$)	
What do you see as the disadvantages of the SLPD degree?	98
Issues with lack of prestige and lack of understanding of SLPD (40.8%, $n = 40$)	
Financial burden (cost of program, no salary benefit) (22.5%, $n = 22$)	
Personal reasons (stress, time away from family) (19.4%, $n = 19$)	
Won't necessarily be able to go into higher education (9.2%, $n = 9$)	
No disadvantages (7.1%, $n = 7$)	
Limited program choices (1%, $n = 1$)	

Do you think the type of instruction you received (in-person vs. virtual) impacted the quality of your experience in your SLPD program? Please explain.	79
No responses (55.7%, $n = 44$)	
Yes responses (27.9%, $n = 22$)	
Not sure/ambiguous responses (16.5%, $n = 13$)	
No reasons	30
Virtual was good/necessary (63.3%, $n = 19$)	
Great professors (23.3%, $n = 7$)	
Intent of program works for any modality (10.0%, $n = 3$)	
In-person opportunities (within a virtual program) were beneficial (3.3%, $n = 1$)	
Yes reasons	18
In-person is helpful (66.7%, $n = 12$)	
Virtual is helpful (22.2%, $n = 4$)	
Hybrid is helpful (5.6%, $n = 1$)	
Helped with networking (5.6%, $n = 1$)	
From a financial standpoint, how did you consider the return on investment with respect to your SLPD degree?	75
Positive (50.7%, $n = 38$)	
Neutral/didn't consider (33.3%, $n = 25$)	
Negative (16.0%, $n = 12$)	
Reasons	68
Not about the money/prior awareness of no salary increase (23.5%, $n = 16$)	
Career Advancement (opportunities, goals, promotion) (20.6%, $n = 14$)	
Pay increase (20.6%, $n = 14$)	
Will pay for itself/cost-efficient (10.3%, $n = 7$)	
Negative reason given (no salary increase, will lose money, not worth tuition) (8.8%, $n = 6$)	
Employer paid for it (7.4%, $n = 5$)	
Increased job security/retirement benefits (5.9%, $n = 4$)	
Added to other loans (2.9%, $n = 2$)	
Why would you recommend your specific SLPD program to others?	101
Program Design (curriculum, modality, diverse program, realistic expectations, flexibility, convenient, ability to work full-time) (39.6%, $n = 40$)	
Faculty/care & support (36.6%, $n = 37$)	
Other (location, cohort connections, network, cost, resources) (11.9%, $n = 12$)	
Reputation/established program (6.9%, $n = 7$)	
Yes (5.0%, $n = 5$)	
Why wouldn't you recommend your specific SLPD program to others?	14
Issues with coursework/quality of program (35.7%, $n = 5$)	

Disorganization/lack of direction (35.7%, $n = 5$)	
Other responses (cost, outdated materials, professors, usefulness of the degree) (28.6%, $n = 4$)	
What are your thoughts on requiring a clinical doctorate as an entry-level degree for SLPS?	82
No (54.9%, $n = 45$)	
Mixed response (25.6%, $n = 21$)	
Yes (19.5%, $n = 16$)	
Yes reasons	22
More knowledge (36.4%, $n = 8$)	
Equal respect with other clinical professions (31.8%, $n = 7$)	
Inevitable/maybe in the future (31.8%, $n = 7$)	
Yes, but with different tracks and standardization (13.6%, $n = 3$)	
No reasons	58
Shortages (39.7%, $n = 23$)	
SLPD is better to obtain with experience (22.4%, $n = 13$)	
Should be optional/master's is sufficient (22.4%, $n = 13$)	
Salary doesn't equal doctorate/too expensive (15.5%, $n = 9$)	
How do you feel your SLPD program impacted your career? (graduated/was enrolled but did not complete degree)	42
Knowledge, competence, skills, and/or confidence (38.1%, $n = 16$)	
New opportunities (21.4%, $n = 9$)	
Generally beneficial (19.1%, $n = 8$)	
Other responses (networking, resources, contribution to field, gained respect, leadership) (14.3%, $n = 6$)	
Little/no impact on career (7.1%, $n = 3$)	
How do you think your SLPD program will impact your career? (currently enrolled/accepted but didn't start yet)	51
New opportunities (45.1%, $n = 23$)	
Leadership opportunities (19.6%, $n = 10$)	
Improved skill set/more knowledge/better clinician (15.7%, $n = 8$)	
Other responses (networking, salary, respect) (11.8%, $n = 6$)	
Not sure/not anticipating impact on career (7.8%, $n = 4$)	
Based on your experiences so far, has your SLPD program met your expectations? Please explain. (currently enrolled)	42
Yes (83.3%, $n = 35$)	
Mixed/unclear (16.7%, $n = 7$)	
What else would you like to share about your experience pursuing an SLPD degree?	36
Positive (61.1%, $n = 22$)	
Mixed/neutral (38.9%, $n = 14$)	
