

SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING SCIENCES, B.S.

Studying speech, language, and hearing sciences at Saint Louis University will prepare you for a career as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist. Speech-language pathologists help prevent, identify, assess and treat communication and swallowing disorders, while audiologists help prevent, identify, assess and treat hearing disorders.

If you choose to major in speech, language, and hearing sciences at Saint Louis University, you will observe adults and children with a variety of speech, language and auditory disorders during your undergraduate years. Following the completion of your required courses, you'll also have an opportunity to participate in an elective clinical practicum. Many students also choose to study abroad.

SLU's program requires 38 credits of speech, language, and hearing sciences coursework along with the required credits of Doisy College of Health Sciences (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/>) core curriculum. It also requires 25 credits of clinical observation and completion of a capstone project.

Speech-language pathologists help prevent, identify, assess and provide treatment for communication and swallowing disorders to improve outcomes and quality of life of the client and their families. These include language development, acquired language disorders, stuttering and voice and articulation disorders. Disorders related to literacy also have become an area of focus for speech-language pathologists. Speech-language pathologists provide service to children and adults and work in a variety of settings including schools, hospitals, rehabilitation agencies, nursing homes, private practice and private clinics such as the Saint Louis University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

Audiologists help prevent, identify, assess and treat hearing disorders. Audiologists also evaluate hearing, prescribe and dispense hearing aids, program cochlear implants, assess balance and provide intervention for auditory processing disorders to improve auditory skills, outcomes and quality of life for clients and their families. Audiologists are also involved in monitoring nerve function during surgery. Audiologists work in a variety of settings, including physician offices, hospitals, rehabilitation agencies, nursing homes, private practice and schools.

CSD Undergraduate Handbook (<http://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/csd-undergraduate-handbook.pdf>)

Curriculum Overview

Requirements for the degree include:

- 3.00 cumulative GPA
- 25 hours of clinical observation
- Capstone project
- A minimum of 120 credits (33 credits from core curriculum in addition to 38 credits are required for the major)

SLU undergraduate students in speech, language, and hearing sciences are encouraged to participate in research activities, either faculty-guided independent research or as a research assistant. Such activities provide learning experiences outside the classroom and serve to focus interest in the discipline. In addition to enriching the undergraduate curriculum, engaging in research is a valuable way to prepare for graduate studies.

All students in the program experience guided observation of adults and children with a variety of speech, language and hearing disorders. Undergraduate students meeting all pre-requisites have the opportunity to participate in an elective clinical practicum, typically done the second semester of their senior year.

Clinical and Research Opportunities

Students will observe adults and children with a variety of speech, language and auditory disorders at SLU's Reinert Speech-Language Hearing and Clinic (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/clinics-and-community/speech-hearing-learning-clinic.php>). Following the completion of required courses, students also have an opportunity to participate in an elective clinical practicum.

The senior-year capstone course allows students to actively participate in communication sciences and disorders research.

Careers

Speech-language pathologists typically need a master's degree to practice. Most speech-language pathologists work in schools or health care facilities.

A doctoral degree (either a Ph.D. or an Au.D.) is required for audiologists entering the profession. Most audiologists work in health care facilities.

An undergraduate degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences can also act as preparation for other professional degrees such as medicine, special education or public health.

For those not wishing to pursue an additional degree, one can practice as a speech-language pathology assistant in many states with a B.A. in communication sciences and disorders. Furthermore, some graduates have gotten jobs as research assistants or patient care advocates with a bachelor's degree alone.

Speech-language pathology and audiology professions offer excellent opportunities for employment. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for both professions is positive, with both professions projected to experience "much faster than average growth" in the next decade. Forbes ranked speech-language pathology as a top-25 job of 2019.

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are employed in a variety of settings such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation agencies and private clinics or practices.

Admission Requirements

Freshman Admission

All applicants are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

- High School diploma or acceptable score on the General Educational Development Test (GED)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale
- Saint Louis University has moved to test-optional admission process for all undergraduate programs. Applicants may submit standardized test scores, but those who choose not to will not be disadvantaged in any way in the admission process.

Transfer Admission

Transfer applicants are encouraged to meet with the department for evaluation of their transcript. A 2.50 cumulative GPA is required.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at <https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid> (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Leveling Option

The leveling option is designed for students who wish to pursue a graduate degree in speech-language pathology or audiology and who already have a baccalaureate degree in a different discipline. The curriculum (32 credits) of the leveling option is based on the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences undergraduate curriculum and is designed to provide the courses necessary to apply to a graduate program in one of these professions.

Curriculum Plan (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/csd-lp-curriculum-0518.pdf>)

Accreditation

For more information about the SLU speech, language, and hearing sciences program's student outcomes data (completion rates, Praxis exam pass rates, and employment rates), CAA complaint policy, and accreditation information, please see the Student Outcome Data and Accreditation Information (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/csd-accreditation-0218.pdf>) below.

View Student Outcome Data and Accreditation Information (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/csd-accreditation-0218.pdf>)

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the marginalized status of individuals with disabilities.
2. Graduates will be able to identify how students' actions can impact their professional decisions with ethical consequences.
3. Graduates will be able to apply the principles of evidence-based research to understand typical speech and language development.
4. Graduates will be able to apply the principles of evidence-based practice to identify acceptable treatment methodologies.

Requirements

Students in SLU's speech, language, and hearing sciences undergraduate program take the following courses.

Standard

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
BIOL 1931 or BIOL 1240	Special Topics General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution	3
CMM 1200 or THR 2540	Public Speaking Voice & Diction	3
ENGL 1500	The Process of Composition (Not required if received higher than 25 on ACT)	3
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research	3
HSCI 2200	Medical Terminology	3
MATH 1300 or STAT 1100	Elementary Statistics with Computers Introduction to Statistics	3
PHYS 1050 or CHEM 1080	Intro to Physics of Human Body Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture	3
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
PHIL XXXX	Philosophy Elective	3
THEO XXXX	Theology Elective	3
XXXX	Fine Arts Elective	3
XXXX	Modern Foreign Language Elective	3
CSD Courses		
CSDI 2000	Phonetics	2
CSDI 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CSDI 2400	Foundations of Language	3
CSDI 3200	Speech Science	3
CSDI 3400	Hearing Science	3
CSDI 3000	Cultural Linguistic Diversity	3
CSDI 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
CSDI 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
CSDI 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
CSDI 4300	Clinical Methods	3
CSDI 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
CSDI 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
CSDI 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
CSDI 4800	Senior Seminar	2
Optional Courses		
CSDI 1000	Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders	
CSDI 1420	Deaf Culture and Sign Language	
CSDI 4050	Research Seminar	
CSDI 4060	Research Practicum	
CSDI 4600	Advanced Audiology	
CSDI 4700	Clinical Practicum	
CSDI 4900	Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment	
Total Credits		74

Continuation Standards

- All communication sciences and disorders courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher in order to count for the major (courses may only be taken twice).

- Students must maintain a 2.50 cumulative GPA as freshmen and sophomores, a 2.75 cumulative GPA as juniors, a 2.90 cumulative GPA as seniors and a 3.0 cumulative GPA is required to graduate.
- Students will be dismissed from the program if they are on probation for three semesters and do not meet the GPA requirements.

SLHS Scholars

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
BIOL 1931	Special Topics	3
CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
or THR 2540	Voice & Diction	
ENGL 1500	The Process of Composition (must take if received 25 or below on ACT)	3
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research	3
HSCI 2200	Medical Terminology	3
MATH 1300	Elementary Statistics with Computers	3
or STAT 1100	Introduction to Statistics	
PHYS 1050	Intro to Physics of Human Body	3
or CHEM 1050	Basic Chemistry	
PHIL XXXX	Philosophy Elective	3
THEO XXXX	Theology Elective	3
XXXX	Fine Art Elective	3
XXXX	Modern Foreign Language Elective	3
PSY XXXX	Psychology Elective	3
CSD Courses		
CSDI 2000	Phonetics	2
CSDI 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CSDI 2400	Foundations of Language	3
CSDI 3000	Cultural Linguistic Diversity	3
CSDI 3200	Speech Science	3
CSDI 3400	Hearing Science	3
CSDI 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
CSDI 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
CSDI 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
CSDI 4300	Clinical Methods	3
CSDI 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
CSDI 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
CSDI 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
CSDI 4600	Advanced Audiology	2
or CSDI 4900	Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment	
CSDI 4700	Clinical Practicum	1
CSDI 4800	Senior Seminar	2
CSDI 4900	Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment	2
Optional Courses		
CSDI 1000	Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders	
CSDI 1420	Deaf Culture and Sign Language	
CSDI 4050	Research Seminar	
CSDI 4060	Research Practicum	

CSDI 4650	Counseling	
Total Credits		79

Continuation Standards

- SLHS Scholars (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/undergraduate/csd-scholars.php>) must maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA through completion of the bachelor's degree and obtain a "B" or higher in all required CSD Scholars courses.
- CSD Scholars must enroll in CSDI 4600 or 4900 as an advanced course senior year and enroll in CSDI 4700 during spring of senior year.
- CSD Scholars must obtain at least 15 clinical clock hours and 25 observation hours.

Minor

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
CSDI 1000	Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
CSDI 2000	Phonetics	2
CSDI 2400	Foundations of Language	3
CSDI 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
CSDI 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
Choose One of the Following:		3
CSDI 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	
CSDI 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	
CSDI 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	
Total Credits		17

Leveling Program

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
CSDI 2000	Phonetics	2
CSDI 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CSDI 2400	Foundations of Language	3
CSDI 3200	Speech Science	3
CSDI 3400	Hearing Science	3
CSDI 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
CSDI 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
CSDI 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
CSDI 4300	Clinical Methods	3
CSDI 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
CSDI 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
CSDI 4650	Counseling	2
Total Credits		32

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Standard

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CSDI 1000	Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders (Or Elective)	3
CSDI 1420	Deaf Culture and Sign Language (or elective)	2
ENGL 1500	The Process of Composition (If received 25 or higher on ACT, can take elective instead)	3
IPE 1100	Introduction to Interprofessional Health Care (Or Elective)	1
STAT 1100 or MATH 1300	Introduction to Statistics or Elementary Statistics with Computers	3
PHIL XXXX	Philosophy Elective	3
Credits		15
Spring		
CSDI 2400	Foundations of Language	3
IPE 3500	Health Care Systems and Health Promotion (Or Elective)	3
PHYS 1050 or CHEM 1050	Intro to Physics of Human Body or Basic Chemistry	3
XXXX	Modern Foreign Language Elective	3
THEO 1XXX	Theology	3
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
CSDI 2000	Phonetics	2
CSDI 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CSDI 3400	Hearing Science	3
EDSP 4310	Ed & Psych of the Exp Ind (Or Elective)	3
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research	3
HCE 2010 or PHIL 3360	Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics or Medical Ethics	3
Credits		17
Spring		
CSDI 3200	Speech Science	3
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
XXXX	Human Development Across the Lifespan Elective ¹	3
XXXX	Fine Art Elective	3
XXXX	Elective	3
Credits		15

Year Three

Fall

BIOL 1240 or BIOL 1260	General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution or General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter	3
CSDI 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
EDSP 3700	Intro to Disabilities Studies (Or Elective)	3
PSY 3210	Developmental Psych: Child	3
XXXX	Elective	3

Credits 15

Spring

CSDI 3000 or EDF 3620	Cultural Linguistic Diversity or Culture and the Classroom	3
CSDI 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
CSDI 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
THR 2540 or CMM 1200	Voice & Diction or Public Speaking	3
XXXX	Elective	3

Credits 15

Year Four

Fall

Participation in / Completion of 25 observation hours by mid-December, if you plan to take CSDI 4700, otherwise by mid-April of Senior year for graduation

CSDI 4300	Clinical Methods	3
CSDI 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
CSDI 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
HSCI 2200	Medical Terminology	3
XXXX	Elective	3
XXXX	Elective	3

Credits 16

Spring

CSDI 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
CSDI 4600	Advanced Audiology (or CSDI Elective)	2
CSDI 4650	Counseling (Or Elective)	2
CSDI 4700	Clinical Practicum (or CSDI Elective)	1
CSDI 4800	Senior Seminar	2
CSDI 4900	Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment	2
EDSP 3560	Special Ed. Process (Or Elective)	2

Credits 14

Total Credits 122

Program Notes

If you plan to take CSDI 4700, you must complete 25 observation hours by mid-December; otherwise, by mid-April as this is a graduation requirement.

Minimum credits for graduation is 120 (core credit hours = 33 hours)

SLHS Scholars

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CSDI 1000	Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders (Or Elective)	3
CSDI 1420	Deaf Culture and Sign Language (or elective)	2
ENGL 1500	The Process of Composition (If received 25 or higher on ACT, can take elective instead)	3
IPE 1100	Introduction to Interprofessional Health Care (Or Elective)	1
STAT 1100 or MATH 1300	Introduction to Statistics or Elementary Statistics with Computers	3
PHIL XXXX	Philosophy Elective	3
Credits		15
Spring		
CSDI 2400	Foundations of Language	3
IPE 3500	Health Care Systems and Health Promotion (Or Elective)	3
PHYS 1050 or CHEM 1050	Intro to Physics of Human Body or Basic Chemistry	3
XXXX	Modern Foreign Language Elective	3
THEO 1XXX	Theology	3
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
CSDI 2000	Phonetics	2
CSDI 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CSDI 3400	Hearing Science	3
EDSP 4310	Ed & Psych of the Exp Ind (Or Elective)	3
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research	3
HCE 2010 or PHIL 3360	Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics or Medical Ethics	3
Credits		17
Spring		
CSDI 3200	Speech Science	3
XXXX	Human Development Across the Lifespan Elective ¹	3
XXXX	Fine Art Elective	3
XXXX	Elective	3
XXXX	Elective	3
Credits		12
Year Three		
Fall		
BIOL 1931	Special Topics	3
CSDI 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
EDSP 3700	Intro to Disabilities Studies (Or Elective)	3
PSY 3210	Developmental Psych: Child	3
XXXX	Elective	3
Credits		15

Spring		
CSDI 3000 or EDF 3620	Cultural Linguistic Diversity or Culture and the Classroom	3
CSDI 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
CSDI 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
THR 2540 or CMM 1200	Voice & Diction or Public Speaking	3
XXXX	Elective	3
Credits		15
Year Four		
Fall		
Participation in / Completion of 25 observation hours by mid-December in order to take CSDI 4700		
CSDI 4300	Clinical Methods	3
CSDI 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
CSDI 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
HSCI 2200	Medical Terminology	3
XXXX	Elective	3
XXXX	Elective	3
Credits		16
Spring		
CSDI 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
CSDI 4600 or CSDI 4900	Advanced Audiology or Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment	2
CSDI 4650	Counseling (Or Elective)	2
CSDI 4700	Clinical Practicum (or CSDI Elective)	1
CSDI 4800	Senior Seminar	2
CSDI 4900	Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment	2
EDSP 3560	Special Ed. Process (Or Elective)	2
XXXX	Elective	3
Credits		17
Total Credits		122

Program Notes

CSD Scholars (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/undergraduate/csd-scholars.php>) are required to take CSDI 4700. Minimum credits for graduation is 120 (CSD credits = 41). Minor is not required for graduation, though suggested.

Leveling Program

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CSDI 2000	Phonetics	2
CSDI 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CSDI 3400	Hearing Science	3
CSDI 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
CSDI 4300	Clinical Methods	3

CSDI 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
Credits		15
Spring		
CSDI 2400	Foundations of Language	3
CSDI 3200	Speech Science	3
CSDI 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
CSDI 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
CSDI 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
CSDI 4650	Counseling	2
Credits		17
Total Credits		32

Program Notes

The leveling option is designed for students who wish to pursue a graduate degree in speech-language pathology or audiology and who already have a baccalaureate degree in a different discipline. The curriculum (32 credit hours) is based on the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences undergraduate curriculum and is designed to provide the courses necessary to apply to a graduate program in one of these professions. Completion of the leveling program does not guarantee admission into the graduate program.

Contact Us

Apply for Admission (<https://www.slu.edu/admission/>)

For additional admission questions please contact:

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