Speech-Language Pathology (SPLA)

Interim Chairperson: Kim Halula, Ph.D.
Speech Pathology and Audiology website (https://www.marquette.edu/grad/programs-speech-language-pathology.php)

Degree Offered
Master of Science

Program Description

Master’s Degree Program

The master’s education program in speech-language pathology at Marquette University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, (800) 498-2071 or (301) 296-5700. The program is directed at preparing students for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP). For students interested in licensure as a public school speech-language clinician, the program meets the requirements of the Department of Public Instruction of the state of Wisconsin (DPI-Wis.) for licensure as a speech-language pathologist.

The graduate curriculum in speech-language pathology offers advanced course work in the prevention, identification, evaluation and treatment of speech, language and hearing disorders in both children and adults, meeting both the academic and clinical requirements of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the licensure requirements of the state of Wisconsin.

The master of science program in speech-language pathology typically takes two years (four terms and one summer session) to complete; however, the time required to complete degree and certification/licensure requirements may be shorter or longer depending on the student’s academic/clinical background, needs and special interests.

Bilingual English-Spanish (BIES) Specialization

A bilingual English-Spanish specialization (BIES) is offered through the master’s degree program. This program prepares speech-language pathologists who are proficient in Spanish to evaluate and treat communication disorders in individuals who speak Spanish or are bilingual (Spanish-English).

Candidates for the BIES must be accepted to the master of science program in speech-language pathology. Candidates also must meet language proficiency requirements established by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Graduate-level academic course work for the BIES may fulfill elective requirements for the master of science degree in speech-language pathology. Clinical practicum hours through the BIES program will apply toward a master of science degree, ASHA certification and DPI licensure requirements. All course work is based on guidelines suggested by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for speech-language pathologists providing bilingual assessment and intervention.

Prerequisites for Admission

Applicants should have graduated with, or are about to graduate with, a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution with a major in communicative disorders, or its equivalent, and an undergraduate grade point average of B or above. Students who do not meet these standard requirements must be prepared to complete undergraduate background courses as advised by the program director.

Application Deadline

To be considered for admission, all application requirements and fees must be completed and received by the Communication Sciences Disorder Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS) by December 15. Students admitted to the speech-language pathology program are not permitted to defer their admission.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit, directly to CSDCAS:

2. Official transcripts from all current and previous colleges/universities attended.
3. Three recommendations submitted from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic and clinical work.
4. A personal statement of career interests and goals (BIES applicants should reference their interest in the program).
5. CV/resume.
6. Critical thinking question.
7. GRE scores (General Test only) using institution code 7435.
8. (For international applicants only) a TOEFL score or other acceptable proof of English proficiency.

9. (For BIES applicants only) the completed BIES portion of the application in CSDCAS.

10. (For BIES applicants only) proof of Spanish proficiency, provided directly to the department, prior to admission (recommended, but not required).

Instructions can be found online (http://www.marquette.edu/speech-pathology-audiology/bies-application.shtml).

Applicants to the speech pathology and audiology accelerated bachelor's-master's degree program who are not accepted may be offered early decision (ED), which is an offer of admission to the master of science program the fall term following graduation from the undergraduate program. For more information, please see the ADP section on the SPLA Master's Requirements tab.

Students with Communicative Disorders

The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Marquette University is dedicated to graduating students with optimum preparation for successful careers in the profession of communication disorders. Since voice, fluency, articulation, language or hearing impairments may interfere with a clinician’s ability to effectively treat persons with communication impairments, we encourage students in our program with such impairments to seek treatment.

English Proficiency

Our department supports the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in encouraging persons of diverse backgrounds to enter the field of communication disorders. All students in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology must provide evidence of adequate written and verbal communication skills in Standard American English necessary to meet academic and clinical requirements. Non-native speakers of English work closely with their advisers throughout the course of their study toward establishing this proficiency prior to enrollment in clinical practicums. Students who speak with accents and/or dialects may seek assistance in improving these skills at the recommendation of department instructional staff.

Speech-Language Pathology Master's Requirements

Students seeking the master of science degree in speech-language pathology (SPLA) must have completed the following undergraduate prerequisite courses, or their equivalents, per approval from the director of graduate studies prior to full admission into the graduate program: anatomy and physiology of the speech mechanism, phonetics and phonology, child language development, child language disorders, child speech sound disorders, speech science, introduction to audiology, and intervention methods in speech-language pathology.

Students are admitted to the program in Plan B, but may transfer to Plan A with approval from the Graduate School and the SPLA director of graduate studies.

Thesis Program (Plan A)

Students must complete a minimum 46 credit hours (at least 40 credit hours of course work plus six credit hours of thesis work), take the Praxis examination, receive a satisfactory grade in a capstone course and submit an approved thesis.

Non-Thesis Program (Plan B)

Students must complete a minimum of 46 credit hours of course work, take the Praxis examination and receive a satisfactory grade in a capstone course.

Required Course Work

For both Plan A and Plan B, a minimum of 46 credit hours must be completed. A maximum of 12 credit hours of graduate-level course work completed prior to admission into the graduate program may be transferred and applied toward the minimum 46 credit hour degree requirement. Transfer courses must be completed with a grade of B or above and approved by the director of graduate studies in accordance with the Graduate School Transfer of Credit policy. At least one-half of the completed course work must be in 6000-level courses.

Advised by the director of graduate studies, admitted students create a program plan of study that fulfills the requirements for both the master of science degree in speech-language pathology and the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) awarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Students interested in working as a school-based speech-language pathologist in the State of Wisconsin require a program plan of study that includes requirements put forth by the Department of Public Instruction of the State of Wisconsin (WI-DPI).

Required Course work and Clinical Hours

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<tr>
<th>Required or Elective Course Work</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPPA 5160 Neurological Bases of Human Communication Processes and Related Functions</td>
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<td>SPPA 5230 Stuttering and Other Fluency Disorders</td>
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<td>SPPA 5720 Diagnostic Methods in Speech-Language Pathology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPPA 6210 Child Language Intervention Issues</td>
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SPPA 6320  Adult Language Disorders
SPPA 6330  Neuromuscular Disorders
SPPA 6410  Voice Disorders
SPPA 6420  Swallowing Disorders
SPPA 6640  Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
SPPA 6750  Clinical Research Methodology

Elective options (chosen by the student, if other requirements are met)
SPPA 6340  Cognitive Disorders
SPPA 6430  Craniofacial Disorders
SPPA 6650  Intervention Issues with the Birth-to-Three Child
SPPA 6961  Special Institute/Workshop/Project
SPPA 6995  Independent Study

Other graduate-level SPPA courses as approved by adviser or director of graduate studies.

Thesis credits (Plan A) or Additional course work (Plan B) 6
SPPA 6999  Master's Thesis

OR

Additional graduate-level SPPA courses as approved by adviser or director of graduate studies.

Additional Required Course Work and Clinical Hours:

Students must earn 400 clinical clock hours overall: 375 direct patient contact hours in either evaluation or therapy (325 of these must be earned at the graduate level) and a minimum of 25 observation hours. Total hours should represent all areas in the scope of professional practice, be across the lifespan, and include diverse client populations. A total of 13 graduate-level credit hours, listed below, are needed to satisfy this requirement:

SPPA 6730  Procedures in Medical and School Settings 3
SPPA 6790  Clinical Grand Rounds in Speech-Language Pathology 1
SPPA 6965  Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Campus Clinic (1 credit, taken twice) 2
SPPA 6966  Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Diagnostic Methods 1
SPPA 6967  Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: School Setting 3
SPPA 6968  Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Medical Setting 3

Total Credit Hours 46

1  In consultation with the director of graduate studies, a plan of study is developed with each student prior to admission and depends on the student's academic background.

PRAXIS Examination and Capstone Course Work

The Praxis Series Specialty Area Test in Speech-Language Pathology administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), along with the graduate course SPPA 6790 Clinical Grand Rounds in Speech-Language Pathology, comprise the required examination and capstone course work for students in the speech-language pathology program. Students must take the Praxis examination no later than two (2) months prior to graduation. Results of the examination must be received in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology prior to the date for submission to the Graduate School as specified in the Academic Calendar (http://www.marquette.edu/mucentral/registrar/cal_index.shtml). In addition, a grade of Satisfactory in SPPA 6790 Clinical Grand Rounds in Speech-Language Pathology must be obtained.

Bilingual English-Spanish (BIES) Specialization Requirements

The BIES specialization program requires students to be enrolled in the master of science degree program in speech-language pathology. A Spanish major is not required for admission to the BIES specialization program but non-native Spanish speaking applicants are required to demonstrate oral proficiency via a passing score on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) oral proficiency test. Applicants are advised to submit oral proficiency test results with the application to the master of science program. Testing information can be found on the Speech Pathology and Audiology Department's BIES specialization website (http://www.marquette.edu/speech-pathology-audiology/bies.shtml), or by contacting the department directly.

Graduate-level academic course work for the BIES may fulfill elective requirements for the master’s degree in speech-language pathology.

Required course work:
SPAN 4120/5120  Spanish Phonetics 3
SPPA 4610/5610  Multicultural Issues for Speech-Language Pathologists 3
Students are required to complete or have previously completed (1) a three-credit course in Spanish phonetics and (2) a three-credit course in multicultural issues relevant to clinical practice, as listed above. These courses may be taken at either the graduate or undergraduate level. Only if taken at the graduate-level, however, can these courses fulfill electives for the graduate plan of study. Courses taken elsewhere must be approved by the program director.

SPPA 6620 Speech and Language Assessment in Bilingual Populations 3
SPPA 6630 Speech and Language Intervention in Bilingual Populations 3

Required practicum courses: A minimum of 50 clinical practicum hours with individuals who speak Spanish or who are bilingual (Spanish-English) speakers must be obtained under the supervision of a bilingual speech-language pathologist through the following courses.

SPPA 6965 Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Campus Clinic 1
SPPA 6966 Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Diagnostic Methods 1-2
SPPA 6967 Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: School Setting 3

Accelerated Bachelor’s-Master’s Degree Program

The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology offers early admission into its master of science degree program in speech-language pathology to Marquette University students working toward the undergraduate major in speech pathology and audiology. Students can apply for admission to this program during the undergraduate junior year. Students accepted into the accelerated degree program are eligible to enroll in up to 12 credit hours of speech pathology and audiology (SPPA) graduate course work (5000- or 6000-level) during their senior year. Credits obtained from these courses can be used to fulfill both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Once students inform the Graduate School of their completion of their undergraduate degree requirements, their graduate admission as a regular degree status student is activated.

Traditional speech-language pathology graduate program students take SPPA 6965 Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Campus Clinic at 1 credit per term for two terms. ADP students take SPPA 6965 Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Campus Clinic at 1 credit for one term. Similarly, traditional graduate program students take SPPA 6966 Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Diagnostic Methods at 1 credit for one term, whereas ADP students take SPPA 6966 Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Diagnostic Methods at 2 credits for one term.

Students interested in this program can obtain further information from the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology office.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Applicants must be in their junior year in the speech pathology and audiology program.
• Minimum 3.500 GPA.
• GRE is waived for ADP applicants.
• Applicants must submit, directly to the Graduate School:
  • An online (http://www.marquette.edu/grad/future-apply.php) application form completed during the applicants’ junior year that states they is applying to the summer term immediately following completion of the undergraduate degree.
  • Official transcripts from ALL colleges or universities attended except Marquette University.
  • Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with applicant’s academic and clinical work.
  • A personal statement of career interests and goals.
  • CV/resume.
  • Critical thinking question, found on the program’s website (http://www.marquette.edu/speech-pathology-audiology/accelerated-degree-program.shtml).

Courses

SPPA 5160. Neurological Bases of Human Communication Processes and Related Functions. 3 cr. hrs.
Study of the structural, functional and organizational frameworks of the central and peripheral nervous systems as they relate to human communication processes and related functions. Prereq: Enrolled in the SPLA program.

SPPA 5230. Stuttering and Other Fluency Disorders. 3 cr. hrs.
Introduction to the symptomatology, phenomenology, etiology, assessment and management of stuttering and other fluency disorders in children and adults.

SPPA 5520. Hearing Disorders. 3 cr. hrs.

SPPA 5530. Audiological Rehabilitation. 3 cr. hrs.
An in-depth look at the process of adult aural rehabilitation and how amplification, assistive listening devices, sensory aids, visual communication training, auditory training and counseling contribute to that process.
SPPA 5610. Multicultural Issues for Speech-Language Pathologists. 3 cr. hrs.
Offered for undergraduate or graduate credit. The study of culture and communication in linguistically diverse populations [i.e., Non-Standard American English speakers, Native Americans, (with emphasis on Wisconsin Native tribes) Asians, and Latinos]. The course will include L1 and L2 acquisition profiles and information pertaining to service delivery with non-native English speakers. The U.S. Latino population will be emphasized. Students’ knowledge and understanding of racism will be explored. This course will meet the multicultural requirements for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction licensing in speech-language pathology.

SPPA 5720. Diagnostic Methods in Speech-Language Pathology. 3 cr. hrs.
Provides students with an understanding of the components inherent in the diagnostic process. These include but are not limited to: a) an overview of diagnostic models, b) sources of delays and disorders, c) purposes of assessment, d) interviewing techniques, e) testing and measurement caveats, f) framework for analysis of the data, g) interpretation of results to families or referral sources, and h) report writing. Prereq: Enrolled in the SPLA program.

SPPA 5750. Introduction to Pediatric Feeding. 3 cr. hrs.
Introduction to typical feeding development and clinical procedures for diagnosis of pediatric feeding disorders. Overview of interdisciplinary expectations for general development, anatomy and physiology, nutrition, aerodigestive and neurologic systems from birth through early childhood.

SPPA 6210. Child Language Intervention Issues. 3 cr. hrs.
Includes basic information pertaining to current theories of language impairment in children. A detailed examination of the linguistic characteristics typical of children with primary and secondary language impairments is provided along with issues concerning the differential diagnosis of children with language disorders. Provides information pertaining to both theoretical and applied aspects of language intervention from infancy through adolescence. Issues pertinent to assessment and intervention with multicultural populations are embedded in the lecture material throughout the term.

SPPA 6220. Child Speech Sound Intervention. 3 cr. hrs.
Advanced study of issues relevant to the assessment and treatment of children with speech sound disorders. Topics include: phonetic transcription of dialectal speech, measures of phonological development, analysis of speech error patterns, and methods for the remediation of speech delay and residual articulation errors. Prereq: SPPA 2210 or equiv.

SPPA 6320. Adult Language Disorders. 3 cr. hrs.
A comprehensive review of neurogenic disorders of adult language. Topics include: differential diagnosis of aphasia, linguistic analysis of different aphasic syndromes, clinical testing, and rehabilitation. Also discusses differential diagnosis of language disturbances associated with dementia and right/left hemispheric pathologies. Prereq: SPPA 6160, which can be taken concurrently.

SPPA 6330. Neuromuscular Disorders. 3 cr. hrs.
A survey of the etiology, symptomatology and clinical management of major neuromuscular and organic articulation disorders. Topics discussed include dysarthria and apraxia. Prereq: SPPA 6160.

SPPA 6340. Cognitive Disorders. 3 cr. hrs.
Provides a theoretical and clinical framework for understanding the neuropsychological-cognitive-communicative and psychosocial issues associated with neurologic brain injuries and for providing treatment of impaired cognitive-communicative processes. Incorporates knowledge of cortical functions and human cognition for evaluating the communicative-cognitive disorders. Students learn about treatment implementation and communicative counseling by actively solving clinical problems. Prereq: SPPA 6160 and SPPA 6320.

SPPA 6410. Voice Disorders. 3 cr. hrs.
An in-depth examination of normal and pathological voice. Topics include: forces producing phonation, measures of glottal function, and the effect of pitch, intensity and other variables on vocal function. Emphasis on the diagnosis and treatment of voice disorders using clinical instrumentation.

SPPA 6420. Swallowing Disorders. 3 cr. hrs.
Anatomy and physiology of the normal swallow in adults; anatomic and physiologic disorders affecting the process of swallowing (deglutition) with emphasis on radiographic and bedside diagnostic and treatment procedures. Includes a lab experience and analysis of videofluoroscopic studies of the swallowing process.

SPPA 6430. Craniofacial Disorders. 3 cr. hrs.
Intended to provide a background in craniofacial speech disorders. Begins with a review of embryological development of the head/face, craniofacial syndromes and their etiologies, and the anatomy and physiology of the velopharyngeal mechanism. Discusses the importance of "team care" and the role of the various disciplines on the craniofacial team. Presents both instrumental and non-instrumental assessment techniques. Intervention focuses primarily on adapting traditional and phonological approaches to the treatment of craniofacial speech disorders. Prereq: SPPA 2220 or equiv.

SPPA 6540. Child Audiological Habilitation. 3 cr. hrs.
An in-depth study of the assessment, psychosocial problems, and remediation/education of children with prelingual hearing impairments. Prereq: SPPA 5520 or cons. of instr.

SPPA 6620. Speech and Language Assessment in Bilingual Populations. 3 cr. hrs.
Study of the principles and techniques of assessing bilingual populations with an emphasis on the Spanish-English bilingual speaker. Instruction in formal and informal methods and strategies for assessing speech and language skills in children and adults. Prereq: SPPA 5720 or equiv.

SPPA 6630. Speech and Language Intervention in Bilingual Populations. 3 cr. hrs.
Study of intervention approaches and techniques in the remediation of communication disorders in bilingual populations, with an emphasis on the Spanish-English bilingual speaker. Includes speech and language intervention techniques which focus on facilitating language for learning, language for communication, and the remediation of speech and language impairments in adults and children.
SPPA 6640. Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). 3 cr. hrs.
Deals with certain problems met when attempting to habilitate or rehabilitate children and adults who have essentially normal hearing, for whom speech is unlikely to be adequate for at least some communicative purposes (either temporarily or permanently). Gestural and instrumental augmentative communication strategies. Provides necessary information to both select the most advantageous strategy for clients and teach them how to use it.

SPPA 6650. Intervention Issues with the Birth-to-Three Child. 3 cr. hrs.
Learn developmental screening, assessment and family-based intervention specific to communicative speech and feeding aspects of the birth-to-three child. Gain knowledge of prevention, assessment and intervention of swallowing and receptive and expressive language development including prelinguistics. Emphasizes identification and treatment issues specific to multicultural considerations, case management, and interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary assessment and intervention.

SPPA 6730. Procedures in Medical and School Settings. 3 cr. hrs.
Introduces terminology, laws and procedural requirements for speech-language pathology programs in both school and medical settings. Presents documentation and professional interactions in a variety of work settings. Combination of lecture and simulated activities to prepare students for functioning in off-campus medical and school placements. Addresses Wisconsin school and medical speech-language pathology licensing and national certification requirements. Complete intermediate review of the State of Wisconsin, Department of Public Instruction portfolio. Prereq: Completion of initial review of the State of Wisconsin, Department of Public Instruction portfolio, or cons. of instr.

SPPA 6750. Clinical Research Methodology. 3 cr. hrs.
Overview of research design and its application to the field of speech-language pathology. Factors affecting validity of research. Different types of experimental and quasi-experimental designs. Analysis and presentation of research data. Ethical, financial, and practical factors that affect the conduct of research.

SPPA 6760. Professional Affairs in Speech Pathology. 3 cr. hrs.
Administrative organization, problems and practices in various settings in which speech and hearing clinicians function: school systems, community clinics, hospitals, universities, training centers, and in private practice.

SPPA 6790. Clinical Grand Rounds in Speech-Language Pathology. 1 cr. hr.
Presentation of challenging cases in communication/swallowing disorders. Prereq: Completion of at least 20 graduate credit hours in speech pathology and audiology.

SPPA 6961. Special Institute/Workshop/Project. 3 cr. hrs.
SPPA 6965. Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Campus Clinic. 1 cr. hr.
Supervised direct clinical experience in the campus clinic, with a primary focus on provision of speech-language therapy and potential opportunities for assessment. S/U grade assessment. Prereq: Regular degree status.

Supervised direct clinical experience in the campus clinic, including comprehensive speech-language evaluations and provision of speech-language therapy. S/U grade assessment. Prereq: SPPA 5720, which may be taken concurrently.

SPPA 6967. Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: School Setting. 3 cr. hrs.
Fee. Speech pathology practicum in a school setting. S/U grade assessment. Prereq: SPPA 5720 and SPPA 6730. Use of private car possibly required for student teaching affiliations inaccessible to public transportation. Student is responsible for transportation costs.

SPPA 6968. Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology: Medical Setting. 3 cr. hrs.

SPPA 6995. Independent Study. 1-3 cr. hrs.
Prereq: Cons. of dept. ch. and cons. of SPPA M.S. dir.

SPPA 6999. Master's Thesis. 1-6 cr. hrs.

SPPA 9978. Field Placement Continuation: Half-Time. 0 cr. hrs.
Fee. SNC/UNC grade assessment. Prereq: Cons. of dept. ch. and cons. of SPPA M.S. dir.

SPPA 9979. Field Placement Continuation: Full-Time. 0 cr. hrs.
Fee. SNC/UNC grade assessment. Prereq: Cons. of dept. ch. and cons. of SPPA M.S. dir.

SPPA 9984. Master's Comprehensive Examination Preparation: Less than Half-Time. 0 cr. hrs.
Fee. SNC/UNC grade assessment. Prereq: Cons. of dept. ch. and cons. of SPPA M.S. dir.

SPPA 9985. Master's Comprehensive Examination Preparation: Half-Time. 0 cr. hrs.
Fee. SNC/UNC grade assessment. Prereq: Cons. of dept. ch. and cons. of SPPA M.S. dir.

SPPA 9986. Master's Comprehensive Examination Preparation: Full-Time. 0 cr. hrs.
Fee. SNC/UNC grade assessment. Prereq: Cons. of dept. ch. and cons. of SPPA M.S. dir.

SPPA 9995. Master's Thesis Continuation: Half-Time. 0 cr. hrs.
Fee. SNC/UNC grade assessment. Prereq: Cons. of dept. ch. and cons. of SPPA M.S. dir.
SPPA 9996. Master's Thesis Continuation: Full-Time. 0 cr. hrs.
Fee. SNC/UNC grade assessment. Prereq: Cons. of dept. ch. and cons. of SPPA M.S. dir.