PRE-SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) is not an undergraduate major at SHU. Rather, the program is a Pre-Professional Minor concentration that must be taken in conjunction with another major, such as Health Science or Psychology, at SHU. Students who wish to practice as Speech-Language Pathologists will need to complete these undergraduate prerequisites, and then apply to and complete a Master's degree program in SLP at SHU, or elsewhere. Graduate study in SLP requires two calendar years, including 1-2 summers of graduate level coursework and 400 hours of supervised clinical practicum.

Students who minor in Speech-Language Pathology may complete their undergraduate degree at SHU in a major discipline of their choice; the Health Science major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences is preferred, as it offers students a solid foundation in information specific to health care practice. Other suggested majors could include English, Foreign Language & Culture, or Psychology. Majors must be declared by the end of the freshman year and may require summer or intersession courses to complete the major requirements as well as all the prerequisite SLP courses. The minor must be declared by the first semester of sophomore year. Regardless of the undergraduate major, students must successfully complete all required prerequisites by the end of the summer prior to enrollment in a graduate program. A 3.0 cumulative and 3.2 prerequisite GPA with no individual prerequisite course grade below a C are required for admission to SHU’s graduate program in SLP.

The Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional Program at SHU is designed to meet all requirements of the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) and to prepare students for graduate study in communication disorders. The SHU graduate SLP program has been licensed by the State of Connecticut Department of Higher Education and has been awarded Candidacy, the first stage of Accreditation awarded by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). This status is awarded to new programs that demonstrate compliance with the Standards for Accreditation as outlined in CAA’s Standards Compliance Continuum, for an initial period of five years. It allows the program to matriculate and graduate students who, upon successful completion of the program, will be eligible for national certification and state licensure as Speech-Language Pathologists.

Program Accreditation

The Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional Program at SHU is designed to meet all requirements of the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) and to prepare students for graduate study in communication disorders. The SHU Master’s program in Speech-Language Pathology is currently seeking candidacy status from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Information on accreditation is available at www.asha.org/academic/accreditation

Faculty

RHEA PAUL, PH.D., CCC-SLP
Prof., Chair and Founding Director

ALISON SPRENGELMEYER, M.S., CCC-SLP
Clinical Assistant Prof.
Director of Clinical Education

ROBIN DANZAK, PH.D.
Assistant Prof.
JILL DOUGLASS, PH.D., CCC-SLP
Assistant Prof.

ELLEN MASSUCCI, M.S. CCC-SLP
Clinical Instructor
Coordinator of Educational Placements

Requirements
Pre-Professional Speech-Language Pathology preparation includes the necessary prerequisite courses for graduate work in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology. Undergraduates must also complete coursework for their selected major, Sacred Heart University required foundational, elective, and common core courses for a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree. Twenty-five hours of observation of Speech-Language Pathology practice is required and is included in pre-professional course work.

PREREQUISITE COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Students must take the following prerequisite courses in addition to fulfilling requirements for their major field of study and earning a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree (only grades of C or better meet prerequisite requirements):

Basic Science Requirements

* Biological Sciences 3 CR
  (for example, BI 111 or BI 030)

* Physical Sciences 3 CR
  (for example, PY 100 or CH 030)

* Statistics 3 CR
  (for example MA 131)

* Social/Behavioral Sciences 6 CR
  (for example, PS 110, PS 252)

Minor Courses
(Must be taken in conjunction with other SHU Major; e.g., Health Sciences, English, Foreign Language & Culture, Psychology)

SLP 112 SLP 200
Speaking on Film (elective) Introduction to
Communication Disorders*

SLP 210 SLP 300
Phonetics* Anatomy and Physiology of
Speech and Swallowing*

SLP 310
Introduction to Audiology and
Hearing Science

SLP 320 SLP 330
Speech Science* Development of Language*

SLP 340 SLP 350
Neurological Bases of Communication and Swallowing
Introduction to Clinical Methods and Observation*

ED 152/552 ED 205/569
Education in the US** Education of Children with
Special Needs**

* Required for Minor; the other non-elective courses listed are needed for admission to graduate programs in Communication Disorders (SLP or Audiology).

** Requires Criminal Background Check (See Department for information)

Course Descriptions

SLP 112/HS 112 Speaking on Film: The Treatment of Communication Disorders in the Popular Cinema

This elective course will present an overview of communication disorders such as deafness, autism, aphasia, and stuttering. Students will watch films with people who have these disorders as protagonists, and discuss the portrayal of the disorder, as well as the symptoms portrayed in each film. Students will research one of the disorders portrayed to compare and contrast its portrait in the film with the findings of their research. A service learning project will be included within the course.
SLP 200 Introduction to Communication Disorders
The course provides a general introduction to normal and disordered speech, language, and hearing in children and adults. The course considers normal development of communication behavior, the nature of communication disorders, and reviews the various conditions associated with communication disorders. Ethical standards for the practice of speech-language pathology, contemporary professional issues, and information regarding certification, specialty recognition, licensure and professional credentials in speech-language pathology will be presented. 3 credits; Lecture format.

SLP 210 Phonetics
Students will be introduced to the acoustic and articulatory properties of the sound systems of human languages. The International Phonetic Alphabet will be presented, and students will learn to record speech in broad phonemic transcription. Variations among general American dialects, as well as notation and practice of narrow phonetic transcription will be introduced. The implications of cultural and linguistic differences on speech production will be discussed. 3 credits; includes both lecture and laboratory experience.

SLP 300 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Swallowing
SLP 300 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Swallowing
Students will become familiar with the anatomical and physiological bases of human communication and swallowing, including the support structures of the respiratory, articulatory phonatory, and swallowing systems, and the identification and function of muscles in these systems. 3 credits; includes both lecture and laboratory experience.
Prerequisite: 3 credits of Biology

SLP 310 Introduction to Audiology and Hearing Science
This course presents an introduction to the practice of audiology, to the anatomy, physiology and common pathologies of the auditory system, the impact of hearing loss, types and characteristics of hearing loss, conventional procedures used to assess hearing, interpretation of audiological test findings, and criteria for initiating audiological referrals. Issues of ethics, professional practice, licensing, and credentials for audiology practice will be reviewed. 3 credits; includes both lecture and laboratory experience.
Prerequisite: 3 credits of Biology

SLP 320 Speech Science
This course presents an introduction to the physics and psychology of human speech production and perception. It covers basic acoustics, the glottal sound source, resonance and acoustics of the vocal tract, acoustic features of vowels, consonants, and suprasegmentals of speech, as well as the physics and biomechanics of phonation, articulation, and resonance. The instruments, applications, and programs used to assess speech production will be reviewed, with laboratory practice. Principles and models of speech perception will also be discussed. 3 credits; 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of laboratory experience.
Prerequisite: SLP 300 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Swallowing

SLP 330 The Development of Language
This course will introduce students to the social, biological, perceptual, and cognitive bases of language. A range of theories of language acquisition will be presented and the impact of nature and nurture on children’s development will be discussed. The typical sequence of language acquisition in the areas of phonology, semantics, syntax and pragmatics will be presented. The relations between oral language development and the acquisition of literacy will be emphasized. Dialectical variations in
language development and second language learning will be highlighted. 3 credits; Lecture/Discussion format.

Prerequisites: PS 252 Child Development Psychology or HS 310 Lifespan Development or EX 320 Pediatric Exercise Science

SLP 340 Neurological Bases of Communication and Swallowing
This course describes the development and anatomy and physiology of the neurological system that underlies communication and swallowing and is a prerequisite for further study in medical speech, language and swallowing disorders. 3 credits; includes both lecture and laboratory experience.

Prerequisite: SLP 300: Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Swallowing; SLP 310 Introduction to Audiology and Hearing Science

SLP 350 Clinical Methods and Observation
This course will orient students to clinical practicum, including the scope of assessment and intervention across the life span. It will include an overview of goal writing, lesson planning, writing SOAP notes and other clinical documentation, electronic medical record-keeping, report writing, progress monitoring, and ethical conduct. Legislative, regulatory, and reimbursement issues that affect the practice of communication disorders in educational and medical settings will be presented. As part of this course, students will complete a series of intensive observations in various educational and medical settings. 3 credits; Lecture/Discussion/Observation format.

Prerequisite: SLP 200: Introduction to Communication Disorders