**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY M.S.**

Degree: Master of Science
https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/asld/grad/speech/

Program Director: Dr. Karen Fallon
Phone: 410-704-2437
Email: kfallon@towson.edu

The Speech-Language Pathology program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Maryland State Department of Education. The program provides the student with:

1. the study of normal communication processes;
2. an in-depth investigation of communication disorders;
3. development of therapeutic goals, procedures and materials; and
4. extensive clinical experience in on- and off-campus settings.

The program is designed to enable pre-professionals in the field, i.e., those with a bachelor’s degree or the equivalent in speech-language pathology and audiology, to meet the academic and clinical practicum requirements of national and state accrediting, certifying and licensing bodies.

The degree will prepare the individual for national/state certification and state licensure for employment in public school, clinical, hospital or private-practice settings, and to pursue advanced degrees. All clinical practicum clock-hour requirements of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Department of Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology and Deaf Studies must be completed before the M.S. degree is awarded.

### Admission Requirements

Students with a bachelor’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology from a regionally accredited college or university** can apply to our Master’s program. Students must have a minimum of 26 units of undergraduate courses in basic communication and swallowing process, communication disorders and differences, and swallowing disorders. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 in the major and a minimum GPA of 3.00 for the last 60 units. The bachelor’s degree must be indicated on the transcript by July 1 in order to begin the program. To apply, students must submit:

1. an online Graduate Application (http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply);
2. GRE scores;
3. three letters of recommendation with at least two letters completed by faculty familiar with the applicant’s potential for scholarly and/or clinical work. Email addresses of recommenders must be entered on the application;
4. a one-page, single-spaced personal essay describing why you have chosen this profession.

Students without a bachelor’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology have two options for entering the program:

- Students may complete a second bachelor’s degree in communication disorders at an accredited institution (i.e., speech-language pathology and audiology). Students may apply to the second bachelor’s program at Towson University or any other accredited university. or
- Students may complete pre-requisite course work in communication disorders. They may complete this through a pre-requisite university program or through individual courses at one or more universities. Specifically, they must complete a minimum of 8 of the 9 following undergraduate courses in speech-language pathology and audiology before applying to University Admissions.

### Code | Title | Units
--- | --- | ---
Anatomy and Physiology of the Auditory and Vocal Mechanism | 3
Phonetics of American English | 3
Speech and Language Development | 3
Speech Sound Disorders/Articulation & Phonology | 3
Language Disorders | 3
Speech Science | 3
Introduction to Audiology | 3
Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation | 3
Clinical Observations and Techniques | 3

- The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s minimum requirements for application for the Certificate of Clinical Competence include transcript credits for course work, CLEP or Advanced Placement (AP) examination credits in each of the following areas: biological sciences, physical sciences, social/behavioral sciences and statistics. In addition to transcript credit, applicants may be required to provide further evidence of meeting these requirements. A behavioral statistics course or its equivalent fulfills the math requirement and is highly recommended. Students without these courses will have to take them as part of their graduate program.

- Speech-language pathologists must have sufficient proficiency in the English language to meet certification standards of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Students who received a degree outside the U.S. are required to submit TOEFL/IELTS scores meeting the following requirement
  - a TOEFL score of 100 on the iBT or 7 on the IELTS
  - a U.S. degree does not waive the requirement of TOEFL or IELTS for this program. In addition, an interview with the graduate program director is required.

- Students are admitted for the fall term only. Completed application and admission credentials must meet the deadline of January 15.

**Non-immigrant international students:** See additional admission information in Graduate Admissions (http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/international.html)

**See Exceptions to Policy** in Graduate Admissions (http://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/policies.html)

### Degree Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPPA 600</td>
<td>LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND DISORDERS FROM BIRTH THROUGH PRESCHOOL</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPPA 604</td>
<td>ACQUIRED NEUROGENIC LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE DISORDERS I</td>
<td>3</td>
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Successful completion of a capstone activity is required before graduation. Students may complete either a Comprehensive Examination, or a master's thesis or mentored research project.

Students must demonstrate acceptable writing skills in all clinical and academic work. Students showing weakness in this area may be advised to take a remedial writing experience in addition to their degree work.

The Department of Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology and Deaf Studies recognizes a special responsibility to the profession to ensure that graduates of master's degree programs demonstrate attitudes and behaviors consistent with the standards of the profession. Students must abide by the professional and ethical standards established by the department and by ASHA. All students must have a criminal background check complete and on file in advance of beginning clinical practice. In addition, students must submit documentation of required immunizations.

1. Graduates will demonstrate competency in knowledge in normal and disordered communication processes.
2. Graduates will acquire and demonstrate skills in oral and written or other forms of communication including information technology.
3. Graduates will acquire and demonstrate skills in prevention, evaluation and intervention of communication disorders.