

## **Master of Science, Speech-Language Pathology-Online (SLPO) Required Coursework**

### **Academic Courses**

#### **SLPO 50100 Neuroscience for Speech-Language Pathologists (3)**

This course introduces the neuroanatomical and neurophysiological bases of attention, learning, memory, communication, and emotion. Beginning with an orientation to brain structures, students practice making clinical connections throughout the course. Students will learn to associate symptoms of neurological disease and injury with sites of lesion, and will be able to explain the neurological bases of communication and swallowing disorders.

#### **SLPO 50400 Speech Sound Disorders in Children (3)**

This course covers articulation and phonological disorders that impact speech production in children. Students learn how to assess and treat speech sound disorders. Featured learning activities include transcription and analysis of speech samples, standardized testing, and intervention planning specific to individual cases.

#### **SLPO 50500 Child Language Disorders: Preschool (3)**

Students will learn methods for prevention, identification, assessment and intervention of language disorders in preschool children. Highlights include experiences with language sample analysis, standardized testing, and treatment planning.

#### **SLPO 50600 Child Language Disorders: School-Age and Adolescence (3)**

Students will learn methods for prevention, identification, assessment and intervention of language disorders in school-age children and adolescents. Highlights include experiences with language sample analysis, other authentic classroom-based assessments, standardized testing, and treatment planning.

#### **SLPO 50800 Adult Language Disorders: Aphasia (3)**

This course examines the communication disorders that result from stroke, also known as aphasia. Students will gain experience with informal and formal testing, and treatment planning relative to individual cases. Cognitive, linguistic and social aspects of aphasia will be considered.

#### **SLPO 50900 Adult Language Disorders: Cognitive Communication (3)**

In this course, students will explore communication disorders that result from traumatic brain injury or neurological diseases, such as Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis. They will practice how to assess and treat the cognitive communication disorders that arise as these conditions progress.

#### **SLPO 51000 Autism and Social Communication (3)**

Autism is a common condition that makes effective communication and social behavior challenging for children and adults. People with autism vary widely in their social communication abilities, including verbal and nonverbal skills. This course will review the development of social communication competence, and how to assess and treat deficits that often occur in individuals with autism and other disorders.

**SLPO 51100 Dysphagia I (4)**

This course reviews the anatomy and physiology of normal and disordered swallowing patterns of adult clients. Etiologies of swallowing disorders and their assessment will be discussed specific to cases presented in class. Completion of the MBSimP protocol is required as part of the course.

**SLPO 51200 Dysphagia II (4)**

This course reviews the treatment of swallowing disorders. Disorders that occur concomitant to dysphagia will be considered, as swallowing problems often occur as part of a complex medical condition. Ethical considerations relative to swallowing treatment will also be considered. Case-based instruction will allow for application of therapeutic concepts discussed.

**SLPO 51300 Voice and Resonance Disorders (3)**

This course covers recommended practices for assessment and intervention of voice disorders in children and adults. Students examine the anatomical and physiological correlates of phonation and oral/nasal resonance. Voice disorders experienced by people with laryngectomy, cleft lip/palate, vocal fold hyperfunction are covered, in addition to voice changes experienced by transgender individuals.

**SLPO 51400 Augmentative and Alternative Communication (3)**

Students will focus on how to adapt communication modalities to address the needs of individuals with severe communication, sensory and/or physical disabilities. Various augmentative or alternative communication (AAC) techniques will be covered, including no-tech, low-tech, and dedicated communication devices. The benefits of an interdisciplinary, team-based approach to assessment and intervention will be reviewed, with classes instructed by physical and/or occupational therapists and educators.

**SLPO 51500 Fluency Disorders and Counseling (3)**

This seminar course will review the identification of stuttering and cluttering in children and adults. Students will practice selecting, administering and analyzing results of fluency assessment techniques, and will design appropriate treatment for cases presented. The need for ongoing management of these disorders will be discussed, along with the role of counseling in intervention for these disorders. Students will learn about a variety of counseling techniques that help clients and their families deal with the social and emotional challenges that occur when someone in the family has a significant communication disorder.

**SLPO 51600 Hearing Disorders: Identification and Treatment (3)**

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. Hearing screening procedures are taught and practiced.

### **SLPO 51700 Motor Speech Disorders (3)**

Motor speech disorders are speech and voice abnormalities that arise from neurogenic causes, and include apraxia of speech and several types of dysarthria. This course will cover differential diagnosis of motor speech disorders and their treatment.

### **Research Courses**

#### **SLPO 53000 Research Methods in Speech-Language Pathology (3)**

This course covers foundational research concepts, single subject and group research design, and common methods of data analysis used in the field of speech-language pathology. Students learn to critically read and analyze research manuscripts. Students begin to apply knowledge of research methods by designing a research study similar to the one they will implement for their first capstone experience.

#### **SLPO 63000 Capstone: Review of Clinical Evidence (6)**

Guided by an SLP faculty member, students will review the clinical evaluation evidence for a client with complex communication and/or swallowing challenges. Each student will analyze and synthesize data gathered from assessment protocols along with information provided in consultation with other members of the healthcare/educational team. They will write a diagnostic summary and design an evidence-based treatment approach for the client using evidence-based methods. Results will be presented in a poster or grand round presentation format.

### **Clinical Courses**

#### **SLPO 55000 Ethics of Speech-Language Pathology Practice (1)**

This course will review the ASHA Code of Ethics as it pertains to speech-language pathology practice. Current ethical issues confronting SLPs will be discussed in consideration of best practice recommendations.

#### **SLPO 55200 Clinical Methods: Assessment (3)**

This course will teach students how to screen for communication and hearing problems in children and adults, and how to plan diagnostic assessments for individuals with suspected communication disorders. Students will interact with a variety of evaluation tools used for evaluation of speech, language, social and cognitive abilities.

#### **SLPO 55300 Clinical Methods: Evidence-based Treatment Planning (3)**

This course will provide students with experience in treatment planning for children and adults with identified communication disorders, including deficits in speech, language, social and cognitive skills. Students will learn to apply evidence-based methods for each client, considering available scientific support for methods chosen, family preferences for treatment methods, and their own clinical experiences when making treatment recommendations.

**SLPO 65000 Practicum: Clinical Simulation (4)**

Students will interact with a variety of clinical cases in a web-based interactive learning environment to gain basic clinical experiences with articulation, language, fluency and voice disorders in children and/or adults. Supervised by faculty who are licensed SLPs, students can gain up to 75 hours of supervised clinical practice in this course.

**SLPO 65100 Practicum: Mini-Rotation (4)**

Students will gain clinical experience in one of a variety of settings, including provision of services in schools, skilled nursing facilities, or other healthcare agencies. They will deliver services using a variety of modalities, including center-based and telepractice. All experiences are supervised by licensed and certified SLPs who are certified by ASHA. The expectation is that students will spend two to three days per week for 6-8 weeks in the assigned clinical rotation, and that they will attain 75-100 hours of clinical experience.

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**SLPO 66100 Advanced Practicum: Internship (6)**

Students will gain clinical experience in one of a variety of settings. They may be assigned to partner with a local speech-language pathologist at a school, skilled nursing facility, or private clinic. All experiences are supervised by state-licensed and ASHA-certified SLPs, and students should gain 100 to 150 hours of supervised clinical experience in this course. The expectation is that students will spend 5 days per week for 16 weeks in the assigned clinical rotation.

## **Master of Science, Speech-Language Pathology-Online (SLPO) Elective Coursework**

### **SLPO 55300 Guided Clinical Observation (1)**

Students will complete at least 25 hours of observation of licensed, certified speech-language pathologists conducting assessment or treatment of clients with communication or swallowing disorders. They will discuss the methods used by the clinician, the outcomes of each session and the implications for further services with a clinical supervisor who specializes in clinical debriefs. This is a course for students who have not met ASHA's requirement of 25 observation hours prior to clinical practicum.

### **SLPO 66200 Advanced Practicum: Internship (6)**

Students will gain clinical experience in a healthcare setting, such as a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or private clinic. Most of these experiences will focus on clinical practice with adult clients. If the healthcare experience focuses on a pediatric population, extensive adult experience must be obtained in an alternate clinical experience. All experiences are supervised by state-licensed and ASHA-certified SLPs, and students should gain 100 to 150 hours of supervised clinical experience in this course. The expectation is that students will spend 5 days per week for 16 weeks in his/her assigned clinical rotation.

