Program Overview

The Division of Speech-Language Pathology, in the School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at San Diego State University (SDSU), offers a Master of Arts (MA) degree program in speech-language pathology, accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). The Program’s focus is on educating the finest SLPs in the United States, broadly trained in all clinical practices, and educated in basic and applied research perspectives of the communication sciences and disorders. It is an extremely diverse program in terms of course content, client populations, and geographic distribution of the students both within and outside of the United States.

Students in the Program have the advantage of an outstanding teaching and research faculty, research laboratories, and state-of-the-art speech, language, and hearing clinic facilities. Experiences with clients of all ages, ethnicities, and potential disorders, seen under the supervision of specialized clinical faculty, are available. Students are able to take advantage of numerous outplacement facilities including hospitals, private clinics, public schools, and diagnostic centers that serve the greater San Diego area.

General Program of Study

The program of study prepares students to practice in a number of different environments from public schools to hospital clinics and across different ages and disorder groups. All students entering the Program take the same basic curriculum. Unique dimensions include the following: a) specialization within a given area of interest is possible through several avenues; b) several specialty credentials are available including the Certificate in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology; c) the SDSU/UCSD joint doctoral programs in Audiology and in Language and Communicative Disorders serve to enhance the diversity of the educational experiences for students seeking the master’s degree; and d) students who enter the MA program have the opportunity for laboratory rotations with some of the top speech, language, and hearing researchers in the country.

Course Requirements

The graduate program for students with a background in speech-language sciences is five semesters of full time study (two academic years with an intervening summer). Those whose undergraduate degrees are in another discipline must complete the prerequisites at another institution prior to beginning the SDSU program. No students are admitted for study into the post-baccalaureate status.

The mandated curriculum consists of coursework adequate in breadth and scope to prepare students for the Certificate of Clinical Competence (ASHA), California licensure in SLP, and the Speech-Language Pathology Credential in Language, Speech, and Hearing (LSH). Forty-four units of required academic courses comprise the basis of all programs of study; 9 of these units comprise electives (for example: thesis, laboratory rotations, doctoral seminars). An additional minimum of 20 units of clinical practicum, internships in both hospital and school settings, and clinical labs are also required. Students are able to choose between a comprehensive examination or a thesis to complete requirements for graduation.

Admission Requirements

Detailed information regarding admission requirements can be found on the website. Applicants for admission to the MA program must meet the general requirements for classified graduate standing at San Diego State University. GRE scores and overall undergraduate GPA (3.2 or greater) are criteria, along with three letters of recommendation from professors, and a student statement of interest.

Funding

MA students may apply for various University funds. If funding is available, students in the Program serve as graduate or teaching assistants for courses, research assistants to individual faculty, and/or work in the clinic.
Academic Courses: Sample Program*

Fall 1
- SLHS 525 Clinical Processes
- SLHS 600A Research Methods in CSD I
- SLHS 607 Phonology & Phonological Disorders
- SLHS 609A Acquired Neurogenic Lang & Cog Dis I
- SLHS 613 Language Dis Infancy-Preschool
- SLHS 617 Diagnostic Methods in SLP
- SLHS 618A Diagnostic Practicum: Pediatrics
- SLHS 626A Pediatric Speech-Language Interv

Spring 2
- SLHS 525 Clinical Processes
- SLHS 608 Acquired Neuromotor Speech Dis
- SLHS 609B Acquired Neurogenic Lang & Cog Dis II
- SLHS 614 Lang Dis School Age-Adolescence
- SLHS 618B Diagnostic Practicum: Adult
- SLHS 626B Neurogenic Speech-Language Interv

Summer 3
- SLHS 570 Dysphagia
- SLHS 546 Aural Rehabilitation
- SLHS 618A Diagnostic Practicum: Pediatrics
- SLHS 626B Neurogenic Speech-Language Interv

Fall 4
- SLHS 600B Adv Research Methods in CSD II
- SLHS 606 Voice & Voice Disorders
- SLHS 700-Level Elective
- SLHS 700-Level Elective
- SLHS 929 Orientation to Public School Practicum
- SLHS 933 Clinical Practice in Public Schools

Spring 5
- SLHS 627 Advanced Field Clinical Practice
- SLHS 629 Orientation to Adv Field Clinical Practice
- SLHS 673 Comm Dis in Biling Sp-English Children
- SLHS 675 Augmentative Communication
- SLHS 700-Level Elective

*Additional clinical practicum coursework is completed throughout the 2-year program.

Master's Degree Program: Academic Faculty
- Jessica Barlow, PhD
  Phonology, Phonological Acquisition & Disorders
- Henrike Blumenfeld, PhD
  Psycholinguistics, Bilingualism
- Karen Emmorey, PhD
  Psycholinguistics, Cognitive Neuroscience, Sign Language, Deafness
- Tracy Love-Geffen, PhD
  Adult & Child Language Disorders, Neuroimaging
- Alyson Abel Mills, PhD
  Child Language Acquisition & Disorders, Cognitive Neuroscience
- Marilyn Newhoff, PhD (Dean of College)
  Child & Adult Language Disorders
- Ignatius Nip, PhD, CCC-SLP (Graduate Adviser)
  Speech Motor Development and Disorders
- Giang Pham, PhD, CCC-SLP
  Childhood Bilingualism, Language Development and Disorders
- Sonja Pruitt-Lord, PhD, CCC-SLP
  Child Language Acquisition & Disorders, Nonmainstream Populations
- Lewis P. Shapiro, PhD (School Director)
  Psycholinguistics, Adult Language Disorders
- Beverly Wulfeck, PhD (School Director)
  Child & Adult Language Disorders

Master's Degree Program: Clinical Faculty
- Deanna Hughes, PhD, CCC-SLP
  AAC, Developmental Disabilities, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations
- Charlotte Lopes, MA, CCC-SLP (Clinic Director)
  Early Intervention, Severe Disabilities
- Linda Schmitz, MS, CCC-SLP
  Adult Neurogenics
- Sharron Turner, MA, CCC-SLP
  Adult Neurogenics