

**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>**

**Barbara Rodriguez, Ph.D., 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).**

*UNM provides this publication in alternative formats. If you have special needs and require an auxiliary aid or service, please contact Dr. Dale.*

*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 and augmentative/alternative communication. Faculty specializations include language development, acquired speech and language disorders, voice, speech perception, auditory processing 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.

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 the ASHA certified professional, and passing a national exam.

## ADMISSION TO GRADUATE STUDIES

### Application Deadline:

Entry Semester  
Fall

Deadline  
February 1

### Application Procedures:

Graduate application packets are available from the department or may be downloaded from the Office of Admissions website (<http://www.unm.edu/apply/>). The following items must be submitted to the Office of Admissions:

- The Application for Admission
- A non-refundable \$50.00 application fee.
- One copy of an official transcript from each academic program attended, including coursework in the semester/quarter preceding your application. See the admissions packet for further information.

The following additional items must be submitted directly to the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences:

**Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences Admissions  
MSC01 1195  
One University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131**

- Cover sheet
- Letter of intent addressing career aspirations, reasons for entering the profession, and relevant background, skills, and experience
- Three letters of recommendation
- Photocopy of GRE scores
- One unofficial copy of transcripts
- Department Financial Aid Application (Must be completed to be considered for grad assistships, scholarships, etc.)

An applicant must have a minimum GPA of 3.4 in at least 9 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 also demonstrate good interpersonal communication skills. Written notice of acceptance is provided by the last week in March.

**Basic Sciences**

3 hrs. Biology (123 Recommended)  
 3 hrs. English (101 or above)  
 3 hrs. PSYCH 200 (statistics)  
 3 hrs. Mathematics (121 or more advanced)  
 3 hrs. Astronomy, Chemistry, Geology  
 Physics or Zoology  
 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

**See Catalog for Prerequisites****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 Perspectives in CD  
 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/Stuttering  
 SHS 532 Augmentative & Alternative Communication  
 SHS 533 Child Language Assessment  
 SHS 534 Intervention: Child Language Dis  
 SHS 535 Medical Speech-Language Pathology  
 SHS 558 Clinical Internship  
 500 level elective

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. 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. Courses in Speech & Hearing Sciences 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 courses work and clinical practicum. It is very important that you confer with the 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 Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 must be maintained for 500 level Speech & Hearing Sciences coursework.

**SAMPLE COURSE SEQUENCE FOR FALL BEGINNING**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Fall</b>	<b>Cr</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Spring</b>	<b>Cr</b>
500 Clinic	3	500 Clinic	3
534 Intervention: Child Lang Disorders	3	500 Elective	3
506 Reading & Writing in SHS	3	533 Language Assessment	3
532 Augmentative Communication	3		
<hr/>			
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Summer</b>	<b>Cr</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Fall</b>	<b>Cr</b>
500 Clinic	3	500 Clinic	3
507 Adult Neurogenic Comm Disorders	3	517 Dysphagia	3
		531 Motor Speech	3
<hr/>			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Spring</b>	<b>Cr</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Summer</b>	<b>Cr</b>
500 Elective	3	558 Internship	9
535 Medical SLP	3		
525 Voice Disorders	3		

## 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

1. 25 hours of observation of a variety of cases.
2. 375 hours of practicum in speech and language evaluation and intervention within the ASHA scope of practice
3. Practicum experience with a wide variety of age groups
4. 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 Internship class. Students placed outside New Mexico or in summer internships attend the class the semester prior to internship. A limited number of summer internships are available. 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. The site is selected by the student and Clinic Director on the basis of interest, 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 in a single day and consists of essay-style questions requiring the integration of material learned in courses and clinical experiences.

## ASHA CCC EXAMINATION

Prior to graduation, all 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. The form and information regarding the exam, including dates, can be obtained at advisement.

## EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL AID

**Financial Aid:** Application for service awards (assistantships) and non-service awards (fellowships and traineeships) are submitted with the application to the graduate program of the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences. (See section entitled "Financial Aid" in the Graduate Bulletin for additional information.) Additional information is available through the Scholarship Office, Mesa Vista Hall, room 3019, (505) 277-6090.

**Student Loans:** Information on student loans for residents and non-residents is available at the Student Financial Aid Office, Mesa Vista Hall, room 1030, (505) 277-2041.

**Work Study:** Information and application for part-time employment through College Work Study is obtained in Mesa Vista Hall, room 1063, (505) 277-3511.

## **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, PhD  
Cathy Binger, PhD, CCC-SLP  
Katharine Blaker, MS, CCC-SLP  
Philip Dale, PhD  
Melinda Dolan, MS, CCC-SLP  
Cindy Hannold, MS, CCC-SLP  
Amy Neel, PhD, CCC-SLP

Sandy Nettleton, PhD, CCC-SLP  
Phyllis Palmer, PhD, CCC-SLP  
Janet Patterson, PhD, CCC-SLP  
Barbara Rodriguez, P.D, CCC-SLP  
Cindy Simonetti, MA, CCC-SLP  
Amy Wohlert, PhD, CCC-SLP

Tracy Wenzl, M.Ed., Department Administrator

Angelica Lopez, B.A., Administrative Assistant I