

Speech-Language Pathology (MSSLP)

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MSSLP) serves either as professional preparation for clinical certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) or as preparation for graduate study leading to the Ph.D. degree. The MSSLP program provides a broad range of basic science courses and specialized offerings emphasizing evaluation and treatment of language, articulation, fluency, voice, swallowing, and neurologically-based communication disorders. Students are prepared for careers as clinicians in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and community clinics.

Clinical practicum experiences occur at the on-campus Speech and Hearing Center and many affiliated clinics, rehabilitation centers, schools, and hospitals. Within this framework, students must meet the academic and practicum requirements leading to the Clinical Fellowship (CF) that occurs post graduation. Completion of the CF results in eligibility for national certification, the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP) awarded by ASHA, and eligibility for State of Alabama Licensure. THE MSSLP program is a full-time, in-residence program. For the students with backgrounds in communication sciences and disorders, the MSSLP program typically extends for five academic semesters, including one semester of clinical externship. For those students who do not have a background in communication sciences and disorders, the program of study can be expected to last six academic semesters.

Typical Requirements For The Degree

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology degree requires:

1. A minimum of five semesters of full-time study. The final semester is spent off campus completing the externship. Students who enter the program without a background in communication sciences and disorders will require additional coursework and six semesters of full-time study.
2. A minimum GPA of 3.0.
3. A passing grade on comprehensive examinations before leaving for the externship, or satisfactory completion of a thesis.
4. Demonstration of academic and clinical competencies as reflected in the 2020 Standards for Clinical Certification in Speech-Language Pathology Verification by Program Director document. This includes verification of completed coursework in biological science, physical science, social/behavioral science, and statistics. Typically, this coursework is completed at the undergraduate level.
5. Completion of 375 supervised clinical clock hours in the required areas as stipulated by ASHA. Students without an undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders or related field must complete 25 hours of clinical observation before beginning the supervised clinical experience to meet the 375 clinical clock hour requirement.

Retention Policies

1. Any term in which a graduate student enrolled in the MSSLP program drops below a 3.0 GPA, the student will be placed on probationary status and has a period of one semester to attain a 3.0 GPA or be dismissed from the program.
2. Any student who receives a grade lower than a "C" in a graduate level course will be dismissed from the program.
3. A "C" in any combination of two or more MSSLP courses will result in academic dismissal.
4. Students whose performance falls below standards in a course or clinical experience may be required to complete additional and/or augmentative coursework or clinical experiences as needed to meet ASHA's standards for clinical certification. As such, graduation could be delayed.
5. If for any reason a student must withdraw from the MSSLP program, re-admission will require approval of the Department Chairperson and the Dean of the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions.
6. If a student is dismissed from a program prior to the end of the regular semester and that dismissal occurs after the University's refund deadline, the student will not receive any type of refund even if the next series of classes have not begun.

Department Information

Speech Pathology and Audiology Faculty		(251) 445-9378
Chair	Elizabeth M. Adams	
Dean Emeritus	Talbot	
Professor Emeritus	Dagenais, Evans, Sellers	
Associate Professor Emeritus	Moore	
Assistant Professor Emeritus	Holston	
Professor	Beverly	
Associate Professors	Adams, Davis, Gordon-Hickey, Ramkissoon	
Assistant Professors	Choi, Flagge, Garand, Henbest, Mosley, Nichols, Rishiq, Roberts, Smith	
Senior Instructor	Hudson	
Instructors	Brown, Hill, Wiles	

Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology website
<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/alliedhealth/speechandhearing>

The mission of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology is to provide undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs that challenge the students to achieve the highest standards of academic learning, scientific inquiry and clinical excellence. The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology seeks to deliver a comprehensive program of academic, research and clinical training in the areas of speech, language and hearing development and disorders. The Department offers a minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology, Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences in Speech-Language Pathology, Doctor of Audiology, and Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Sciences and Disorders degree programs.

The undergraduate program in Speech and Hearing Sciences readies the graduate for a variety of career and educational options based on the knowledge gained from this degree and individual interests and skills. Students who complete the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology degree program will meet all the academic and practicum requirements to be eligible for the Clinical Fellowship (CF) that leads to national certification (CCC-SLP) by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and eligibility for the Alabama state licensure. Students who complete the Doctor of Audiology degree program will meet all the academic and practicum requirements for national certification (CCC- A) and will also be eligible for the Alabama state licensure.

The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology offers a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science, Speech-Language Pathology (MSRS SLP) degree aimed at providing students with rich, robust, clinically relevant, and evidence-based learning experiences. Graduates will have a strong understanding of entry-level and advanced clinical services, will utilize evidence-based research relevant to the field, demonstrate leadership skills that impact delivery of high quality care for patients, and develop skills needed to serve as a patient educator, clinical educator, or faculty member. This program is intended to support international clinicians and academicians wishing to gain further experience with a variety of disorders and principles of rehabilitation. This program is not accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) and does not lead to licensure or professional certification in the United States. Graduation from this program does not guarantee admission to a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology or Doctor of Audiology programs. Students enrolled in this program are not eligible for federal financial aid. Admission to the MSRS SLP program is on a competitive basis. For admissions information, visit the department's website. The MSRS SLP program is an in-residence program requiring 30 credit hours.

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program at the University of South Alabama is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, (800)-498-2071 or (301)-296-5700.

The Doctor of Audiology program at the University of South Alabama is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, (800)-498-2071 or (301)-296-5700.