



SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AT LEWIS: PREPARE FOR GRADUATE STUDY NOW!

The entry-level degree needed for clinical practice as a speech-language pathologist (SLP) in the United States is the master's degree in speech-language pathology. There are different pathways that students can take to achieve this goal.

Lewis University offers the master of science in speech-language pathology (MSSLP) degree program. In order to apply for admission to the MSSLP program, students must either:

- Obtain a bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD). Lewis University's B.S. in CSD program is expected to be offered beginning Fall 2023!!

- **Obtain a bachelor's degree in *any field of study* and complete one course in the following prerequisite areas.** These courses must be offered by a CSD or SLP department, and students must achieve a C or better in each course. Courses that meet these prerequisites are available online from Lewis University (see below), and at many other institutions:
 - Anatomy and physiology of communication and hearing mechanisms.
 - Speech and hearing science
 - Normal development of speech, language, and hearing
 - Phonetics
 - Aural Rehabilitation

Students must also have taken one undergraduate course in each of the following areas, achieving a C or better. Each course must be *outside the CSD major*:

- Statistics (stand-alone course; not incorporate into a research methods or other related course)
- Biological science, related to human or animal science (biology, anatomy/physiology, neuroanatomy/neurophysiology, human genetics, veterinary science)
- Physical science (chemistry, physics)
- Social science (psychology, sociology, anthropology, public health)

Students who have obtained a bachelor's degree in CSD, or a bachelor's degree in another field of study plus the necessary prerequisite courses are eligible to apply if they meet the following additional criteria:

- Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 for full admission, or 2.75 for provisional admission
- Minimum major GPA (in all CSD courses, including a minimum of five completed courses at time of consideration) of 3.2
- ***No requirement to take the GRE***

Students must have completed *at least 5* courses offered by a CSD or SLP department at Lewis University or another accredited program. This allows us to evaluate your potential for success in graduate student in our discipline.

Lewis students, and anyone interested in our graduate program, are advised to take the following undergraduate courses:

- **SLP 20000 Introduction to Speech-Language Pathology (3 credit hours; online; Spring term)**
A survey course that introduces students to the role of speech-language pathologists (SLP) in education, healthcare, and private clinic settings. Covers the nine disorder areas that speech-language pathologists are prepared to address, including disorders of articulation, receptive and expressive language, voice, fluency, social communication, cognition, aural rehabilitation, , augmentative/alternative communication, and swallowing. This course is designed to help learners explore the knowledge and skills needed to become an SLP.

- **SLP 30000 Phonetics**
(3 credit hours; online; Fall term)
 Phonetic transcription is a skill used by speech-language pathologists to record and analyze the speech production abilities of their clients. It is used when gathering speech samples of individual clients over time, to evaluate whether they demonstrate a speech articulation disorder or a dialectal difference, and to monitor progress of clients in intervention. In this course, students will learn to transcribe speech samples using the international phonetic alphabet (IPA), and will apply this skill to evaluation of speech articulation.
- **SLP 31000 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech, Hearing and Swallowing**
(3 credit hours; online; Fall term)
 This course reviews anatomical structures of the head, neck and ear; and the physiology of speech production, hearing and swallowing. This course is designed for students who are preparing for a career in speech-language pathology or audiology.
- **SLP 40000 Scientific Foundations of Speech and Hearing**
(3 credit hours; online; Spring term)
 This course covers the physical properties of sound, including how it is generated, received, and interpreted by humans. The importance of environmental and linguistic sounds in the human experience will be explored. Learners will also discover the dynamic interplay of respiration, phonation, articulation and resonance that results in human speech.
- **SLP 41000 Speech, Language and Swallowing Development**
(3 credit hours; online; Spring term)
 Human infants are born with reflexive feeding instincts that allow for their survival and ability to thrive. This course will explore the evolution successful feeding and swallowing in children. Babies are also predisposed to interact socially with caretakers and thereby learn to communicate. The amazing journey toward communicative competence is explored in detail, including the evolution of articulate speech patterns, and receptive and expressive language. The role of early literacy experiences in the development of oral and written language is outlined, as well.
- **SLPA 43000 Aural Rehabilitation**
(3 credit hours; Spring term-beginning SP24)
 Students will review methods for assessing and treating communication disorders associated with hearing impairment in children and adults. Basics of hearing screening will be reviewed, and students will learn when to refer a client for audiometric assessment by an audiologist.

If you are interested in becoming a speech-language pathologist, contact Admissions at Lewis University at admissions@lewisu.edu, or the Speech-Language Pathology department at tveale@lewisu.edu . We will be happy to help you!

