Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

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Worcester State University offers a graduate program leading to a Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology. This program is designed to provide a high caliber academic and clinical program for the preparation of speech-language pathologists. The program prepares students for positions in public schools, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation centers, hospitals, speech and hearing clinics, special-care facilities, and private practice. The Master of Science education program in speech-language pathology at Worcester State University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 220 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700. The program is also approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Application forms may be obtained online at www.worcester.edu. Admission is considered for the summer start only.

A monthly information session is held between August – May lead by the graduate program coordinator to answer any questions about the program or prerequisites. Due to the large number of requests, we are not able to arrange individual meetings with prospective graduate students outside of these monthly sessions. You are welcome to bring your transcripts to the information session for review by the graduate program coordinator.

Admissions Requirements

APPLICATION DEADLINE is February 1 for a summer start.

In addition to the WSU Graduate School’s general admission requirements, applicants must meet the following criteria:

A. Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree from a regionally-accredited (or its equivalent) college or university.

B. Candidates for admission are required to submit a completed application, which is available online, by February 1. Candidates must also print a copy of the Speech-Language Pathology Application Cover Sheet and mail this to the Graduate Admissions Office. Requirements and procedures for admission to graduate studies are specified on the application form. The applicant must comply with these requirements and procedures. Submission of two letters of recommendation is required. Submission of a third letter is optional.

C. Candidates must submit official transcripts from all undergraduate programs that were part of the bachelor’s degree and all programs where any prerequisite courses were taken, including Worcester State University. Applicants should have official transcripts sent to themselves, and should mail these sealed, official transcripts, along with Speech-Language Pathology Application Cover Sheet, to the Graduate Admissions Office.

D. Candidates applying for admission must have taken or currently be enrolled in the following college-level prerequisite courses at the time of application for the master’s degree program:

- 12 credit hours in basic human communication processes that include: anatomy of the speech & hearing mechanism, phonetics, normal development of speech and language, speech science, and hearing science

- 3 credit hours in biological sciences Biological Science must be human and/or animal biology.

- 3 credit hours in human neuroanatomy Appropriate course titles include, but are not limited to, Human Neuroanatomy, Human Neuroscience, Physiological Psychology. A neuroanatomy/neuroscience course within a communication sciences and disorders department is acceptable.

- 3 credit hours in physical science Physical Science may be either physics or chemistry. Courses covering physics and/or chemistry but not explicitly named as such may be used to fulfill the physical science requirement subject to graduate coordinator approval.

- 3 credit hours in mathematics, not including statistics

- 6 credit hours in behavioral and/or social sciences (a course in Developmental Psychology/Child Growth and Development must be included)

Students completing prerequisites at the time of application must provide evidence of enrollment. Prerequisites may be taken at WSU in the evening as a non-matriculated student or as a day student. Please contact the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education for enrollment information. Day students must complete an “undergraduate non-degree” application. Please contact the undergraduate Admissions Office for additional details at 508-929-8040.

E. Applicants must submit scores from the Graduate Records Examination (GRE) and the TOEFL (if the student’s academic background is not in English).

F. As noted above, applicants must submit a completed copy of the Speech Language Pathology Application Cover Sheet.

1 The majority (>50%) of coursework in basic human communication must be completed at the time of application, and if accepted to the program the remaining credits must be completed by May 31. These courses must have been complete within the past 7 years.

2 12 of the required 21 credits must be completed at the time of application, and if accepted to the program the remaining credits must be completed by August 31.

For more information regarding prerequisites and the MS-SLP program, please contact Dr. Melnick at Kenneth.Melnick@worcester.edu. For questions regarding the electronic application or to confirm receipt of materials, please contact Graduate Admissions.
General Requirements for Program Completion

1. The minimum requirement for a master's degree in speech-language pathology is fifty-five (55) semester hours of credit.

2. A maximum of six (6) graduate credits of "B" or above taken within two (2) years of the term of admission, at a CAA accredited institution, may be accepted toward the graduate degree. These credits must be transferred as part of the admissions process.

3. Courses are taught in the afternoon, late afternoon and evening. A maximum load is four courses per semester and takes at least two full years including summers to complete. A three course per semester load takes two and one-half years to complete. A two course per semester program would take at least three and one-half years.

4. Students must maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average while in the program. Students receiving a grade of C+ or below in a course must repeat that course and change their program of study. Two grades of C+ or below in clinical assignments or courses will result in dismissal from the Graduate School.

5. All work for the degree must be completed within a period of six years.

6. The Dean of Graduate Studies reserves the right to periodically review the performance of graduate students in accordance with the academic standards of the Graduate Program and of Worcester State University.

Curriculum Requirements for a Master of Science Degree in Speech-Language Pathology

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CD-901</td>
<td>Introduction to Graduate Clinical Skills</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-920</td>
<td>Articulation and Phonological Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-921</td>
<td>Language Disorders in Children</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-922</td>
<td>Language Disorders in Adults</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-923</td>
<td>Fluency Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-924</td>
<td>Voice Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CD-925</td>
<td>Motor Speech Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-926</td>
<td>Reading and Writing Disabilities</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-927</td>
<td>Audiology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-928</td>
<td>Aural Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-929</td>
<td>Dysphagia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-940</td>
<td>Evaluation and Diagnosis in Speech-Language Pathology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-946</td>
<td>Organization of Speech Language Programs In Schools</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>CD-947</td>
<td>Augumentative/Alternative Communication</td>
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<td>CD-950</td>
<td>Cognitive Aspects of Communication</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-980</td>
<td>Research in Communication Sciences and Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD-987</td>
<td>Special Topics in Communication Sciences And Disorders (Take two topics for one credit each)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-990</td>
<td>Speech-Language-Hearing Practicum: On-Campus Clinic</td>
<td>9</td>
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CD-991  Speech-LANGUAGE-Hearing Practicum: Externships  6

Total Credits  58

Clinical Clock Hours

In addition to academic coursework, students are required to complete 25 hours of observation of clinical work and 375 live hours of participation in diagnostic/therapeutic work in three distinctly different clinical settings. Observation hours and 50 of the live hours may be transferred from the undergraduate level.

Written Comprehensive Examination

Students will be expected to submit a passing score from the NESPA examination in Speech-Language Pathology and complete a departmental comprehensive examination.

Communication Disorders Courses

CD-901 Introduction to Graduate Clinical Skills
Students gain foundation skills to engage in graduate level academic and clinical studies. These skills include study behavior, observation, technical and clinical writing, and ethical behavior.
2 Credits

CD-910 Speech/Language Development, Differences and Diversity
Students gain an in-depth understanding of speech/language development, knowledge of cultural differences and the disorders of speech/language.
Spring only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-920 Articulation and Phonological Disorders
Review of the anatomy/physiology of the articulatory mechanism. Study of etiology, diagnosis and treatment of developmental and organic disorders.
Fall only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-921 Language Disorders in Children
Prevention, etiology, characteristics, evaluation, intervention in children's language differences and disorders. Emphasis on spoken language with introduction to written language.
Fall only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-922 Language Disorders in Adults
Study of the neurological basis, etiology, characteristics, prevention, evaluation and intervention of acquired language disorders in adults.
Spring only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-923 Fluency Disorders
Etiology and characteristics of fluency disorders. In addition, the prevention, evaluation and intervention for people who have fluency disorders.
Fall only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-924 Voice Disorders
Study of etiology, characteristics, prevention, evaluation, and intervention of voice and resonance disorders in children and adults.
Every year. 3 Credits

CD-925 Motor Speech Disorders
Study of the neurological basis, etiology, characteristics, prevention, evaluation, and intervention of motor speech disorders in children and adults.
Fall only and every year. 3 Credits
CD-926 Reading and Writing Disabilities
Reading and writing development/disorders across the lifespan. Topics: Integration of theories, research, practice, etiology, characteristics, prevention, assessment, and intervention.
Every year. 2 Credits

CD-927 Audiology
A speech-language pathology focused course about prevention, etiology, characteristics, evaluation/interpretation, and social aspects of hearing loss across diverse populations.
Fall only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-928 Aural Rehabilitation
Prerequisites: CD-927.
Evaluation and management of hearing related communication difficulties across the lifespan, including amplification, speech perception and communication training, speech-language therapy, and counseling.
Spring only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-929 Dysphagia
Study of the anatomy/physiology of the swallowing mechanism, the etiology of its disorders, and the assessment and management of patients with various diseases/injuries causing these disorders.
Spring only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-940 Evaluation and Diagnosis in Speech-Language Pathology
Spring only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-946 Organization of Speech Language Programs In Schools
Issues related to SLP’s in schools. Includes state and federal regulations, case selection, referral process, scheduling, collaboration, inclusion, support personnel.
Every year. 1 Credit

CD-947 Augumentative/Alternative Communication
Principles of augmentative and alternative communication, evaluation, and intervention across diverse populations.
Every year. 1 Credit

CD-950 Cognitive Aspects of Communication
Etiology, characteristics, prevention, evaluation, intervention of developmental and acquired cognitive disorders related to communication sciences and disorders across the lifespan.
Every year. 2 Credits

CD-970 Independent Study in Communication Sciences and Disorders
Students may elect to take an independent study in course content, practicum experience, or independent research.
Other or on demand. 1-3 Credits

CD-980 Research in Communication Sciences and Disorders
Prerequisites: Completion of a minimum of 18 graduate credits in speech-language pathology.
Principals of research in communication sciences and disorders including ethics, methodology, design, statistics, evaluation and research writing.
Spring only and every year. 3 Credits

CD-987 Special Topics in Communication Sciences And Disorders
In-depth studies of contemporary issues in human communication disorders.
Every year. 1-3 Credits

CD-990 Speech-Language-Hearing Practicum: On-Campus Clinic
Experience in screening evaluation and intervention of speech, language and hearing disorders in the on campus clinic with direct supervision.
Every year. 3 Credits

CD-991 Speech-Language-Hearing Practicum: Externships
Prerequisites: CD-920 CD-921 CD-922 CD-927 CD-940 CD-946 CD-990
Experience in screening evaluation and intervention of speech, language, and hearing disorders in externships with direct supervision.
Every year. 3 Credits

CD-997 Thesis Research in Communication Disorders
Original research in Communication Disorders under the supervision of a member of the faculty, and an acceptable thesis. Three credits per semester for two semesters.
3 Credits