

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.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

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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

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

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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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 70,000 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 at a site of the student’s choosing.

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.

Schools
The department offers specialty track training in school speech-language pathology for those students who plan to pursue a career in schools working with students ages 3 through 21. 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.

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.

Medical Speech Pathology
Medical speech-language pathology is an approach to patient care with a specific set of clinical processes and expected outcomes. These outcomes address the medical, social, and psychological well-being of patients with communication and swallowing disorders. The goal of this specialty track is to help prepare students for working with patients in a variety of settings (e.g. hospital-based, in-patient rehabilitation) where there is a strong focus on interprofessional practice and collaborative decision making. Preference for acceptance to this track will be given to applicants who have had an undergraduate background in speech-language pathology. Most of the required courses for this track are part of the standard curriculum. However, students will take additional seminars and enroll in workshops/seminars targeting specific instrumental skills and specialty practice. Additional practicum experiences occur in the Acute Care Division and the Vanderbilt Voice Center.

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 also required to provide evidence of completion of at least 25 hours of observation of clinical practice provided by an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist. Observations hours should vary across providers, settings, ages, and disorders.

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)

Although other courses, for example, Fundamentals of Hearing Science, are useful, 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 pre-requisites 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 a limited number of scholarships 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/](https://apply.vanderbilt.edu)**

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

On-campus Visits

On-campus visits for prospective students are scheduled by appointment on Monday and Friday mornings (depending upon the availability of faculty and staff). These take approximately 3 hours. To arrange a visit, please contact Christelle Luchsinger at Christelle.luchsinger@vanderbilt.edu.

