

The Master's Degree Program

In

Speech-Language Pathology



**Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences
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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. Rodriguez.

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. 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 the ASHA certified professional, and passing the national exam.

ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Application Deadline:

<u>Entry Semester</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Fall	February 1

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 <http://shs.unm.edu/programs/master-of-science/apply/index.html>

The online application can be accessed at https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantLogin.asp?id=unmgrad.

Your application must include the following:

- Copy of GRE scores
- Copies of unofficial college transcripts; must include final grades for the fall semester immediately prior to the Feb. 1 deadline, if applicable
- Letter of intent/interest
- Names and contact information of three recommenders. Requests for letters of recommendation are sent to the individual recommenders through UNM's online application system.

Online application may also include the departmental financial aid information and application. Additional information can be accessed at: <http://shs.unm.edu/documents/financial-aid-matters-and-app.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).

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. Notice of acceptance is provided by the last week in March.

Applicants are encouraged to review the application tips described at <http://shs.unm.edu/documents/online-application-tips.pdf>

CURRICULUM

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

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

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. 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 GPA of at least 3.0 must be maintained for 500 level Speech & Hearing Sciences coursework.

SAMPLE COURSE SEQUENCE FOR FALL BEGINNING

1st Fall	Cr	1st Spring	Cr
500 Clinic	3	500 Clinic	3
534 Intervention: Child Lang Disorders	3	507 Adult Neurogenic Comm Dis	3
506 Reading & Writing in SHS	3	533 Language Assessment	3

1st Summer	Cr	2nd Fall	Cr
500 Clinic	3	500 Clinic	3
500 Elective	3	517 Dysphagia	3
		531 Motor Speech	3
		538 Fluency Disorders	3

2nd Spring	Cr	2nd Summer	Cr
532 Augmentative Communication	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. 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 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., Assistant Professor
Cathy Binger, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor
Katharine Blaker, M.S., CCC-SLP, Sr. Lecturer II
Melinda Dolan, M.S., CCC-SLP, Lecturer II
Erika Elwell, MBA, Department Administrator
Michael Flores, Au.D., CCC-AUD, Lecturer III
Jennifer Hanson, M.A., CCC-SLP, Lecturer II
Mary Hartley, M.S., CCC-SLP, Lecturer II

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Amy Neel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor
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Janet Patterson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor
Jessica Richardson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor
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