

## The Master's Degree Program

In

# Speech-Language Pathology

Information for *Non-Degree* Students



Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences  
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<http://shs.unm.edu>

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**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 Dr. Palmer ([ppalmer@unm.edu](mailto:ppalmer@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 language development, acquired speech and language disorders, voice, stuttering, 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. The program's student population includes a large proportion of 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.

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 a national exam.

## 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. As specified on the next page, the SHS coursework must include four core courses, or their equivalents. Additional specified SHS 300 and 400 level courses must also be completed as prerequisite coursework. See the next page for recommended courses; **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 and return a non-degree admission application and a \$10 fee to:

The University of New Mexico  
Office of Admissions  
Attn: Non-degree admissions  
P.O. Box 4895  
Albuquerque, NM 87196-4895

Students may call (505) 277-8900 to request an application. The application is also available on the web at <http://www.unm.edu/apply/>.

## ADMISSION TO GRADUATE STATUS

**Application Deadline:**

**Entry semester**  
**Fall**

**Deadline**  
**February 1**

Graduate application packets are available from the department or may be downloaded from the Office of Graduate Studies website (<http://www.unm.edu/~grad/>). 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) Completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) within 4 years of admission date. Although there is no score requirement, performance on the GRE is an important component in admission decisions.
- 3) Letter of Intent (must be strong in content and demonstrate good written mechanics and organization)
- 4) Three 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 506 Reading & Writing in SHS  
 SHS 507 Adult Neurogenic CD  
 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 Disorders  
 SHS 535 Medical Speech-Language Pathology  
 SHS 538 Fluency Disorders  
 SHS 558 Clinical Internship  
 500 level elective (2 required)

*\* required before application to graduate studies*

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.

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# 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:

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. 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 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 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 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.

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  
 Katharine Blaker, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor  
 Sarah Duncan, M.S. CCC-A, Lecturer II  
 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  
 Amy Neel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor  
 Lori Nelson, M.S., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor  
 Sandy Nettleton, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Clinic Director  
 Phyllis Palmer, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Professor and department Chair  
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