

SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING SCIENCES, B.S.

The Bachelor of Science degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences provides students with the foundational background to function in a changing health care landscape.

Upon graduation, students are equipped to pursue graduate degrees in speech-language pathology and audiology. Descriptions of these two vital members of the health care team are found in the career section below. Graduates may choose to use these skills by assuming positions as a speech-language pathology assistant, research assistant or patient care advocate.

While pursuing a bachelor's degree in speech, language and hearing sciences, students observe adults and children with various speech, language and auditory disorders. After completing the required courses, students have an opportunity to participate in an elective clinical practicum. Many students also choose to study abroad.

The Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences B.S. to M.S. Accelerated Program will allow students to graduate with their B.S. and M.S. in speech-language pathology in five years compared to the standard six-year track.

Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, B.S. to M.S. Accelerated Program (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/speech-language-hearing-sciences/slhs-accelerated/>)

SLHS Undergraduate Handbook (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/pdf/slhs-undergraduate-handbook.pdf>)

Curriculum Overview

SLU's speech, language and hearing sciences (SLHS) program requires 50 credits for the major along with the required credits of the core curriculum. It also requires 25 credits of clinical observation and completion of a capstone project.

Requirements for the degree include:

- 3.00 cumulative GPA
- 25 hours of clinical observation
- Capstone project
- A minimum of 120 credits

All students in the program experience guided observation of adults and children with various speech, language and hearing disorders. In addition, undergraduate students meeting all prerequisites can participate in an elective clinical practicum, typically done in the second semester of their senior year.

Clinical and Research Opportunities

SLU undergraduate students in speech, language and hearing sciences are encouraged to participate in research activities, either faculty-guided independent research or as a research assistant. Such activities provide learning experiences outside the classroom and serve to focus interest in the discipline. In addition to enriching the undergraduate curriculum, engaging in research is a valuable way to prepare for graduate studies.

Students will observe adults and children with various speech, language and auditory disorders at SLU's Reinert Speech-Language and Hearing

Clinic (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/clinics-and-community/speech-hearing-learning-clinic.php>). Following the completion of required courses, students also have an opportunity to participate in an elective clinical practicum.

The senior-year capstone course allows students to actively participate in speech, language and hearing sciences research.

Careers

Speech-language pathologists typically need a master's degree to practice. Most speech-language pathologists work in schools or health care facilities. Speech-language pathologists help prevent, identify, assess and provide treatment for communication and swallowing disorders to improve outcomes and quality of life of the client and their families. These include language development, acquired language disorders, stuttering, and voice and articulation disorders. Disorders related to literacy also have become an area of focus for speech-language pathologists. Speech-language pathologists serve children and adults, and work in various settings, including schools, hospitals, rehabilitation agencies, nursing homes, private practices and private clinics such as the Saint Louis University Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic.

A doctoral degree (either a Ph.D. or an Au.D.) is required for audiologists entering the profession. Most audiologists work in health care facilities. An undergraduate degree in speech, language and hearing sciences can also act as preparation for other professional degrees such as medicine, special education or public health. Those not wishing to pursue an additional degree can practice as a speech-language pathology assistant in many states with a B.A. in communication sciences and disorders. Furthermore, some graduates have jobs as research assistants or patient care advocates with a bachelor's degree alone.

Speech-language pathology and audiology professions offer excellent employment opportunities. The average speech pathologist salary in Missouri is \$87,290 as of November 2023, but the range typically falls between \$79,990 and \$94,790. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists work in settings such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation agencies and private clinics or practices.

Admission

First-year Admission Requirements

All applicants are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration of all submitted credentials. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

- High school diploma or acceptable score on the General Educational Development test (GED)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale
- Saint Louis University has moved to a test-optional admission process for all undergraduate programs. Applicants may submit standardized test scores, but those who choose not to will not be disadvantaged in the admission process.

Transfer Admission Requirements

Transfer applicants are encouraged to meet with the department to evaluate their transcripts or a transfer admission (<https://www.slu.edu/admission/transfer/>) counselor. A 2.50 cumulative GPA is required. For an example of a transfer pathway, see the 2+SLU tab.

Pre-Select SLHS Admission Option

Saint Louis University's Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Pre-Select Program offers an exclusive opportunity for juniors at SLU to be guaranteed a position in the speech, language and hearing sciences graduate program after graduation. This option aims to provide qualified SLU undergraduate students the opportunity to apply for early admission into the SLU speech, language and hearing sciences master's program during their junior year and be granted direct admission into the program, allowing students to bypass the CSDCAS online application and the GRE.

Criteria for Current SLU Students

- Minimum of 3.20 cumulative GPA and must maintain until graduation
- A grade of "C" or better in all SLHS major courses
- A personal statement letter
- Recommendations from two SLHS faculty

Students admitted can take SLHS 4650/5100 (Counseling) at graduate-level credit in their senior year.

Students who have transferred into SLU's SLHS department are eligible to apply for the pre-select admission option after completing a minimum of two full-time semesters at Saint Louis University and meeting the other criteria listed above.

Application Process

1. Attend the pre-select interest meeting in the spring to review the admission requirements and discuss the application process.
2. Complete the SLHS pre-select admission form during the spring semester of junior year, no later than April 15, for pre-admission the following year. Forms are available from the undergraduate program director.
3. Two recommendations using a standard recommendation form are required from SLU SLHS faculty who can attest to your academic and/or professional attributes and support your application for the pre-select program.
4. A letter of application with a personal statement including professional interests, goals, personal attributes, etc., that supports your candidacy for the SLHS pre-select program should be included.
5. A statement of intent will be included after you are sent a verification statement of your early admittance to the SLHS graduate program. This is submitted by March 30 of senior year.

Applicants will receive written notification of acceptance or rejection into the SLHS pre-select program no later than May 30 of junior year. Failure to complete academic and graduation requirements will compromise pre-select admissions.

Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$58,960
University Fees	\$1,000

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Cost of Attendance (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/cost-of-attendance.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/tuition-summer-current.pdf>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2025, 99.6% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$517 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the marginalized status of individuals with disabilities.
2. Graduates will be able to identify how students' actions can impact their professional decisions with ethical consequences.
3. Graduates will be able to apply the principles of evidence-based research to understand typical speech and language development.
4. Graduates will be able to apply the principles of evidence-based practice to identify acceptable treatment methodologies.

Requirements

All speech, language and hearing sciences courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher in order to count for the major (courses may only be taken twice).

Students in SLU's speech, language and hearing sciences undergraduate program take the following courses:

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		
BIOL 1260	General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter	3
or BIOL 1240	General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution	
CHEM 1000	Chemistry and the Environment (or any general chemistry course)	3
or CHEM 1080	Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture	
CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3

PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
STAT 1100	Introduction to Statistics (satisfies CORE 3200)	3
or STAT 1300	Elementary Statistics with Computers	
SLHS Courses		
SLHS 2000	Phonetics	2
SLHS 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
SLHS 2400	Foundations of Language	3
SLHS 3000	Cultural Linguistic Diversity	3
SLHS 3200	Speech & Hearing Science	3
SLHS 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
SLHS 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
SLHS 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
SLHS 4300	Clinical Methods	3
SLHS 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
SLHS 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
SLHS 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
SLHS 4800	Capstone Seminar	2
or SLHS 4050 & SLHS 4060	Research Seminar and Research Practicum	
General Electives		38
Total Credits		120

Continuation Standards

- Students must maintain a 2.50 cumulative GPA as freshmen and sophomores, a 2.75 cumulative GPA as juniors, a 2.90 cumulative GPA as seniors and a 3.0 cumulative GPA is required to graduate.
- Students will be dismissed from the program if they are on probation for three semesters and do not meet the GPA requirements.

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student's academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an "!" are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
STAT 1100 or STAT 1300	Introduction to Statistics or Elementary Statistics with Computers	3
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
ENGL 1500	The Process of Composition (If received 25 or higher on ACT, can take elective instead)	3

CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	2-3
CHEM 1000 or CHEM 1080	Chemistry and the Environment or Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture	3

Credits 15-16

Spring

SLHS 2400	Foundations of Language	3
SLHS 1000	Introduction to Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences	3
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
IPE 2100	Interprofessional Collaboration and Healthcare in Global Context	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
Elective (suggested to take SLHS 1420)		2-3

Credits 17-18

Year Two

Fall

SLHS 2000	Phonetics	2
BIOL 1240 or BIOL 1260	General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution or General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter	3
CORE 1900	Eloquentia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication	3

Electives (suggested to take HCE 2010 and EDUC 1300) 9

Credits 17

Spring

Option to Study Abroad this Semester

SLHS 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	3
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
CORE 2500	Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation	0
Electives (suggested electives are HSCI 2500 or EDF 2240)		6

Credits 15

Year Three

Fall

SLHS 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
SLHS 3200	Speech & Hearing Science	3
SLHS 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
Elective (suggested to take EDSP 3700)		3
Elective		3

Credits 15

Spring

SLHS 3000	Cultural Linguistic Diversity	3
SLHS 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
Elective (suggested to take PSY 3210)		3
Elective		3

Credits 15

Year Four

Fall

SLHS 4300	Clinical Methods	3
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SLHS 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
SLHS 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
Elective (suggested to take HSCI 2200)		3
Elective		3
Credits		13
Spring		
SLHS 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
SLHS 4700	Undergraduate Clinical Practicum (Or Elective that meets UUC Reflection-in-Action attribute)	2
SLHS 4800 or SLHS 4050 and SLHS 4060	Capstone Seminar or Research Seminar and Research Practicum	2
Electives (suggested SLHS 4900 and SLHS 4650)		6
Credits		13
Total Credits		120-122

Program Notes

Minimum credits for graduation is 120; the SLHS major requires 38 SLHS credits. Students may choose three credits of elective SLHS courses to meet the 38 required credits from a variety of SLHS electives: SLHS 1000 Introduction to Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences (3 cr), SLHS 1420 Deaf Culture and Sign Language (2 cr), SLHS 4700 Undergraduate Clinical Practicum (2 cr), or SLHS 4900 Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment (2 cr) or SLHS 4650 Counseling (3 cr)

Contact Us

Apply for Admission (<https://www.slu.edu/admission/>)

Contact Doisy College of Health Sciences

Recruitment specialist
314-977-2570
dchs@health.slu.edu

2+SLU

2+SLU programs provide a guided pathway for students transferring from a partner institution.

Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, B.S. (STLCC 2+SLU)
(<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2plusslu/stlcc/slhs/>)