

The Master's Degree Program

In

Speech-Language Pathology

Information for *Non-Degree* Students



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

Cindy Gevarter, Ph.D., non-degree advisor
Phyllis Palmer, **Ph.D.**, Chair

What is a Speech-language Pathologist? Speech-Language Pathologists are professionals with master's or doctoral degrees who assess and treat communication disorders such as stuttering, delayed language development, aphasia, voice and articulation problems. They work with all ages of clients in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, research laboratories, government agencies, universities and private practices. The employment opportunities in New Mexico and other states are excellent!

The master's 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), 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

UNM provides this publication in alternative formats. If you have special needs and require an auxiliary aid or service, please contact (SHS-Admin@unm.edu).

Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

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 and is especially strong in bilingual/multicultural communication. Faculty specializations include speech and language development, communication disorders associated with acquired brain injury, stuttering, alternative and augmentative communication, autism, and swallowing disorders. Practicum experiences are offered in the UNM Speech-Language-Hearing Center, various school settings, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, and other clinical settings. Clinical internships are offered throughout the country. The program's student population includes many students who have undergraduate degrees in other fields and/or have had successful careers in other fields prior to seeking a career in speech-language pathology.

NON-DEGREE STATUS

Students who have a bachelor's degree in a field other than Speech and Hearing Science (SHS) may enroll as a non-degree student and may apply for admission to Graduate Studies after completion of a minimum of 12 credits in Speech and Hearing Sciences coursework completed with a minimum GPA in SHS of 3.4. **Note that required courses taught in other departments (e.g., Psychology) do not count toward the 12-hour requirement.**

ADMISSION TO NON-DEGREE STATUS

Complete the online application and pay a \$10 fee at <https://admissions.unm.edu/admapp/> If you have questions, please call Admissions at (505) 277-8900.

ADMISSION TO GRADUATE STATUS

Application Deadline:

Entry semester
Fall

Deadline
February 1

Graduate applications are submitted directly to the Office of Graduate Studies website <https://grad.unm.edu/prospective-students/apply-now.html>.

Requirements:

- 1) Submission of all transcripts. Successful non-degree applicants to the graduate program have a minimum GPA of 3.4 in SHS courses.
- 2) 12 credit hours in Speech and hearing sciences or communication sciences/disorders
- 3) Earned Bachelor's Degree in any area
- 4) Letter of Intent (must be strong in content and demonstrate good written mechanics and organization)
- 5) Two letters of recommendation

Successful applicants also demonstrate good interpersonal communication skills. Written notice of acceptance is provided by the last week in March for applicants.

COURSEWORK

Basic Sciences

3 hrs. in PSYCH 200 (Statistics) or STAT 145 (Intro to Stats)
 or equivalent *with appropriate prerequisite math course*
 3 hrs. in Psychology, Sociology or Anthropology
 3 hrs. in Chemistry, Physics
 3 hrs. in Biology (Recommended BIOL 123)

Basic Human Communication Processes

SHS 303 Phonetics
 SHS 310 Anatomy & Physiology
 SHS 330 Communication Science
 SHS 430 Language Development
 SHS 450 Neural Basis of Communication

See Catalog Bulletin for Prerequisites

Professional Courses

SHS 302 Intro to 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 501 Clinical Foundations
 SHS 502 Medical and School Practice Issues
 SHS 503 Low Incident Disorders
 SHS 504 Audiology Clinic
 SHS 505 Principles of Assessment in CD
 SHS 506 Fundamentals of Evidence Based
 Practice
 SHS 507 Adult Neurogenic CD
 SHS 507L Adult Neurogenic CD Lab
 SHS 508 Assessment and Intervention for Children
 with Speech Sound Disorders
 SHS 509 Counseling in CD
 SHS 517 Swallowing and Feeding
 Disorders
 SHS 523 Craniofacial Speech Disorders
 SHS 524 Social Communication & Developmental
 Disabilities
 SHS 525 Voice Disorders
 SHS 531 Motor Speech Disorders
 SHS 532 Augmentative & Alternative Communication
 SHS 533 Child Language Assessment
 SHS 534 Intervention: Child Language Disorders
 SHS 535 Medical Speech-Language Pathology
 SHS 540 Language Disorders in Early Childhood
 SHS 542 Language Disorders in School-Age
 Children
 SHS 538 Stuttering & Fluency Disorders
 SHS 558 Clinical Internship 500 level
 elective (6 credits required)

Most non-degree students have had undergraduate courses that fulfill at least some of basic sciences requirements. Confer with the department advisor for acceptance of equivalent courses. **SHS courses** 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. Courses in Speech and Hearing Sciences in which less than a B is earned must be re-taken. The UNM Office of Graduate Studies stipulates that a grade of B (3.0) or better must be earned in every course taken in non-degree status that will be applied to the graduate degree. While in non-degree status, students may enroll for no more than 12 hours of 500-level course work (with instructor permission where indicated in catalog) and may not enroll in clinical practicum or internship courses. ***It is very important that you contact the non-degree advisor prior to starting classes, or before making any changes to the program plan that you and your advisor create.***

It is important to note that all students must complete all the necessary SHS requirements before completing the graduate program. This includes all 300, 400 and 500-level SHS course requirements. For students with a bachelor's degree in SHS, they have likely fulfilled all the 300 and 400-level courses which means that the graduate program will take approximately 2 years to fulfil the 500-level course work and clinical hour requirements. However, for non-degree students who have not taken the 300 or 400-level courses there is up to two years of "leveling" before the 500-level courses can be started. This means that for a new non-degree student going full time there is at least 4 years of course work to complete before completing the graduate program. Please talk to the non-degree advisor to develop a rough timeline for completing the "leveling" courses and applying to the graduate program.

General information about the SHS graduate program

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 obtained in order to complete the Master's degree, including:

- 25 hours of observation of a variety of cases
- 375 hours of practicum in speech and language evaluation and intervention within the ASHA scope of practice
- Practicum experience with a wide variety of age groups
- Practicum experience with a wide variety of types and severities of communication disorders, differences, and disabilities

INTERNSHIP

SHS 558 Clinical Internship involves working under the supervision of an ASHA-certified professional and attending the Professional Issues in SLP course (SHS 557). Eligibility for internship is dependent on successful completion of most clinical clock hours prior to the internship. The Clinic Director selects the site on the basis of availability and ability to fulfill remaining ASHA requirements. Arrangements are made by the Clinic Director with hours and duties within the facility assigned by the Intern Supervisor with the approval of the Clinic Director.

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. Also, thesis research credits fulfill the elective requirements.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The Comprehensive Examination for the Master's degree is taken before the student's internship semester. It is administered across two mornings and assesses integration of material learned in courses and clinical experiences.

ASHA CCC EXAMINATION

Prior to graduation, all students are encouraged to take the Praxis examination in speech-language pathology, which is one of the requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence. The form and information regarding the exam, including dates, can be obtained at advisement.

EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid: Most assistantship and scholarship awards are only available to students who are enrolled in the graduate program. Additional information is available through the Scholarship Office, One Stop - Mesa Vista Hall, (505) 277-8900. <https://scholarship.unm.edu/>.

Student Loans: Information on student loans for residents and non-residents is available at the Student Financial Aid Office, One Stop, Mesa Vista Hall, (505) 277-8900.

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 on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, sex, sexual preference, ancestry or medical condition. Equal educational opportunity includes: admission, recruitment, 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:

The University makes reasonable accommodation to the religious observances/national origin practices of a student, an employee or prospective employee and to the known physical or mental limitations of a qualified student, employee, applicant or program user with a disability, unless such accommodations have the end result of fundamentally altering a program or service or placing an undue hardship on the operations of the university. Qualified students, employees, or program users with disabilities should contact the Office of Equal Opportunity or Student Support Services for information regarding accommodations. The University of New Mexico is committed to the recognition and proactive pursuit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

FACULTY AND STAFF

Rick Arenas, Ph.D., Associate Professor
 Cathy Binger, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Professor
 Sarah Duncan, M.S. CCC-A, Lecturer TT
 Cindy Gevarter, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Assistant Professor
 Mary Hartley, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor
 Andrea Martinez-Fisher, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor
 Kimberly Mattison, SLPD., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor
 Phyllis Palmer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor and Department Chair
 Yina Quique-Buitrago, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
 Jessica Richardson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Professor
 Barbara Rodriguez, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Professor and Senior Vice Provost
 Lauril Sachet, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor
 Maria Strum, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor
 Nicole Chauvet, Department Administrator
 John Manzanares, Administrative Assistant III – Clinic
 Wendi Wettin – Academic Coordinator