**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

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Email: kcurro@worcester.edu

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 led by the graduate program coordinator to answer any questions about the program or prerequisites. Due to the large number of requests, faculty members are not able to arrange individual meetings with prospective graduate students outside of these monthly sessions. Prospective students are welcome to bring their 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, and the Technical Skills for Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology Program, 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 it 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, and all 3 may be submitted online.

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. 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.

1. 15 credit hours in basic human communication processes that include: anatomy of the speech & hearing mechanism, phonetics, normal development of speech and language, speech science, hearing science, and audiology

2. 3 credit hours in biological sciences

3. 3 credit hours in human neuroanatomy

4. 6 credit hours in the behavioral and/or social sciences (a course in Developmental Psychology/Child Growth and Development must be included)

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 completed 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. These courses must have been completed within the past 15 years.

For more information regarding prerequisites and the MS-SLP program and the Technical Skills for Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology Program, please contact Prof. Curro with the subject line “MS SLP Program Inquiry” at kcurro@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-two (52) 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 3-4 courses per semester (i.e. “accelerated” track) and takes two full years including summers to complete. A 3 course per semester load (i.e. “full-time” track) takes two and one-half years including summers to complete. A 2-3 course per semester program (i.e. “part-time” track) would take at least three years including summers to complete.

4. Students must maintain a 3.0 or better GPA while in the Program. Students receiving a grade of C+ or below in an academic course (excluding CD 990 and CD 991) must successfully repeat that course and change their program of study. Students may only repeat one course in the program. Students receiving a grade of C+ or below in a clinical assignment* will not receive credit for live hours for that assignment. If students receive a C+ or below with one clinical assignment which results in a grade of C+ or below in CD 990 or CD 991, it will count as a single failing grade. Two grades of C+ or below resulting from any combination of academic courses and/ or clinical assignments will result in dismissal from the Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology.

*An assignment during CD990 or CD991 within the Center or in the field consisting of an individual client, group of clients, assessment of speech, language, and/or hearing, outside placement, screening (also see Center Manual).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits (52 credits)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CD-901</td>
<td>Intro to Graduate and Clinical Skills</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-920</td>
<td>Articulation and Phonological Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-921</td>
<td>Language Disorders in Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-922</td>
<td>Language Disorders in Adults</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-923</td>
<td>Fluency Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-924</td>
<td>Voice Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-925</td>
<td>Motor Speech Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-926</td>
<td>Reading and Writing Disabilities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-928</td>
<td>Aural Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-947</td>
<td>Augmentative/Alternative Communication</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-950</td>
<td>Cognitive Aspects of Communication</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-980</td>
<td>Research in Communication Sciences and Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-987</td>
<td>Special Topics in Communication Sciences And Disorders</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-990</td>
<td>Speech-Language-Hearing Practicum: On-Campus Clinic (Practicum 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-991</td>
<td>Speech-Language-Hearing Practicum: Externships (Practicum 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD-991</td>
<td>Speech-Language-Hearing Practicum: Externships (Practicum 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits: 52

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/Master’s Thesis

Students will be expected to submit a passing score from the NESPA examination in Speech-Language Pathology and successful completion of either a departmental comprehensive examination or Master’s Thesis prior to graduation.

Communication Disorders Courses

CD-901 Intro to Graduate and 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.
Every year. 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 Speech-Sound Disorders and Differences
The purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of the nature of articulation, phonology, and speech sound differences, development, and disorders across the lifespan and in a multicultural context. Students will learn principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for people with speech sound disorders, with a focus on articulation and phonology.
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-937 Counseling in Communication Disorders  
This course will review theories of counseling and counseling strategies. Opportunities will be provided to practice counseling strategies. The course will also provide opportunity for personal growth, a requisite for helping our clients change and grow. Other or on demand and every year. 2 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 Augmentative/Alternative Communication  
Principles of augmentative and alternative communication, evaluation, and intervention across diverse populations.  
Every year. 1 Credit  

CD-950 Cognitive Communication Disorders  
Etiology and characteristics of cognition; prevention, evaluation, and intervention of acquired cognitive disorders related to communication sciences and disorders across the lifespan.  
Fall only and every year. 3 Credits  

CD-970 Independent Study 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-980 Research in Communication Sciences and Disorders  
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 the on campus clinic with direct supervision.  
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.  
Every year. 3 Credits