Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

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Programs of the Department

The Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology Department (https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/asld) offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs devoted to the enhancement of all forms of human communication. The blending of these two disciplines into one department creates a unique learning experience for undergraduate and graduate students.

The Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology major is a pre-professional degree program designed for students who want to pursue careers as audiologists or speech-language pathologists. Both careers require graduate study. The undergraduate degree prepares students for admission into both types of graduate programs.

In order to continue in and graduate with a Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology major, students are required to earn a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher in all required pre-major or major courses, in addition to attaining the overall cumulative GPA required by TU. Any student earning a grade equivalent below 2.00 in any required major course must repeat the course. Those who earn a grade equivalent below a 2.00 in more than one major course are not allowed to continue in the program.

Student Activities

Students in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology are encouraged to participate in the campus chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

SPPA Graduate Programs for Students with Undergraduate Degrees in Other Majors

The department offers two programs for students who do not have undergraduate degrees in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology. These are the Doctoral Program in Audiology and the Second Bachelor’s Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology.

Graduate Program in Audiology

Students with an undergraduate GPA of 3.2 or higher are encouraged to apply to the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) Graduate Program. Students must complete the Au.D. program prerequisite courses prior to admission or while they are completing the graduate degree.

Students apply directly to University Admissions by January 15 and must submit GRE scores. For more information consult the department website (https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/asld) or contact the graduate program director in Audiology at jsmart@towson.edu.

Second Bachelor’s Degree Program

The second bachelor’s degree is for students who are not eligible for the Graduate Programs. This is a two-year, full-time undergraduate program beginning in the fall term only. Second Bachelor’s Degree students take all required courses with the exception of already completed courses from the first degree. Graduates are eligible to apply to any graduate program. Students must apply to TU for admission to this program, then declare the major. Application information is available from the Second Bachelor’s Degree Office at 410-704-3974, including the application deadline, which is in early spring for fall-only admission.

Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology Admission Requirements

The Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology (https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/asld/undergrad/speechaudiology) (SPPA) B.S. degree is a screened major. Admission to Towson University does not guarantee admission into this major. Interested students begin the program as “Premajor” students (PSPA major), then apply for admission to the SPPA major once the premajor courses are completed. Admission to the SPPA major requires: a) completing all of the admission steps listed below, b) a minimum GPA of 2.80 or better in 5 premajor courses (see below), and c) a minimum GPA of 2.50 or better for the last 30 units of courses. Students with a ranking GPA of 3.2 or higher are guaranteed admission into the program (See department website for information on calculating ranking GPA). Students with ranking GPA lower than 3.2 are admitted on a space-available basis. Students are admitted into the major in June of each year. Students who wish to be admitted to the major must complete the following steps during the PSPA premajor year.

1. Officially declare the PSPA premajor in PeopleSoft.
2. Review the online pre-major video and submit the pre-major application (see directions (https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/asld)). Transfer students should contact the department as soon as they are admitted to TU and no later than March 31 to be considered for admission to the SPPA major by the following fall. For more information about transfer student procedures, please visit our webpage (https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/asld).
3. Complete 5 premajor courses with a grade of 2.00 or better before consideration for admission to the major. Courses can be taken at TU or transferred from other universities. See the admission requirements in this catalog for more information.
4. Complete a speech, language, hearing and voice screening at the TU Hearing & Balance/Speech & Language Center located at the Institute for Well-Being. Screenings are held during the first week of each term. Students who declare the major in the spring term prior to admission for the following fall must schedule this screening during the first term of the program.

Premajor Course Requirements (16–19 units)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 102</td>
<td>WRITING FOR A LIBERAL EDUCATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENGL 190</td>
<td>HONORS WRITING SEMINAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 101</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PSYC 102</td>
<td>HONORS INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY</td>
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<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 115</td>
<td>COLLEGE ALGEBRA (Recommended)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 119</td>
<td>PRE-CALCULUS (Recommended)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 191 &amp; 191L</td>
<td>INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS [LECTURE] and INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS [LAB]</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>
Students will learn the scope of clinical practice.

Speech Pathology Courses

SPPA 101 INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS (3)
Introduction to variations in speech, language and hearing processes. Students will learn the scope of clinical practice.

SPPA 200 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF THE AUDITORY AND VOCAL MECHANISM (3)
Anatomical structures involved in the communication processes of speech, language, and hearing. Analysis of the functioning of these structures. Lectures and laboratory sessions will be required. Prerequisite: BIOL 221/ BIOL 221L (BIOL 213), major status, or consent of the department.

SPPA 210 PHONETICS OF AMERICAN ENGLISH (3)
Analysis of speech sounds of American English and the use of phonetic symbols to record them. Emphasizes ear training, phonetic transcription, and language recordings. Prerequisites: major status or consent of the department.

SPPA 215 LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN (3)
Analysis of normal speech and language development, including the phonetic, semantic, and syntactic elements. Prerequisites: SPPA major status or consent of the department.

SPPA 302 INTRODUCTION TO SPEECH AND SOUND DISORDERS (3)
Developmental, linguistic, and physiological aspects of the English sound system. Assessment, analysis, and treatment of sound system disorders in children. Prerequisites: SPPA 210, SPPA 215, major status, or consent of the department.

SPPA 303 HEARING SCIENCE (3)
Introduction to study of acoustics and psychoacoustics. Utilization of models and instrumentation. Prerequisites: BIOL 191/ BIOL 191L (BIOL 190) or BIOL 200/ BIOL 200L (BIOL 201) or BIOL 221/ BIOL 221L; major status; or consent of department.

SPPA 304 LANGUAGE DISORDERS IN CHILDREN (3)
Study of developmental and neurologically based disorders of language in children. Assessment, analysis, and treatment of language disorders. Prerequisites: SPPA 215, major status, or consent of the department.

SPPA 306 NEUROANATOMY AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE (3)
Introduction to neuroanatomy as it relates to speech and language. Etiology, differential diagnosis, and therapeutic management of neurologically-based speech and language disorders. Prerequisites: SPPA 200, major status, or consent of the department.

SPPA 310 INTRODUCTION TO STUTTERING (3)
Introduction to the etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of stuttering across the lifespan. Focus on clinical applications, research, and theory.

SPPA 313 SPEECH SCIENCE (3)
Biological, linguistic, and acoustic aspects of speech processes. Strategies for the scientific study of speech and speech disorders including models and instrumentation. Prerequisites: SPPA 210, SPPA 200, major status, or consent of the department.

SPPA 321 INTRODUCTION TO AUDIOLOGY (3)
Anatomy, physiology and pathologies of the hearing mechanism. Instrumentation and techniques for the identification and management of hearing disorders inclusive of pure-tone and speech audiometrics and screening methods. Prerequisites: SPPA 303, major status or department consent.

SPPA 325 INTRODUCTION TO AURAL REHABILITATION (3)
Information on options available for managing children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing. Early intervention, communication strategies, amplification options and psychosocial issues. Prerequisite: SPPA 321 or consent of department.
SPPA 341 CLINICAL AUDIOLOGY (3)
Basic audiometry; audiogram interpretation; basic principles of audiologic habilitation including school hearing conservation. Prerequisite: SPPA 321 or consent of department.

SPPA 350 LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND DISORDERS IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS (3)
Review of neurological, structural, cognitive, and perceptual bases of normal and disordered language and their relationship to language, literacy, and learning in children. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or PSYC 102 and not open to SPPA majors.

SPPA 346 CLINICAL OBSERVATION AND TECHNIQUES (3)
Methods and materials in clinical practice. Planning and implementation of treatment protocols. 25 hours of supervised observation in a variety of clinical settings. Prerequisites: SPPA 302, 304, 321 or consent of department.

SPPA 347 RESEARCH AND CLINICAL WRITING IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS (3)
Develops writing skills in disciplines of speech-language pathology and audiology. Requires grade of C or better to fulfill Core or GenEd requirement. Prerequisites: ENGL 102 or ENGL 190; SPPA 304, SPPA 321, major status, and/or consent of the department. Core: Advanced Writing Seminar or GenEd I.D.

SPPA 409 SPECIAL TOPICS SEMINAR IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY (3)
Investigation of particular topics in the fields of speech and language pathology and audiology. The topic will vary each semester the course is offered. May be repeated for a maximum of six units provided a different topic is covered. Prerequisite: varies with topic.

SPPA 418 CLINICAL INTERNSHIP (3)
Clinical practice in therapeutic procedures with various types of speech, language and/or hearing disorders in the Towson University Speech/Language/Hearing Clinic. Students must attend weekly class. Prerequisites: minimum 3.50 GPA in prerequisite major courses, 25 documented hours of observation, SPPA 416, completed communication screening, or consent of department; and SPPA 417 (may be taken concurrently); a criminal background check is required prior to the start of this course.

SPPA 418 INTERNSHIP IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND RELATED AREAS (1-3)
Designed to facilitate student growth as a developing health-care professional. Students participate in the professional workforce in areas of human communication, health, education, social work, or other “helping professions” that will allow the student to grow in his/her ability to communicate effectively with people in a professional environment. Prerequisites: SPPA major; nine credits of SPPA courses must be completed prior to internship.

SPPA 496 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY (1-4)
Independent study in selected areas of speech-language pathology and audiology. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 units. Prerequisites: junior/senior status, faculty/mentor agreement and/or consent of department.

SPPA 499 PROCTORING IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY (3)
Students assist faculty in a course which they have already completed in the department. Prerequisites: Grade equivalent of 3.33 GPA or higher in the course which students will proctor, admission to the SPPA major, junior or senior status, and consent of the instructor or department.

SPPA 499 RESEARCH IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS (1-3)
Mentored undergraduate research in speech-language pathology, audiology, or related areas. Repeatable up to a total of 6 units. Prerequisites: open to junior/senior SPPA majors only; consent of department.