



## DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH & HEARING SCIENCES

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the University of New Mexico's graduate program in speech- language pathology. Our application process includes a holistic review of all your application materials; GPA is only one of many factors that will impact the admission decision. Our master's program is fully accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and we are dedicated to giving you the academic and clinical education necessary to become a successful speech-language pathology professional.

A central mission of our department is to prepare you to become a leader in the field of speech language pathology with special consideration for our multicultural and multilingual society. New Mexico, a "minority majority" state, provides the perfect location to achieve this mission. Our curriculum and clinical placements are infused with bilingual and multicultural content providing theoretical foundations and practical methods for appropriate testing and treatment, even for monolingual students. You may want to participate in our annual trip to *Comunidad Crecer*, a rehabilitation center in Mexico City, or simply seek out the many multicultural activities on campus and in the community.

While you gain multicultural experience, you will also gain a broad and thorough professional education. Our curriculum is comprehensive and our faculty have a wide range of expertise including treatment of brain injury, fluency disorders and swallowing disorders; bilingual speech and language acquisition; and working with nonverbal children, and individuals on the autism spectrum. I invite you to review our faculty by visiting <https://shs.unm.edu/people/our-faculty.html>.

The UNM Speech and Hearing Sciences Department has wonderful facilities that include state-of-the-art clinical and academic spaces. The department houses our active clinic, UNM Speech-Language-Hearing Center, where you will work with our professional staff and learn to assess and treat a wide variety of disorders in clients of all ages. Additionally, we have an outstanding collaboration with the local public school district as well as local hospitals, private practices and other clinical settings. Your clinical experiences will include rotations through each of these settings. These collaborations afford you real-life clinical placements throughout your graduate program. In your last semester, you will complete an internship that will give you a fulltime professional experience. Many internship opportunities are available locally, but internships can be arranged almost anywhere in the United States.

Our commitment to research is just as strong as our commitment to teaching. This means that you will be taught by faculty who are on the leading edge of knowledge in our profession. Currently, our department research focuses on communication technologies for young children with and without an autism diagnosis, bilingual language learners, treatment of swallow disorders, stimulation of the injured brain, how we understand speech, and the causes and treatment of stuttering. This high level of activity in the department creates unmatched opportunities to focus on your interests and goals in your coursework and through direct hands-on experience. There are many opportunities to be involved in research projects, including the completion of a Master's thesis.

If you have visited or lived in New Mexico, you know why it is called the *Land of Enchantment*. You will be enchanted by our sunny skies, mountain and desert landscapes, and magical blend of cultures. We are very fortunate to be located in a metropolitan area with about a half million residents. The city and surrounding areas provide a wealth of placement sites for our students (and jobs for our graduates), as well as many activities, services, and employment possibilities for you and anyone you may bring with you. Because we are a major university located in a major city, you get the best of both worlds. You can root for the Lobo football team or attend basketball games in the notorious "Pit", see student theater productions, and get your fill of local food at campus hang-outs like the Frontier restaurant. If your interests take you outdoors, you may enjoy the hiking, biking and skiing available in the city and surrounding areas. You can also see world-class opera in Santa Fe, shop in modern malls or neighborhood boutiques, and choose from hundreds of restaurants.

Housing is relatively easy to find and reasonable, with studios starting around \$400, and many one- and two-bedrooms in the \$500-800 range. UNM also offers dormitories and some campus apartments for graduate students. You can learn more by visiting <https://housing.unm.edu/living-on-campus/housing-options/graduate-housing.html>. Access to the department is easy, from campus or the community.

The UNM website (<http://www.unm.edu>) and our department's website (<http://shs.unm.edu>) contain information about our curriculum, our faculty and staff, application information, financial matters, and lots more. Please look everything over and then contact the department if you have more questions. Please remember the application deadline for Fall admission is **February 1**.

Best regards,

*Phyllis M Palmer*

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