The Master’s Degree Program

In

Speech-Language Pathology

Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences
1700 Lomas Blvd NE, Suite 1300
MSC01 1195
Albuquerque, NM 87131
(505) 277-4453
http://shs.unm.edu

Phyllis Palmer, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Department Chair

The graduate education program in speech-language pathology at the University of New Mexico is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master’s degree program is designed to prepare students in the broad range of knowledge and skills needed for effective practice in the profession of speech-language pathology. Faculty specializations include language development, bilingual/multicultural communication, augmentative and alternative communication, acquired speech and language disorders, fluency, voice, speech perception, speech intelligibility, and dysphagia. Practicum experiences are offered in the UNM Speech-Language-Hearing Center, many different school settings, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes and other clinical settings. Clinical Internships are offered throughout the country. Students’ programs are designed to accommodate the needs of students who are returning to school after other careers, as well as those who have recently completed the bachelor’s degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences.

The Certificate of Clinical Competence in speech-language pathology is awarded by ASHA after completion of the master’s degree, a Clinical Fellowship (CF) consisting of a year of professional employment supervised by an ASHA certified professional, and passing the national exam.

ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Application Deadline:
Entry Semester | Deadline | Notice of Acceptance
Fall | February 1st | By end of March

Application Procedures:
1. Applications for admission into the UNM SLP graduate program must be submitted through UNM’s online application system (app.applyyourself.com) with a non-refundable $50.00 application fee.
   • Instructions for completing the online application can be accessed at: https://shs.unm.edu/programs/master-of-science/apply.html
   • The online application can be accessed at https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantLogin.asp?id=unmgrad
   • Your application must include the following:
      o Copy of GRE scores
      o Copies of unofficial college transcripts; must include final grades for the fall semester immediately prior to the Feb. 1 deadline, if applicable
      o Letter of intent/interest
      o Names and contact information of three recommenders. Requests for letters of recommendation are sent to the individual recommenders through UNM’s online application
   • Online application may also include the departmental financial aid information and application. Additional information can be accessed at: https://shs.unm.edu/assets/documents/financialaidapplication.pdf

2. Official transcripts from each academic program attended, including final grades for the fall semester immediately prior to the Feb 1 deadline (if applicable), must be sent to UNM’s Office of Admissions (P.O. Box 4895, Albuquerque, NM 87196-4895). You do not need to send transcripts from study abroad institutions if these credits are included as part of a transcript from an accredited U.S. institution.
3. Official GRE scores must be sent to UNM’s Office of Admissions (P.O. Box 4895, Albuquerque, NM 87196-4895).
Application Requirements:

- An applicant must have a minimum GPA of 3.4 in at least 12 semester hours of speech & hearing courses.
- Although we do not have a minimum GRE score requirement, performance on the GRE is an important component in admission decisions.
- Letters of intent must be strong in content and demonstrate good written mechanics and organization.
- Successful applicants demonstrate good interpersonal communication skills.

Applicants are encouraged to review the application tips described at: https://shs.unm.edu/assets/documents/grad_application_instructions_8_19.pdf

Required Curriculum

**Basic Sciences**
- 3 hrs. Biology (BIOL 1140 Recommended)
- 3 hrs. English (101 or above)
- 3 hrs. Statistics (PSYC2510 or MATH1350)
- 3 hrs. Chemistry, Physics
- 3 hrs. in Psychology, Sociology, or Anthropology

**Basic Human Communication Processes**
- SHS 303 Phonetics
- SHS 310 Anatomy & Physiology of Communication
- SHS 330 Communication Science
- SHS 430 Language Development
- SHS 450 Neural Basis of Communication

**Professional Courses**
- SHS 302 Intro Communicative Disorders
- SHS 321 Intro Audiology
- SHS 425 Aural Rehabilitation
- SHS 428 Phonological Disorders in Children
- SHS 431 Language Disorders in Children
- SHS 458 Preclinical Training
- SHS 459 Multicultural Considerations in Communication
- SHS 500 Clinical Practicum (minimum of 4)**
- SHS 506 Reading & Writing in SHS
- SHS 507 Adult Neurogenic Communication Dis
- SHS 517 Dysphagia
- SHS 525 Voice Disorders
- SHS 531 Motor Speech Disorders
- SHS 532 Augmentative & Alternative Communication
- SHS 533 Child Language Assessment
- SHS 534 Intervention: Child Language Dis
- SHS 535 Medical Speech-Language Pathology
- SHS 538 Fluency Disorders
- SHS 558 Clinical Internship
- 500 level Elective (or Thesis)

See Catalog for Prerequisites

Most students have had undergraduate courses that meet the ASHA certification requirements for the Basic Sciences, the Basic Human Communication Processes, and the 300 and 400 level Professional Courses. Confer with your Department Advisor for acceptance of equivalent courses. SHS courses or equivalents completed more than 6 years prior to starting graduate school or covering more than one disorder must be re-taken, audited or tested out of with a grade of at least B. SHS courses in which less than a B is earned must be re-taken. Enrollment in all 500 level courses is restricted in order to maintain proper sequencing of course work and clinical practicum. It is very important that you confer with the SHS graduate advisor before enrolling in any courses, or before making any changes to the program plan that you and your advisor will create. Failure to consult with the advisor could result in an increase in the length of your program for up to one year. A GPA of at least 3.0 must be maintained for 500 level Speech & Hearing Sciences coursework.
SAMPLE COURSE SEQUENCE FOR FALL BEGINNING

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CLINICAL PRACTICE

ASHA clinical requirements are met through enrollment in 458 Preclinical Training, 500 Clinical Practicum, and 558 Clinical Internship. At least 400 clock hours of supervised clinical experience in the practice of speech-language pathology must be completed, including 25 hours of observation of a variety of cases, and 375 hours of practicum in speech and language evaluation and intervention within the ASHA scope of practice.

INTERNSHIP

SHS 558 Clinical Internship involves working under the supervision of an ASHA-certified professional and attending the Internship class. Students placed outside New Mexico or in summer internships attend the class the semester prior to internship. Eligibility for internship is dependent on successful completion of academic and clinical requirements, including the completion of most clinical clock hours prior to the internship.

THESIS

A thesis is an excellent experience for students who wish to gain a thorough introduction to the research process. Students who are interested in pursuing a thesis are encouraged to contact faculty members soon after they are enrolled in the graduate program. Because a thesis requires a substantial commitment of time and effort from both the student and the faculty member, who is the thesis advisor, it is ultimately the faculty member who determines whether to accept a student for thesis work and the nature of the thesis project. Students who complete a thesis do not take the Comprehensive Examination. Thesis research credits fulfill the elective requirement.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The Comprehensive Examination for the Master’s degree is taken before the student’s internship semester. It consists of essay-style questions requiring the integration of material learned in courses and clinical experiences.
ASHA CCC EXAMINATION

Prior to graduation, all graduate students are encouraged to take the NTE-Praxis examination in speech-language pathology, which is one of the requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in speech-language pathology.

EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid: Application for service awards (assistantships), (fellowships and traineeships), and student loans are submitted with the application to the graduate program of the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences. Additional information is available through the Financial Aid Office/Onestop location on main campus, Mesa Vista Hall (building #56 on the campus map). You may also call Financial Aid at 1800-CALL-UNM or 505-277-8900.

Work Study: If you filed your FAFSA, answered ‘yes’ to being interested in work-study on the FAFSA, and show financial need you will be considered for work-study funding. Information and application for part-time employment through College Work Study is available at http://financialaid.unm.edu/types-of-financialaid/employment.html

ACCOMMODATION OF DIFFERENCES AND DISABILITIES

The Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences adheres to the UNM Equal Education Policy, which states:

The University of New Mexico is committed to providing equal educational opportunity and forbids unlawful discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, ancestry, spousal affiliation, medical condition, or veteran status. Equal educational opportunity includes: admission, recruitment, academic endeavors, extracurricular programs and activities, housing, health and insurance services and athletics. In keeping with this policy of equal educational opportunity, the University is committed to creating and maintaining an atmosphere free from all forms of harassment.

We also adhere to the UNM Reasonable Accommodation Policy, which states:

Reasonable accommodations are made to all qualified students, employees or prospective employees, unless such accommodations fundamentally alter a program or service or place an undue hardship on the operation of the University. Qualified employees or program users with disabilities should contact the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). Qualified students with disabilities should contact the Accessibility Resource Center. The University of New Mexico is committed to the recognition and the proactive pursuit of compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as the ADAAA amended in 2008.

UNM SHS FACULTY AND STAFF

Rick Arenas, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Cathy Binger, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor
Sarah Duncan, M.S., CCC-A, Lecturer II
Erika Elwell, MBA, Department Administrator
Cindy Gevarter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Mary Hartley, M.S., CCC-SLP, Lecturer II
Andrea Martinez-Fisher, M.A., CCC-SLP, Lecturer II
Amy Neel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor
Lori Nelson, M.S., CCC-SLP, Lecturer II
Sandra Nettleton, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Sr. Lecturer III
Carlos Nye, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor
Phyllis Palmer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor
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Haley Waggerman, B.S., Administrative Assistant III

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