Communication Disorders, MS

You can make a difference in the lives of children and adults with autism, hearing impairment, neurogenic and other communication disorders. There is a growing need for speech language pathologists, and even in difficult economic times, certified SPLs are able to find employment in early intervention programs, schools, hospitals and clinics.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Communication Disorders

The MS in communication disorders is a full-time residential program that can be completed in 20 months and prepares students to become certified speech language pathologists. The master's degree program trains students to evaluate and treat clients in speech, language, cognitive and communication disorders.

The first year of the program focuses on developing knowledge and skills in assessment and treatment of communication disorders across the lifespan. Hybrid courses use Â‘flipped classroomsÂ’ and problem-based learning to develop skills needed in the field. The second year of the program allows students to focus their interests in specialty areas and acquire clinical skills in external clinical placements.

The program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

This program provides a wide range of research and clinical opportunities. Clinical settings include inpatient and outpatient medical sites, public schools, early intervention programs and private practices. A part-time employment program is available for speech language pathology assistants who are working in a public school setting.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Health Solutions
- **Location:** Tempe campus
Degree Requirements

52 credit hours and a written comprehensive exam, or
52 credit hours, a thesis and a written comprehensive exam

Required Core (31 credit hours)
SHS 538 Clinical Methods in Speech-Language Pathology (3)
SHS 539 Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology (2)
SHS 567 Neural Bases of Communication Disorders (2)
SHS 570 Communication Disorders and Multicultural Populations (2) or SHS 597 Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology (2)
SHS 571 Augmentative Communication and Language Programming (2)
SHS 572 Language Assessment and Intervention in Infants and Toddlers (2)
SHS 573 Language Assessment and Intervention with School-Age Populations (2)
SHS 574 Management of Voice and Swallowing Disorders (2)
SHS 575 Aphasia and Related Neurogenic Language Disorders (2)
SHS 577 Current Assessment, Intervention and Research in Autism (2)
SHS 578 Fluency Disorders (2)
SHS 581 Right Hemisphere Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury and Dementia (2)
SHS 582 Differential Diagnosis of Communication Disorders (2)
SHS 585 Articulation and Phonology: Assessment and Intervention (2)
SHS 587 Language Assessment and Intervention with Preschool Populations (2)

Electives (0 or 6 credit hours)

Other Requirements (15 credit hours)
SHS 500 Research Methods (1)
SHS 580 Clinical Practicum (6)
SHS 584 Clinical Internship (8)

Culminating Experience (0 or 6 credit hours)
written comprehensive exam (0) or
SHS 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curricular Information
Core course SHS 538 is one credit hour taken three times for a total of three credit hours.

Students in the nongraduate option take six credit hours of electives. Students should see the academic unit for an approved list of elective courses.
Both the thesis and nonthesis options require the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Praxis national exam in speech language pathology. This is the comprehensive exam for the thesis option. For the nonthesis option, a department-administered comprehensive examination in speech-language pathology is required along with the national exam to fulfill the requirements of the comprehensive exam.

Eligibility for graduation is based upon a passing score on the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Praxis national certification examination in speech-language pathology; successful completion of the thesis or nonthesis option, including the required culminating experience and academic credits; and successful completion of clinical experiences.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Health Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's degree in speech and hearing science or a related field from a regionally accredited institution and completed prerequisite coursework in speech and hearing.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement not to exceed 300 words
4. GRE scores
5. email addresses of three recommenders
6. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines and admission terms. Candidates who have undergraduate deficiencies may need to take required prerequisite courses.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**
Global Opportunities

PLuS Alliance
Global Experience
Global Degree

Career Opportunities

Contact Information

College of Health Solutions | HLTHN 401AA
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Admission Deadlines