

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

To answer a growing need for speech-language pathologists in educational and medical settings, St. Ambrose University offers a Master of Speech-Language Pathology degree to qualified students. Graduates will be prepared for entry into independent professional practice as speech-language pathologists who are eligible for American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) certification.

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are in increasing demand. Across the nation, funded SLP positions are going unfilled due to a lack of qualified professionals, and 50 percent of school-based SLPs are expected to retire within the next eight years. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, an additional 22,000 SLPs will be needed to fill positions in educational and medical settings between 2008 and 2018.

Students who earn their MSLP at St. Ambrose will enjoy a greater degree of preparation than many other programs provide. Beginning in their first year, St. Ambrose students gain invaluable clinical experience under expert faculty supervision, working with children and adults in schools, clinics, community organizations and hospitals. MSLP students learn to work as part of a comprehensive health care and educational team, preparing them to collaborate with other health care professionals and school personnel. The St. Ambrose MSLP program includes a special emphasis on educating bilingual speech-language pathologists to help fill the growing need for bilingual SLPs.

mission The mission of the Master of Speech-Language Pathology program is to prepare students for entry into independent professional practice as speech-language pathologists who are eligible for American Speech-Language-Hearing Association certification. Graduates from the program will be known for their commitment to lifelong learning, high standards of professional behavior and sensitivity to human diversity, and their ability and willingness to use their knowledge and skills to enrich the lives of others.

accreditation In 1991, the Council on Professional Standards in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology established the status of Candidate for Accreditation for emerging graduate education programs in speech-language pathology. The St. Ambrose MSLP program currently holds Candidacy Accreditation Status. Candidacy Accreditation Status does not currently meet the Illinois Board of Education requirements for a non-teaching speech-language pathology certificate.

program goals

- > Provide opportunities that engenders in students the basic concept of the inherent dignity of every person.
- > Foster a moral code of mutual respect, honesty and integrity in students through academic experience, clinical practice, professional interactions, and scholarly endeavors.
- > Provide a program where faculty and clinical supervisors have the requisite knowledge and skills to provide quality instruction to graduate students.
- > Provide a graduate curriculum that is specifically designed to prepare students for entry into independent professional practice as a speech-language pathologist.
- > Provide opportunities for students to develop a greater understanding and awareness of human cultures, capabilities and limitations.

program prerequisites Students may enter the MSLP program only in the fall of each year and must have completed a baccalaureate degree, as well as a number of prerequisite courses (see admission requirements section). The 60 credit hour program is designed to be completed in approximately two years.

admission requirements

- > An overall GPA of 2.85 or higher at the time of application and at the time of enrollment in the program.
- > A GPA of 3.0 or higher in courses directly related to the study of communication sciences and disorders at the time of application and at the time of enrollment in the program.
- > Completion of the following general education courses with a “B” (not a “B-”) or higher for each course:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry or Physics
 - Psychology or Sociology
 - Statistics
- > Official documentation of completion of 25 observation hours at the time of enrollment in the program.
- > Completion of the following pre-professional courses prior to enrollment:
 - Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Hearing Mechanisms
 - Articulation and Phonological Disorders
 - Audiology
 - Aural Rehabilitation
 - Child Language Disorders
 - Language Development
 - Phonetics
 - Speech and Hearing Science

curriculum

YEAR ONE		CREDITS
Fall	Diagnostics	3
	Research Methods and Evidence-based Practice	3
	Acquired Disorders of Language and Cognition	3
	Multicultural Assessment	1
	Clinic Experience I	3
Winter Interim	Voice and Resonance Disorders	3
Spring	Motor Speech Disorders	3
	Advanced Developmental Language Disorders	3
	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2
	Multicultural Intervention	1
	Graduate Research Project I	1
	Clinic Experience II	3
Summer		
Intersession	Intersession Seminar, or	3
	Multicultural Study Abroad	3
YEAR TWO		
Summer	Dysphagia	3
	Fluency Disorders	2
	Professional Seminar	1
	Graduate Research Project II	1
	Clinic Experience III	1
Fall 2	10–12 week internship	8
	Clinical Reasoning, online	1
	Graduate Research Project III	1
Spring 2	10–12 week internship	8
	Graduate Research Project IV	1
	Clinical Reasoning II	1

clinical experiences Students will complete a variety of clinical experiences while enrolled in coursework and will complete an additional 20–24 weeks of full-time internships in both a child and adult setting. Beyond the clinic, established partnerships with a growing list of community agencies allow graduate students to develop and refine clinical skills in early childhood centers, rehabilitation hospitals, private and public schools, adult day care centers, and agencies serving children and adults. On behalf of students, the Clinical Director in Speech-Language Pathology selects the internship sites and makes all arrangements. Students are responsible for their own transportation, travel and housing costs for all clinical experiences and also pay tuition while completing their internships.

application process Applications are received through the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS) for Clinical Education in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology. Their website provides a convenient and efficient process for applying to multiple schools using a single web-based application and is also an online tool to check the status of applications, transcripts and letters of reference at any time. Complete the common application at <https://portal.csdcas.org> and have it sent to the schools to which you are applying. The deadline for applications to the St. Ambrose Master of Speech-Language Pathology program is February 15 of the year you wish to enroll in the program. However, applicants are encouraged to complete the application process prior to the first of the year. This allows sufficient time for CSDCAS staff to verify transcripts and mail the verified application to the program. Applicants are also encouraged to include in the application any courses that will be completed prior to admission. This information aids the program in determining that an applicant has a plan for meeting the program’s admission requirements.

financial assistance A limited amount of graduate financial aid is available. Check with the program director for details. In addition, the St. Ambrose University Financial Aid Office provides information on loans for graduate studies.

international students Visa holders are subject to federal nonimmigrant laws that vary based on visa type. Contact International Student Services at global@sau.edu for more information on admission requirements and academic guidelines for your specific visa.

for further information

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The material presented here is for informational purposes and does not substitute for the catalog. Consult the official university catalog for complete program requirements.