

## **Speech Language Pathology and Audiology Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Why is the Speech Language Pathology and Audiology Program (SLPA) called a preprofessional program?***

Because in 1964 the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association specified that the Master's Degree is the minimal education required for the Certificate of Clinical Competence.

MTSU's program prepares students for graduate study, not immediate employment in the profession.

### ***Why must I take courses in the sequence shown on the course of study guide that my advisor gave me?***

Most Speech Language Pathology and Audiology courses are only offered once a year and have prerequisites. If you take a course out of sequence, you will delay your graduation date.

### ***What should I do if the courses that I need are closed at the time I try to register?***

If it is a Speech Language Pathology and Audiology course that you have been advised to take that particular semester, inform your advisor as soon as possible that the class is filled and will not let you register. Your advisor should ask the instructor for a POD. If this is not settled before classes begin, go ahead and attend the class and your advisor will help you add the class IF it is an appropriate one for you to add. If it is not a CDIS course, and you need the course to graduate on time, ask your advisor to help.

### ***What are guided electives and why were the particular guided electives selected?***

Guided electives give students choices of courses to take for completion of the 120-hours curriculum required for graduation. The SLPA faculty selected courses that meet the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's knowledge and skills areas.

### ***What minors count in the Speech Language Pathology and Audiology major?***

Students are free to choose any minor in which they are interested. Decide whether you are interested in a minor that complements the major and may be useful in getting employment with a BS degree (Special Education, Human Development, Gerontology, Social Work, for example) or whether you want to emphasize the diversity of your undergraduate experience to potential graduate schools. In this case, minors like Psychology, Music, Foreign Language, Biology, Chemistry, and History may be helpful. When students change their major to Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, they often complete a minor using their previous courses. Discuss your minor choice with your advisor.

### ***Is off-campus clinical practicum available to majors in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology?***

Students on the regular and extended track may apply for off-campus practicum. Applicants must submit an essay, have a schedule allowing completion of 50 hours of practicum, and have a grade of "A" in each clinic. Students on the accelerated track complete their final semester of clinic during the summer, and off-campus practicum is not available during the summer. Remember that being on the accelerated track is your choice, so if an off-campus practicum is very important to you, then you may wish to change your course of study.

### ***What courses in the major are offered in the summer?***

We anticipate offering clinical practicum as well as CDIS 3050 and CDIS 3130 in the summer. We may also offer a Guided Electives course. However, the first clinical practicum, that requires a semester-long concurrent course, is not offered

### ***Is it acceptable for students to be employed to help with their college expenses?***

Faculty understands that many MTSU students must work in addition to going to college. Students need to be cautious about their work time interfering with their study time. Students find that weekend and summer employment interferes the least. Students should plan to work no more than 15 hours per week in order to give them time to study.

**Why doesn't MTSU have a graduate program?** Another Tennessee Board of Regents university, Tennessee State University, has an accredited graduate program in middle Tennessee.

**How do I find out about graduate school requirements?**

Most graduate programs now have requirements, applications, and course descriptions online. You may also contact the Graduate School Office at each university and request a catalog. For information about accredited graduate programs, use ASHA's website, [www.ASHA.org](http://www.ASHA.org), and click the A-Z index to find Academic Programs/CAA Accredited Graduate Education Programs.

**Do graduates enroll in other graduate programs?**

Graduates of our program have continued their education in psychology, social work, guidance and counseling, reading, special education, and regular education, and nursing. Professionals sometimes change their careers even after completing graduate study in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology!!

**What are the main careers for students who major in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology?**

Students who complete graduate study and earn the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) primarily become speech-language pathologists, audiologists, or speech-language and hearing scientists. Some students become teachers in schools for deaf students.

**Does the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's CCC qualify professionals to work in the public schools?**

Each state has rules and regulations governed by that state's Professional Licensure Board and Board of Education. In Tennessee, professionals who have earned the CCC may be employed by health care organizations or schools. In 2006 it is unnecessary to take additional courses for an education certificate. These highly trained school professionals are titled "Professional School Speech-Language Pathologist."

**What about students who do not enroll in graduate school?**

Graduates with a B.S. degree may be employed as a "Speech-Language Pathology Assistant" in clinical facilities or "School Speech-Language Teacher" in public schools. These individuals often enroll in graduate school after working for a period of time, or they attend graduate school part-time while working.

**Where can students learn sign language?**

Nashville State Community College routinely offers an Associate of Science Degree in American Sign Language and an Associate of Applied Science Degree in American Sign Language Interpreting ([www.nsc.edu](http://www.nsc.edu)). Also, students may contact the League for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Nashville ([www.leagueforthe deaf.com](http://www.leagueforthe deaf.com)) for information related to sign language classes held in several locations. The University of Tennessee-Knoxville offers programs for teachers of individuals with hearing loss. Although sign language is not required in MTSU's Communication Disorders Program, students are encouraged to pursue this interest as an extra-curricular activity that may be highlighted in their graduate school and employment applications.