

Our Speech-Language Pathology Faculty

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Sample Curriculum

MASTER OF SCIENCE SLP STUDENTS WITHBACKGROUND

YEAR 1 (FALL)*
Research Methods
Neurology of Speech & Language
Clinical Principles & Procedures
Child Language Impairments I & II
Articulation Disorders & Phonetics

YEAR 1 (SPRING)*
Dysphagia
Aphasia
Child Language Impairments III
Traumatic Brain Injury

YEAR 1 (SUMMER)*
Motor Speech Disorders
Voice Disorders
Craniofacial Anomalies

YEAR 2 (FALL)*
Acoustics & Perception
Stuttering
Communication in Autism
Augmentative & Alternative Communication

YEAR 2 (SPRING)*
Family-Centered Counseling
Professional Issues
Clinical Externship

MASTER OF SCIENCE SLP STUDENTS WITHOUTBACKGROUND

YEAR 1 (FALL)*
Research Methods
Neurology of Speech & Language
Child Language Acquisition
Clinical Principles & Procedures
Articulation Disorders & Phonetics

YEAR 1 (SPRING)*
Anatomy & Physiology of Speech & Hearing Mechanisms
Aphasia
Dysphagia
Traumatic Brain Injury

YEAR 1 (SUMMER)*
Pediatric Feeding & Swallowing Disorders
Motor Speech Disorders
Voice Disorders
Craniofacial Anomalies

YEAR 2 (FALL)*
Augmentative & Alternative Communication
Acoustics & Perception
Child Language Impairments I & II
Stuttering
Communication in Autism

YEAR 2 (SPRING)*
Child Language Impairments III
Professional Issues
Family-Centered Counseling

YEAR 2 (SUMMER)*
Clinical Externship

*Practicum and Clinical Case Conference Enrollment

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) program at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine 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.

VANDERBILT School of Medicine

Hearing and Speech Sciences

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2019

Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (M.S.-SLP)

OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEARING AND SPEECH SCIENCES
VANDERBILT BILL WILKERSON CENTER FOR OTOLARYNGOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCES

medschool.vanderbilt.edu/hearing-speech/
vanderbiltbillwilkinsoncenter.com



The Vanderbilt University Graduate Program in Hearing and Speech Sciences was established in 1951. It is the largest graduate program in the School of Medicine and one of the largest graduate programs at Vanderbilt University. Currently, the Master of Science degree program in Speech-Language Pathology (M.S.-SLP) **is ranked first in the country by *U.S. News and World Report***. The M.S.-SLP program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Degree Program

The Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center (VBWC) offers its M.S.-SLP degree students one of the finest training facilities in the country. Within the VBWC, over 20,000 square feet are dedicated to graduate studies in communication disorders. Additionally, the Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) and its affiliated clinics and hospitals provide a wide variety of health care training venues for our graduate students. The Department also has affiliations with public and private schools. These facilities provide opportunities for exposure to the full gamut of inpatient and outpatient speech-language pathology services as well as deaf education, audiology, and otolaryngology programs. Within the Department, our large clinical service programs and multidisciplinary teams log over 85,000 patient visits annually.

The M.S.-SLP degree program provides clinical education leading to the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language

Pathology. The course of study spans 20 – 24 months (depending on the student’s undergraduate background) and covers at least five semesters (52 – 59 semester hours), including the summer session following the first calendar year of full-time study. The program culminates in a ten-week clinical or research externship.

Specialty Tracks

Applicants for specialty tracks are expected to self-identify their interest to the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) at the time of application and in their personal statement submitted as part of the application process for admission into the graduate program.

Early Identification and Management of Children with Hearing Loss

Students enrolled in this Specialty Track will have additional coursework and practicum experience that will prepare them to work with infants and children who are deaf or hard of hearing. This interdisciplinary approach

to training – by combining core courses with speech-language pathology, audiology, and deaf education students while continuing separate courses that are specific to their disciplines – is unique to our Vanderbilt program. This training includes a full-time Maymester immersion program at a site that specializes in childhood hearing loss.

Infants and Young Children with Autism

Students enrolled in this Specialty Track will have additional coursework and practicum experience that will prepare them to work with infants and young children with autism. In addition, most students finishing this track will meet criteria for BCaBA certification.

Schools

The pediatric coursework in the required SLP curriculum provides a foundation for students to build additional skills for school speech-language pathology specialization. In particular, the language disorders course sequence and the speech sound disorders course are taught from the perspective of school-based practice, providing students a strong foundation in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Additionally, students on the School SLP Track participate in a seminar each semester and complete school practicum experiences in the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools and the Vanderbilt Reading Clinic.

Admissions

The Master of Science degree program in speech-language pathology (M.S.-SLP) is administered through the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Students with academic backgrounds in communication sciences and disorders and other related professions (e.g. biomedical sciences, psychology, counseling, education and linguistics) are encouraged to apply. Students without an undergraduate background in communication sciences and disorders will require extra coursework and their course of study is extended an additional semester. Students who apply without a background in communication sciences and disorders are strongly encouraged to complete 25 hours of guided observation hours of clinical practice prior to starting the MS-SLP program. Observation hours should vary across providers, settings, ages, and disorders; however, they must be provided by an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist.

All students must possess: GRE scores consistent with Vanderbilt University’s standards for graduate admission; a strong record of academic achievement; excellent oral and written communication skills; a willingness to work collaboratively in a team; a strong work ethic; perseverance; strong organizational and time management skills; a good understanding of the disorders, settings, and age groups encountered in clinical practice in

speech-language pathology; and a commitment to the profession.

It is necessary for all M.S.-SLP students to have satisfied the following prerequisites prior to admission to the Vanderbilt program.

- (1) Biological Sciences (at least one course, for example, Intro to Biology)
- (2) Physics or Chemistry (coursework does not have to be at a level for science majors, but it does need to carry full college credit and be applicable to a general science requirement)
- (3) Statistics
- (4) Social/Behavioral Sciences (at least one course in Psychology, Political Science, Economics, or Anthropology)

The above four areas of study are required by the Council on Clinical Certification of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for credentialing purposes as prerequisites for initiating graduate study in accredited SLP programs.

Online Application

The Master of Science degree program in Speech-Language Pathology (M.S.-SLP) is administered through the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

The program has been developed for full-time residential students only. Applications are accepted only for the Fall semester. The deadline for Fall semester applications is January 15.

M.S.-SLP applicants apply for the program online by going to the Medical School’s website at: **<https://apply.vanderbilt.edu>** If you have any questions regarding the application process, please email Department of Hearing and Speech Science’s Program Manager, Christelle Luchsinger at Christelle.luchsinger@vanderbilt.edu.

Financial Aid

The Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences has scholarships and specialty track grants currently available for outstanding M.S.-SLP students. All applicants to our program are automatically considered for scholarship support. In addition, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine supports a financial aid department that is committed to assisting students with financial aid and loans. For additional information log onto the Department of Financial Aid’s website at: **vanderbilt.edu/financialaid/**

Phone: 615-322-2145
E-mail: medfinaid@vanderbilt.edu

On-campus Visits

You can visit the department during our scheduled tours where you will learn more about the program and the facilities. To schedule your visit, fill out the online form on our website.

medschool.vanderbilt.edu/hearing-speech/about-us/visit/

