

# SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING SCIENCES, M.S.

Saint Louis University's Department of (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/communication-sciences-disorders/>) Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences offers a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. The Master's of Science degree is a two-year, six-semester program which starts in the summer semester. The program is designed to prepare professionals to provide evidence-based high-quality services to persons with communication and swallowing disorders. A focus of the program is to develop clinicians who are prepared to serve culturally and linguistically diverse populations across the life span.

Students must have a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders or speech-language pathology to apply to the graduate program. Students interested in the communication sciences and disorders graduate degree that have a bachelor's degree in a different discipline can complete the SLU CSD Leveling Option (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/csd-lp-curriculum-0518.pdf>) before applying.

SLU's Master of Science in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences is a two-year graduate program with a typical class size of 30 to 40 students. Over the past three years, the program's graduation rate is 97%, while the Praxis pass rate and the employment rate of the graduating class is 99%. Graduate students will complete a clinical practicum in each term; the program is six semesters, including two summers, and students begin the program in the summer semester.

## Curriculum Overview

SLU's Master of Science in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences program is six semesters, including two summers. Students begin in the summer.

All graduate students must complete 61 credits, including a required clinical practicum each term. Research students will also complete a thesis for six elective credits.

Students must enroll in five terms (semester or summer) of graduate course credit clinical practicum during their study. Additionally, six credits of off-campus clinical practice are completed during the last semester of study.

Other required courses include:

- Research for the Clinician
- Speech Disorders in Children
- Social Communication Development and Disorders
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Early Childhood Language Disorders
- School-Age Language Disorders
- Fluency Disorders
- Dysphagia
- Voice Disorders
- Neurogenic Communication Disorders in Adults
- Motor Speech Disorders

- Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology
- Cognitive Communication Disorders

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

## Clinical and Research Opportunities

A major strength of SLU's M.S. in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences is the wide variety of clinical practicum experiences available to graduate students. The department has strong working relationships with hospitals, schools, rehabilitation facilities and community clinics in St. Louis and surrounding areas.

### Clinical Practicum Sites

Students will experience at least two separate off-campus clinical placements, often obtaining 50 clinical hours or more at each site. Additionally, students gain experience in SLU's Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/clinics-and-community/speech-hearing-learning-clinic.php>). During their last semester, students are ready for a full-time internship, consisting of placements in both medical and educational settings. Students typically obtain considerably more than the minimum clock hours required by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and are well-prepared to begin their professional careers.

## Careers

Graduates have gone on to careers at public and private schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, clinics, private practices and universities. Speech-language pathology is rated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as one of the fastest-growing professions in the country — it's predicted to grow 25% by 2029. The median annual salary for a speech-language pathologist in 2020 was \$80,480.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants must have an undergraduate degree in communication science and disorders or have successfully completed the prerequisite courses in the field.

Individuals with a bachelor's degree in a different discipline are not eligible for admission into the graduate program until completion of the undergraduate prerequisite courses. Students may be eligible for admission into the speech, language and hearing sciences leveling program (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/csd-lp-curriculum-0518.pdf>).

Students must meet clinical practicum eligibility requirements for participation in the required clinical practicum.

### Application Requirements

- Application through CSDCAS (<https://csdcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>). (The SLU CSDCAS code is 4621)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Résumé
- Professional goal statement
- Applicants must possess a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and 3.0 GPA in the major
- Visit (encouraged)

## Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

## Assistantship Application Deadline

Students who want to be considered for an assistantship must submit their application by Feb. 1.

## Review Process

The department admissions committee will begin the review of the applications after the Feb. 1 deadline. Each application and supporting materials are comprehensively reviewed for admission consideration.

Students who are offered admission to the program will receive an assistantship application at the time of their acceptance notification.

The Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences adheres to the national deadline of April 15 to extend offers of admission to applicants as set forth by American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (<https://www.asha.org/>), Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (<http://www.capsd.org/>) and the Council of Graduate Schools.

## 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 (33 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>)

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for graduate assistantship, apply by Feb. 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at <http://finaid.slu.edu>.

## 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 compassionate ethical behavior during clinical practice.
2. Graduates will be able to apply clinical reasoning to effectively address the communication needs across the lifespan.
3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate effective interactions with others during academic discourse.
4. Graduates will be able to fulfill clinical responsibilities in a professional manner.
5. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to evaluate appropriate information from various sources to effectively implement evidence-based practice.

## Requirements

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

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
CSDI 5010	Clinical Practicum Lecture (taken multiple semesters)	5
CSDI 5030	Student Teaching in Communication Sciences and Disorders	6
or CSDI 5910	Clinical Externship	
CSDI 5050	Research for the Clinician	2
CSDI 5450	Speech Sound Disorders in Children	2
CSDI 5510	Social Communication Development and Disorders	2
CSDI 5530	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2
CSDI 5550	Early Childhood Language Disorders	3
CSDI 5560	School-Age Language Disorders	3
CSDI 5600	Fluency Disorders	3
CSDI 5630	Dysphagia	3
CSDI 5700	Voice Disorders	3
CSDI 5720	Neurogenic Communication Disorders in Adults	3
CSDI 5760	Motor Speech Disorders	3
CSDI 5770	Multicultural Assessment and Management of Communication Disorders	2
CSDI 5800	Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology	1
CSDI 5820	Cognitive Communication Disorders	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select four credits from the following Electives or six credits in Thesis:		4-6
CSDI 5580	Language Based Literacy Disorders	
CSDI 5710	Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies	
CSDI 5880	Advanced Audiology	
CSDI 5890	Institute in Comm Disorders	
CSDI 5930	Special Topics	
CSDI 5990	Thesis Research	

CSDI 5100	Counseling for the SLP
CSDI 5520	Pediatric Dysphagia
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>50-52</b>

Students must complete Clinical Practicum for five semesters. In the last semester, students complete a 16-week full-time externship, either in an educational setting or in a medical setting (CSDI 5030 Student Teaching in Communication Sciences and Disorders and CSDI 5910 Clinical Externship).

It is a requirement of the speech, language, and hearing sciences graduate program that all students complete a course in Aural Rehabilitation and Neurological Bases of Communication. Students who have not had these courses as an undergraduate will need to take them in the graduate program in addition to the master's program requirements. These would be required courses rather than electives.

## Leveling Program

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
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
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>32</b>

## Continuation Standards

### Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

## 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.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Summer</b>		
CSDI 5010	Clinical Practicum Lecture	1
CSDI 5011	Clinical Lab	1
CSDI 5600	Fluency Disorders	3
CSDI 5890	Institute in Comm Disorders (Elective)	2
CSDI 4750	Neurobases of Communication (if not taken in undergrad)	3
CSDI 5710	Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies (Elective)	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9-12</b>
<b>Fall</b>		
CSDI 5010	Clinical Practicum Lecture	1
CSDI 5012	Practicum - Campus Clinic	1
CSDI 5050	Research for the Clinician	2
CSDI 5450	Speech Sound Disorders in Children	2
CSDI 5550	Early Childhood Language Disorders	3
CSDI 5630	Dysphagia	3
CSDI 4400	Aural Rehabilitation (Required if not taken as undergraduate)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>12-15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
CSDI 5010	Clinical Practicum Lecture	1
CSDI 5012	Practicum - Campus Clinic	2
CSDI 5510	Social Communication Development and Disorders	2
CSDI 5560	School-Age Language Disorders	3
CSDI 5720	Neurogenic Communication Disorders in Adults	3
CSDI 5770	Multicultural Assessment and Management of Communication Disorders	2
CSDI 5880	Advanced Audiology (Elective)	
CSDI 5930	Special Topics (Elective)	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Summer</b>		
CSDI 5010	Clinical Practicum Lecture	1
CSDI 5012	Practicum - Campus Clinic	1
CSDI 5530	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Fall</b>		
CSDI 5010	Clinical Practicum Lecture	1
CSDI 5015	Practicum - Offsite Clinic	2
CSDI 5700	Voice Disorders	3
CSDI 5760	Motor Speech Disorders	3
CSDI 5800	Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology	1
CSDI 5820	Cognitive Communication Disorders	3
CSDI 5580	Language Based Literacy Disorders (Elective)	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring**

CSDI 5030 or CSDI 5910	Student Teaching in Communication Sciences and Disorders or Clinical Externship	6
<b>Credits</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>59-65</b>

## Program Notes

Electives: Six credits of electives are required. Thesis credits meet the elective requirements.

All graduate students must complete 61 credits: 44 academic credits and 17 clinical practicum credit. Students are required to enroll in one of the clinical practicum courses every semester.

It is a requirement of the speech, language, and hearing sciences graduate program that all students complete a course in Aural Rehabilitation and Neurological Bases of Communication. Students who have not had these courses as an undergraduate will need to take them in the graduate program in addition to the master's program requirements.

## Leveling Program

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
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
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
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
<b>Credits</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>32</b>

## Contact Us

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

For additional admission questions please contact:

Julie Miller  
Recruitment Specialist  
314-977-2570  
dchs@health.slu.edu