

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are licensed professionals who work to assess, diagnose, treat, and help prevent speech, voice, language, cognitive-linguistic, and swallowing disorders across the age-span.

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MS-SLP) degree program (<http://uthscsa.edu/shp>) is a two-year (5 semesters) graduate study grounded on integration of academic coursework with clinical experience. Having the program embedded in the School of Health Professions enables this program to have its emphasis in medical speech-language pathology. Coursework is particularly designed and sequenced to provide students with the scientific and professional education for work as speech-language pathologists in diverse medical settings. The program is unique in its curricular specification and application of knowledge within a community-based clinical education framework. Training in a health science campus environment with direct access and constant exposure to the medical community provides graduates with medically-based training to serve children and adults with health care and educational needs.

Graduates of the MS-SLP degree program will be eligible to apply for ASHA's Certificate of Conical Competence (CCC), and compete effectively for entry-level positions in speech-language pathology, particularly in medical settings. The graduates of the MS-SLP program will be prepared to become productive in complex clinical settings such as acute or rehabilitation hospitals for adult patients or institutions where children with medical challenges are integrated into school settings.

The SLP program holds a candidacy accreditation issued by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). For further information about the accreditation process contact:

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
2200 Research Boulevard, #310  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Phone: (800) 498-2071  
Email: [accreditation@asha.org](mailto:accreditation@asha.org)  
Website: <http://caa.asha.org/>

## Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the MS-SLP degree program align with the general requirements of UTHSCSA for graduate education.

All required application information, including official transcripts from all institutions attended, must be submitted for an applicant to be considered by the MS-SLP program Admissions Committee. Specifically, the following prerequisites must be met:

- A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution in the United States
- Required pre-requisite coursework of basic human communication include:
  - Introduction to audiology
  - Phonetics and normal articulation

- Normal language development
- Anatomy and physiology of speech and hearing
- Speech and hearing science
- Required pre-requisite coursework of basic science include one course each in behavioral/social sciences, biological sciences, physical sciences, and statistics
- Minimal grade point average (GPA): An overall GPA of 3.0
- Competitive scores on GRE tests up to five years old (no pre-determined minimum score requirement). GRE code for CASCSD is 2156.
- Letters of recommendation: Three letters of recommendation are required attesting to the applicant's readiness for graduate level studies.

## Application Process

Applicants will submit online applications through the Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS) provided by the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD). CSDCAS is a state-of-the-art, web-based application system that offers applicants a convenient way to apply to any number of participating clinical education programs in the speech-language pathology concentration by completing a single application. It provides a streamlined and user-friendly approach to the application process; it provides faculty with one web-based recommendation protocol; and it provides the MS-SLP program maximum exposure to the applicants anywhere in the country. The CSDCAS operational cycle is from September of year 1–April of year 2 (e.g., September 2016-April 2017).

## Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology curriculum consists of 66 semester credit hours taken over 2 years (5 semesters) of study. Students will be required to complete a minimum of 400 supervised clinical hours obtained from culturally diverse settings to be eligible to apply for ASHA's Certificate of Conical Competence (CCC).

## Sample Plan of Study

The Student Progress Committee of the MS-SLP degree program will ensure that the following schedule is followed by MS-SLP students to make appropriate progress towards their degree. The Student Progress Committee will grant exceptions from this schedule only under extenuating circumstances.

All students in the MS-SLP program must complete the following course of study:

First Year		Credit Hours
Fall		
MSLP 5000	Neurological Bases of Speech, Hearing and Language	3
MSLP 5001	Speech Production and Speech Perception	3
MSLP 5002	Speech Sound Disorders	3
MSLP 5003	Audiological Service Delivery in Speech-Language Pathology Laboratory	1
MSLP 5004	Research Methods	3
MSLP 5005	Clinical Methods in Speech-Language Pathology 1	2

<b>Spring</b>		
MSLP 5006	Aphasia and Related Disorders	3
MSLP 5007	Motor Speech Disorders	3
MSLP 5008	Language Disorders in Children: Preschool and School Age	3
MSLP 5009	Dysphagia in Adults and Children	3
MSLP 5010	Clinical Methods in Speech-Language Pathology 2	2
MSLP 5011	Evidence-Based Practice, Professional Issues, and Ethics	2
<b>Summer</b>		
MSLP 5012	Cognition and Communicative Disorders	3
MSLP 5013	Voice and Resonance Disorders	3
MSLP 5014	Fluency Disorders: Theory and Practice	3
MSLP 5015	Speech-Language Pathology Practicum 1	4
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
MSLP 6000	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2
MSLP 6001	Aging, Cultural and Linguistic Diversity	3
MSLP 6002	Head Neck Cancer, Tracheostomy, and Mechanical Ventilation	3
MSLP 6003	Applied Topics in Communication Disorders and Sciences	2
MSLP 6004	Speech-Language Pathology Practicum 2	4
<b>Spring</b>		
MSLP 6005	Speech-Language Pathology Advanced Practicum	8
Total Credit Hours:		66.0

Professions Director of Development will allow data collection of program satisfaction and readiness for employment via short surveys.

## Objectives/Program Outcomes

The MS-SLP curriculum will achieve three main objectives: 1) to educate and train a diverse student body to become critical thinkers and research-driven clinicians who apply the best practices in the health care setting; 2) to prepare students to serve as strong future leaders in their communities through faculty-guided clinical practica and community outreach activities; and 3) to foster opportunities for student scholarships, and prepare graduates to be competitive candidates for advanced training programs (e.g., Ph.D.) in order to help address the national faculty shortage dilemma.

For future program improvement, program outcomes will be evaluated based on several benchmarks. First, the passing scores on the first trial of the ASHA Praxis examination will be tracked. The Praxis examination in speech-language pathology assesses the beginning practitioners' understanding of essential content and current practices. The examination is also required for the state credentialing and ASHA certification. Second, data pertaining to educational pursuits (e.g., Ph.D.), career opportunities (hiring rates), and the type of employment (e.g., medical setting or public school) will be collected and analyzed. Third, feedback obtained from a variety of sources will be elicited to assess students' learning experience and readiness for employment. The sources of feedback may include, but are not limited to: exit surveys of graduating students, interviews of students' clinical supervisors in the community, online surveys of past alumni, and communication with graduates' employers. Periodic contact through the School of Health