

# Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology

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The master's degree in speech-language pathology is designed to produce highly skilled clinicians seeking to enter the field and is typically completed in five full-time semesters (including a summer semester). The program length may vary, for example, for the student requiring prerequisites to be completed or one pursuing additional thesis or course work. A master's degree from KU will, in most circumstances, satisfy the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (<http://www.asha.org>)'s certification standards for continuing on to the clinical fellowship year. A certificate of clinical competence in speech-language pathology is awarded upon completion of a successful clinical fellowship.

## Admission to Graduate Studies

### Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

## Admission to the M.A. Program

Prospective students are admitted to the M.A. program for the summer or fall semester. The application deadline and a full list of required application materials can be found on the Eligibility and Requirements ([https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/academics/departments/hearing-and-speech/academics/speech-language-pathology-degrees/master-of-arts-in-speech-language-pathology-\(ma-slp\)/eligibility-and-requirements.html](https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/academics/departments/hearing-and-speech/academics/speech-language-pathology-degrees/master-of-arts-in-speech-language-pathology-(ma-slp)/eligibility-and-requirements.html)) and How to Apply ([https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/academics/departments/hearing-and-speech/academics/speech-language-pathology-degrees/master-of-arts-in-speech-language-pathology-\(ma-slp\)/how-to-apply.html](https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/academics/departments/hearing-and-speech/academics/speech-language-pathology-degrees/master-of-arts-in-speech-language-pathology-(ma-slp)/how-to-apply.html)) pages of our Department's website ([https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/academics/departments/hearing-and-speech/academics/speech-language-pathology-degrees/master-of-arts-in-speech-language-pathology-\(ma-slp\).html](https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/academics/departments/hearing-and-speech/academics/speech-language-pathology-degrees/master-of-arts-in-speech-language-pathology-(ma-slp).html)).

Eligibility criteria for admission to the M.A. program follow Graduate Studies' admission policy (<http://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>). To be considered for admission in the program, a student must hold a bachelor's degree. Non-native speakers of English must meet English proficiency requirements (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>).

Ideally students will have completed an undergraduate degree in speech pathology or a related field. Individuals who have not completed

prerequisite coursework may apply and be admitted on an exceptional basis if they have exceptionally strong academic credentials. For a full list of the prerequisite course work please see our prerequisite (<https://splh.ku.edu/pre-requisite/>) page.

## How to Apply

Ready to apply? See below for everything you need to know about the application process.

Applicants will submit an application online through the KU online application portal. Begin by visiting graduate admissions (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>) and select "Apply." Applicants should create an account (if a first-time user) or log in (if returning to continue an application). Applications should then select "Start New Application" and then "Lawrence/Edwards Graduate Application" and "create application."

Proceed to apply to the master's degree in speech-language pathology program:

- On the application's "Program Information page," select "Lawrence" as the location for the majority of coursework, then "Social and Behavioral Sciences" from the Academic Area of Interest.
- Under "Academic Program," search for "Speech Language Pathology (M.A.)."

*Note: applicants interested in the M.A./Ph.D. dual degree program should select "Speech Language Pathology M.A./Ph.D." and will be required to submit supplemental information for both programs. Please review the "How to Apply" page for each program.*

The University of Kansas application fee (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>) is \$65 (\$85 for international students).

All required application materials must be submitted by January 6.

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## Collect your information in advance

### Short Answer/Personal Essay

Applicants will be prompted to submit a short essay on the following topics. Write the essay before starting the online application, save the file, and copy-and-paste the text into the application.

1. To demonstrate your analytical and written communication skills, describe an unsolved problem that you would like to solve within the speech-language pathology profession. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma, etc. Explain its significance to you and the steps you would take to identify a solution (250-word limit).
2. Speech-language pathology requires strong critical thinking, resilience and an ability to work through difficult situations. Describe a time you overcame adversity to accomplish a goal you are proud of. What was the situation and goal? What process did you use to overcome adversity? What was the outcome? What did you learn from this situation that will support your career as a speech-language pathologist? (350-word limit)

## Applicant Details

Applicants will be asked to select the background details that best aligns with their undergraduate degree. Please read through all options in the application carefully and select the option that best describes you.

## Grade Point Average in Communication Science Disorders/Speech-Language-Hearing Coursework

REQUIRED for all applicants: Include all CSD/SPLH equivalent courses within the application's online GPA calculator.

- Do not include courses required by the College of Liberal Arts and Science (e.g., history, college algebra, etc.).
- If a course was required in the student's CSD/SPLH degree plan, but was not offered in the department, please include the course (e.g., linguistics).
- Do not include courses in progress; these can be reviewed via transcripts.
- Include research methods coursework.
- Do not include statistics coursework.
- Please indicate course numbers and names.
- Do not include courses where grades were assigned as "pass/fail" or "satisfactory".

The GPA will be automatically calculated once the application is submitted. It is based on KU's GPA calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>) and will only calculate the GPA for the applicant's undergraduate major.

Students with a degree other than speech-language pathology, or communication sciences and disorders, and all international students complete the calculator with the courses taken which apply or are equivalent to CSD/SPLH courses.

## Prerequisite Coursework Status

Applicants must provide details on plans to complete specific prerequisite coursework (<https://splh.ku.edu/pre-requisite/>) prior to starting classes in the master's degree program. Courses required to be completed are in the areas of biological sciences, physical sciences, statistics, and social/behavioral sciences, and for aural rehabilitation and research methods.

## Transcripts

Please provide a copy of an official transcript displaying the school's seal from every institution from which a degree has been received. In addition, ALL prerequisite courses (<https://splh.ku.edu/pre-requisite/>), even if acquired apart from the degree, must be documented on official transcripts.

It is appropriate for copies of transcripts to have "copy" watermarks. Note: printing a page from a website does not meet this requirement. Student advising reports or any transcript with the words "unofficial transcript" in the header are not accepted.

Request an official transcript from each institution's Office of the Registrar, take a photo or scan it, and upload directly into the online application.

Current and former University of Kansas students are not required to request or purchase official KU transcripts, or to provide copies of KU transcripts to apply for admission to KU graduate programs. If KU students earned a degree from another institution, they will need to upload copies of those transcripts with their application.

All transcripts must be uploaded by the student with their online application for the application to be considered complete. Transcripts provided to KU in any other way may not be considered part of the application.

Please contact [atrue@ku.edu](mailto:atrue@ku.edu) or 785-864-9623 (711 TTY) with any questions.

## Letters of Recommendation

A reference provides a professional recommendation on the applicant's behalf. It is preferred that college instructors provide these recommendations, but past supervisors during employment or volunteer positions are also acceptable. The recommendations may not be obtained from family members, friends, etc. Please refer to the information for students in selecting references (<https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/academics/departments/hearing-and-speech/academics/application-resources.html>).

Applicants will enter the names and contact information (including email addresses) of three individuals into the online application. The application system will prompt the references to submit a reference letter and automatically send them the graduate letter of recommendation form. *Note: the recommendation request may be submitted before the complete online application is submitted.*

Ensure each reference is willing to submit this electronically, and inform them that they will be receiving an email from [graduateadm@ku.edu](mailto:graduateadm@ku.edu) requesting they submit a reference for you online. Recommenders may use the instructions for reference letter writers (<https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/academics/departments/hearing-and-speech/academics/application-resources.html>) for more assistance.

## Curriculum Vitae or Résumé

Provide a one- or two-page PDF document of work and academic history including professional leadership contributions as well as volunteer activities. Refer to the sample résumé #1 (PDF) ([https://www.kumc.edu/documents/\\_shp/hearing-speech/Resume\\_Vye%20Otsky%20Speech%20Lang%20Hearing%20Path.pdf](https://www.kumc.edu/documents/_shp/hearing-speech/Resume_Vye%20Otsky%20Speech%20Lang%20Hearing%20Path.pdf)) and sample résumé #2 (PDF) ([https://www.kumc.edu/documents/\\_shp/hearing-speech/Resume\\_Audi%20Torry%20Lerner%20Speech%20Language%20Hearing.pdf](https://www.kumc.edu/documents/_shp/hearing-speech/Resume_Audi%20Torry%20Lerner%20Speech%20Language%20Hearing.pdf)).

## English language proficiency

All applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate English language proficiency. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in any way outlined on the English proficiency requirements page (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>). If applicants have their proficiency determined through TOEFL or IELTS testing agency, when required, the test must have been taken within two years of the first semester of enrollment. Results must be provided directly to KU by the testing service using TOEFL school code 6871. Photocopies of scores will not be accepted.

## Requirements for the M.A. Degree with a Major in Speech-Language Pathology

Students with undergraduate degrees in other fields (e.g., psychology, linguistics) typically need to complete undergraduate prerequisite coursework in communication sciences and disorders before applying and/or being admitted to a graduate program in speech-language pathology or audiology.

## Prerequisite Course Work for the MA SLP Graduate Program

- An acceptable bachelor's degree
- Coursework in speech-language-hearing must include the following: Physics of Speech; Principles of Speech Science; Principles of Hearing Science; Fundamentals of Clinical Phonetics; Language Analysis Lab; Language Development; Introduction to Audiological Assessment and Rehabilitation; Introduction to Speech-Language Pathology; Research Methods in Speech-Language-Hearing; Statistics.
- Additional requirements for ASHA Certification include coursework in biological sciences, physical sciences, and social/behavioral sciences. Courses in biological and physical sciences specifically related to communication sciences and disorders cannot be applied to this requirement.

## Course Work Requirements

All of these credit hours are at the 700-level or above, with the exception of the Advanced Elective hours. Advanced Electives can include any approved graduate course.

| Code  | Title  | Hours     |
|---|--|-----------|
| <b>Required Graduate Experiences for Breadth</b>  |  |           |
| SPLH 888  | Multicultural Considerations in Speech-Language-Hearing I            | 1         |
| SPLH 889  | Multicultural Considerations in Speech-Language-Hearing II           | 1         |
| SPLH 860  | Evaluation of Speech and Language                                    | 2         |
| SPLH 862  | Clinical Processes <sup>1</sup>                                      | 2         |
| SPLH 864  | Advanced Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology <sup>2</sup> | 10        |
| SPLH 868  | Professional Issues <sup>3</sup>                                     | 2         |
| <b>Electives</b>  |  | <b>16</b> |
| 8 seminars, 2 credit hours each from the electives list below. Must be at the 700 level or above and selected in consultation with the student's faculty advisor. |  |           |
| <b>Required Graduate Experiences for Depth</b>  |  | <b>10</b> |
| SPLH 866 Field Study in Speech-Language Pathology (5 hours)   |  |           |
| AND   |  |           |
| SPLH 866 Field Study in Speech-Language Pathology (5 additional hours)  |  |           |
| OR  |  |           |
| SPLH 874 Master's Research Practicum Experience (5 hours)   |  |           |
| <b>Additional Electives</b>   |  | <b>4</b>  |
| 4 additional hours taken for graduate credit (500 level or above) in SPLH or any outside department, selected in consultation with the faculty advisor.           |  |           |
| <b>Research Experience and Completion Option</b>  |  | <b>3</b>  |
| Select one of the following research and culminating effort options to complete the program. See the Completion Options section below for more information.       |  |           |
| Final Summative Exam Option: SPLH 874 Master's Research practicum   |  |           |
| OR  |  |           |
| Thesis Option: SPLH 899 Master's Thesis*  |  |           |

\*Students completing a thesis must take a minimum of 4 credit hours in SPLH 899. Three of those credits fulfill the research requirement and the fourth credit hour will count towards the Additional Electives requirement.

**Total Hours** **51**

- <sup>1</sup> This course is taken twice for a total of 2 credit hours.  
<sup>2</sup> This course is taken more than once for a total of 10 credit hours  
<sup>3</sup> This course is taken more than once for a total of 2 credit hours

| Code                    | Title   | Hours |
|-------------------------|---|-------|
| <b>Elective Options</b> |   |       |
| SPLH 716                | Speech Perception   |       |
| SPLH 736                | Foundations of Early Intervention   |       |
| SPLH 737                | Infants and Toddler with Significant Needs  |       |
| SPLH 752                | Examining Global Perspectives in Speech-Language-Hearing: _____                           |       |
| SPLH 764                | Seminar in: _____   |       |
| SPLH 820                | Developmental Phonological Disorders  |       |
| SPLH 822                | Neuromotor Speech Disorders   |       |
| SPLH 824                | Fluency Disorders   |       |
| SPLH 826                | Phonatory Disorders   |       |
| SPLH 830                | Communication in Autism   |       |
| SPLH 832                | Dysphagia   |       |
| SPLH 833                | Dysphagia Treatment in Adults   |       |
| SPLH 834                | Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Literacy                                   |       |
| SPLH 836                | Introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication Technologies                   |       |
| SPLH 838                | Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Schools                                     |       |
| SPLH 840                | Communication of Infants and Toddlers: Early Intervention Supports and Services           |       |
| SPLH 842                | Language Disorders of Children: Preschool   |       |
| SPLH 844                | Language Disorders of Children: School Age  |       |
| SPLH 846                | Language Disorders of Adults  |       |
| SPLH 848                | Language Disorders of Special Populations   |       |
| SPLH 850                | Cognitive-Linguistic Disorders of Adults  |       |
| SPLH 852                | Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities |       |
| SPLH 853                | Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Adult Acquired Disorders                   |       |
| SPLH 854                | Reading Disorders   |       |
| SPLH 856                | Bilingual Child Speech-Language Assessment and Intervention                               |       |
| SPLH 858                | Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology: Practice and Research                                |       |
| SPLH 876                | Independent Study in Problems of Speech, Language, and Hearing                            |       |
| SPLH 899                | Master's Thesis   |       |

### Formative Assessment

All entering MA SLP students are required to maintain an electronic portfolio to document their acquisition of knowledge and skill in diagnosing and treating communication disorders in at least 6 of the 9 content

areas (articulation/phonology; resonance; fluency; receptive/expressive language; hearing; dysphagia; cognition; social; AAC) as identified by the American Speech Hearing Association (ASHA), the program's accrediting organization. The portfolio will be formally reviewed by the student's academic advisor midway through the student's program (i.e., formative assessment) and will be reviewed by a committee of three faculty during the final semester of the student's program.

## Completion Options

Students choose between one of the following culminating effort options to complete the degree and meet research experience requirements.

1. **Summative Final Exam Only:** Students must pass the oral summative exam (including the thesis defense if applicable). Potential outcomes include honors, pass, revision, or fail. Please see the student handbook for criteria on revised exams. If an outcome is recorded as a fail, a student may re-take the exam. If a student fails the exam twice, the program will consider the student as making unsatisfactory progress and unable to continue in the program.
2. **Summative Final Exam with Master's Thesis:** In addition to the summative final exam outlined above, students may also choose to complete an optional thesis. This option is typically selected by students who intend to continue to a PhD program upon completion of the master's.

For more information or to contact the program, please visit the IPCD website (<http://hearing.kumc.edu>)

## Technical Standards

The master's degree in speech-language pathology signifies the holder will satisfy the academic and practicum requirements as stated by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to be eligible to continue on to the clinical fellowship year. It follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills to practice in the area of speech-language pathology. Therefore, all individuals admitted to the University of Kansas Intercampus Program in Communicative Disorders must meet the following abilities and expectations **with or without accommodation(s)**. KU is an AA/EO/Title XI institution.

NOTE: Reasonable accommodations will be considered and may be made to qualified students who disclose a disability, so long as such accommodation does not significantly alter the essential requirements of the curriculum and the training program, or significantly affect the safety of patient care. Students who disclose that they have a disability are considered for the program if they are otherwise qualified. Qualified students with a disability who wish to request accommodations should provide appropriate documentation of disability and submit a request for accommodation to one of the following offices:

Academic Accommodations Services  
3901 Rainbow Boulevard, MS 4029  
Kansas City, KS 66160  
913-945-7035; 711 TTY

Student Access Center  
1450 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 22  
Lawrence, KS 66045  
[access@ku.edu](mailto:access@ku.edu)  
785-864-4064; 711 TTY

The culminating activity in the preparation of a speech-language pathologist is clinical reasoning. Therefore, a candidate for the master's

degree must be able to make correct observations and have the skills of measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis.

All students admitted to the KU Intercampus Program in Communicative Disorders must be able to meet the following requirements and expectations **with or without accommodation(s)**.

## Observation/Sensory Motor

- Observe demonstrations and learn from experiences in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical situations.
- Carry out speech/language/hearing assessments and intervention strategies/techniques including the operation of complex, electronic instrumentation. Diagnosis, assessment, and intervention of speech/language/hearing problems typically necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision, hearing, and touch such as palpating certain areas of the patient's head and neck.
- Comprehend text, numbers, images and graphs.
- Observe and respond to subtle cues of patient's moods, temperament, and social behavior.

## Physical/Psychomotor

- Perform actions requiring coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium and use of tactile, hearing, and visual senses.
- Respond quickly in clinic situations, not only for safety, but also therapeutically.
- Travel to numerous clinical sites for practical experience.
- Use an electronic keyboard to operate instruments and to calculate, record, evaluate, and transmit information.

## Communication

- Be able to share and to elicit information from patients/clients, supervisor, peers and other health professionals verbally and in a recorded format.
- Effectively, confidently, and sensitively converse with patients and their families.
- Comprehend technical and professional materials.
- Prepare papers, produce reports, and complete documentation for patient records.
- Assimilate information from written sources (texts, journals, medical/school records).
- Take paper, computer, and laboratory examinations and prepare scholarly papers.

## Judgment

- Demonstrate judgment in the classroom, laboratory, and clinic situations that shows the intellect and emotional health necessary to make mature, sensitive, and effective decisions in the following areas:
  - relationships with professors, supervisors, peers, and patients/clients
  - professional and ethical behavior
  - effectiveness of diagnostic, assessment, and intervention strategies.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rationale and justification for one's performance.

- Critically evaluate one's own performance and be flexible toward change to promote professional and clinical process.
- Recognize and correct behaviors disruptive to classroom teaching, research, and patient care.
- Manage the use of time to complete clinical and academic assignments within realistic constraints.
- Recognize potentially hazardous materials, equipment, and situations and proceed in a manner to minimize risk of injury to those in the area.
- Make correct observations and have the problem solving skills necessary for measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis.