The Master of Science Degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

- **Yearly Application Deadline: December 15**
- **Students are admitted only in Fall Semester**
- **The Master’s Degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences includes the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential (SLPSC)**

**Prerequisites to complete before applying to the SLHS Master’s Program**

1. **Course Prerequisites**

Students who plan to apply to graduate study in preparation for working as a speech-language pathologist must have completed an undergraduate degree in speech, language and hearing sciences or the equivalent. The SLHS Program regrets that we no longer have resources to admit students with undergraduate degrees in other fields as "Conditional Graduate Students." However, we value students with backgrounds from other fields and strongly encourage you to apply after you've completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree curriculum in SLHS.

In order to apply for the Master of Science degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) at San Francisco State University, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences or the equivalent. Those applicants who have completed 12 undergraduate courses, as listed on the SFSU SLHS website (http://comdis.sfsu.edu/bachelors), are considered to have met the equivalent of the bachelor's degree curriculum.

For those who do not possess a bachelor’s degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, students must have completed a total of 9 courses in order to enroll in our program as a graduate student. In order to submit an application to the SLHS Graduate Program, we require that applicants have completed a minimum of 3 courses prior to the fall semester in which the student is applying. We also require the student to be in the process of completing at least 3 additional courses during the fall semester in which the student is submitting an application. Transcripts with final fall semester grades for these 3 courses must be submitted no later than January 15. Lastly, applicants must submit proof of spring enrollment in the final 3 courses (completing the 9 course requirement) as a part of the application package, no later than January 15. Remaining prerequisite courses not completed or available to candidates must be completed as part of the graduate program.

At this time, our undergraduate courses are not available to post-baccalaureate students, nor do we offer an on-line option. We encourage prospective master's candidates to complete the equivalent of the SLHS coursework via university or on-line course offerings at other institutions.

Locally, Sacramento State University offers a Second Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology and Audiology (SBSPA). [http://www.cce.csus.edu/speechpath](http://www.cce.csus.edu/speechpath)

In addition, some programs offer online bachelor's level courses in speech-language pathology:

Dept. name change (08/14/2018)
2. Written English Proficiency Requirement

Each graduate student must demonstrate the ability to write English correctly and effectively. To assure that each graduate student has the required proficiency in written English, two distinct assessments are made at SFSU: Level I and Level II.

- **The SFSU Level I Written English Proficiency (WEP) requirement must be met prior to admission.**
  - Applicants will be required to submit evidence of one of the following as part of their application for admission to our M.S. in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences and M.A. in Special Education:
    - Score of at least 3.5/6.0 on the GRE Analytical Writing Test or GMAT Analytic Writing Assessment;
    - Score of at least 4.5/6.0 on the essay test of the paper-based [PBT] TOEFL (a minimum score of 24/30 on the Writing section of the Internet-based test [iBT] TOEFL);
    - Score of at least 6.5/9.0 on the IELTS writing test, or a concordant score on the Pearson Test of English.
    - Passing status score of at least 220 on the CSET Writing Skills Test
  
  - **NOTE:** Applicants who took the former Graduate Essay Test (GET) and scored 5 or above may submit that test result to meet the Level I requirement

  - Applicants who do not meet this requirement will be denied admission, or, if all other areas of the application are strong, a faculty member may choose to file a petition with Graduate Studies to request conditional admission. If conditional admission is granted, the student will need to pass one of the tests listed above by the first semester OR complete an English Writing course from an approved list that will be maintained by the department prior to filing for Advancement to Candidacy.

- **The SFSU Level II Written English Proficiency (WEP) requirement must be met prior to graduation.**

  - Level II is measured by successful completion of the culminating experience requirements that include internships, as well as the written comprehensive examination or thesis. Please see our website for more information about the Level I WEP.

3. **BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENT**

Choose one of the following options to fulfill this requirement. If you have taken one of the following and have not passed, please include evidence of failed exam plus paid registration for an upcoming exam.
A. **CBEST (California Basic Skills Examination):** Submit a *photocopy* of the results. For information and registration go to [http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/test_info_CBEST.asp](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/test_info_CBEST.asp).

B. **Out-of-State Basic Skills Examination:** Submit a *photocopy* of the results. Not all states’ Basic Skills Exams have been approved by the CTC. Contact the Credential and Graduate Services Center to find a list of approved out-of-state basic skills exams.

C. **CSET: Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills:** Submit a *photocopy* of the results. You must pass the Writing Skills test AND all three Multiple Subject subtests to fulfill the Basic Skills Requirement. For information and registration go to [http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/test_info_CSET.asp?t=101](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/test_info_CSET.asp?t=101). [*Not recommended for Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Applicants*]

D. **Other Options for Satisfying the Basic Skills Requirement (see chart below):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>English Score Requirement</th>
<th>Math Score Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSU Early Assessment Program</td>
<td>“College Ready” or “Exempt”</td>
<td>“College Ready” or “Exempt”</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSU Placement (EPT &amp; ELM) Exams</td>
<td>Score of 151 or above</td>
<td>Score of 50 or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Board SAT</td>
<td>Score of 500 or above</td>
<td>Score of 550 or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Score of 22 or above</td>
<td>Score of 23 or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Placement (AP) Exams</td>
<td>Score of 3 or above on either:</td>
<td>Score of 3 or above on either:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Language and Composition</td>
<td>- Calculus (AB or BC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Literature and Composition</td>
<td>- Statistics</td>
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*The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing will accept a combination of scores from the EAP and the EPT/ELM examinations to meet the Basic Skills Requirement as long as the individual passes a section of English and a section of Mathematics.*

4. **ASHA Standard IV: Knowledge Outcomes requirement.**

Upon completion of degree requirements, applicants must have demonstrated knowledge of the biological sciences, physical sciences, statistics, and the social/behavioral sciences, in order to apply for the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The SFSU Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Program requires that courses in these areas be completed or enrolled in upon application to the graduate program, and must be verified in academic transcripts. Course syllabi may be requested as well to confirm fulfillment of ASHA Standard IV.

According to ASHA’s 2014 Standards, acceptable courses in biological sciences should emphasize a content area related to human or animal sciences (e.g., biology, human anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, human genetics, veterinary science). Acceptable courses in physical sciences should include physics or chemistry. Acceptable courses in social/behavioral sciences should include psychology, sociology, anthropology, or public health. A stand-alone course in statistics is required. Research methodology courses in communication sciences and disorders (CSD) may not be used to satisfy the statistics requirement. A course in biological and physical sciences specifically related to CSD may not be applied for certification purposes to this category unless the course fulfills a university requirement in one of these areas.

5. **Certificate of Clearance (COC)**

Certificate of Clearance is required only for those who are recommended for admission.
More about the SLHS Program at SFSU

The Master of Science degree is required for employment as a SLP. Graduation from the BA program does not guarantee admission into the master’s program. Every individual must apply to, and be accepted into, the SLHS master’s program in Speech-Language Pathology. Entrance into the master’s program is highly competitive with a few hundred applicants for 30 or fewer openings each fall semester.

Note: The SLHS program no longer offers a master's degree in audiology.

1. The Master of Science degree program for Speech-Language Pathology includes 50-60 units of core courses and 21-28 units of clinical practica.

2. ASHA CCC, CA State Licensure, and CA Credential in Speech-Language Pathology. Upon completion of the MS degree from the SLHS Program, graduates are eligible for the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). In addition, individuals are eligible for CA state licensure, and the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential (SLPSC).

3. SLHS Student Population
There are approximately 200 students enrolled in the SPHS Program – 125+ undergraduates and 75+ graduate students.

4. SLP Course Sequence
All of the undergraduate courses and graduate courses in SLP are offered once per year. The classes are arranged in a yearly sequence so that fall semester courses are prerequisites for spring semester courses. Second year undergraduate/graduate courses require completion of the first-year coursework.

5. SLHS ADVISORS
All students are required to participate in advising at least once each semester to prepare for the upcoming semester (coursework and clinical practica). The advisors for undergraduate and graduate students are Drs. Laura Epstein, Betty Yu, and Patti Solomon-Rice in fall and spring semesters. In spring semester 2014 only, Dr. Minnie Graham will also provide advising. Several group-advising sessions are held at the beginning of each semester. Group advising sessions in the first 2 weeks of each semester are announced in classes and information bulletins are posted near the SLHS office (BH 113). Individual appointments with SLHS faculty members are available, as needed.

6. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is our national organization. The Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) is the accrediting agency for SLHS programs throughout the United States. Upon completion of the master’s degree, you will be eligible for the Certification of Clinical Competence (CCC) in SLP through ASHA. ASHA certification is recognized by employers throughout the nation as a symbol of professional training and competence, particularly for SLPs. ASHA’s website is: http://www.asha.org.

7. ASHA REQUIREMENTS
Current ASHA guidelines (September, 2014 Standards) require graduate students to (1) take a minimum of 75 semester credit units of coursework, of which 36 must be in graduate courses, and (2) earn a minimum of 400 supervised contact hours in a minimum of three types of clinical settings serving adults and children with a variety of communicative disorders. SLHS students provide services to clients in the SLHS Clinic here on campus, at public school sites, and in Bay Area hospitals and community clinics. To meet ASHA standards and move through the master’s program within 2 years, classified SLP graduate students must take a clinic every semester of their enrollment in the SLHS program and at least one summer semester.

As stated above, according to ASHA, acceptable courses in biological sciences should emphasize a content area related to human or animal sciences (e.g., biology, human anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, human genetics, veterinary science). Acceptable courses in physical sciences should include physics or chemistry. Acceptable courses in social/behavioral sciences should include psychology, sociology, anthropology, or public health. A stand-alone course in statistics is required. Research
methodology courses n communication sciences and disorders (CSD) may not use used to satisfy the statistics requirement. A course in biological and physical sciences specifically related to CSD may not be applied for certification purposes to this category unless the course fulfills a university requirement in one of these areas.

8. CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE and REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
ASHA requires that, after graduation, the individual undergo a clinical fellowship (CF) experience, in which he or she is employed while being supervised by someone who holds ASHA certification. In addition, the state of California requires that graduates complete the Required Professional Experience (RPE) that runs concurrently with the CF. Upon completion of the CF/RPE, and receipt of the CCC and State Licensure, the individual can practice independently.

9. CALIFORNIA STATE LICENSE
The practice of SLP in the State of California requires a license issued by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board (SLPAB). Exempt settings are public schools and federal agencies. The academic and clinical requirements for state licensure essentially parallel those for ASHA certification. As stated above, the individual undergoes a Required Professional Experience (RPE) following graduation while supervised by someone who holds CA state licensure.

10. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES CREDENTIAL (SLPSC):
The appropriate credential for an itinerant speech-language pathologist is the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential in Language, Speech & Hearing (SLPSC). When students complete all the requirements for the master’s degree, they will also earn the preliminary SLPSC.

- Requirements that fulfill the preliminary SLPSC include:
  - Concurrent admission to the Master of Science and to the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential is required (SLPSC);
  - Pass the CBEST as part of admission to the SLHS Program;
  - Background clearance from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing by way of the Certificate of Clearance as part of admission to the SLHS Program;
  - CD715 Clinical/Rehabilitative Experience in the School;
  - CD725 Student Teaching Workshop: Communication Handicapped;
  - SPED788 Professional, Legal, and Ethical Practices: Opportunities for Students with Disabilities.

- For the clear SLPSC, the candidate may apply directly to the Commission and must verify:
  - Passing score (currently 600) on the Educational Testing Services Praxis II Speech-Language Pathology Test (test code 0330), and
  - Completion of a 36-week, full-time, mentored clinical experience or equivalent supervised practicum (commonly known as the Clinical Fellowship [CF]). Verification of completion may be on one of the following forms:
    - Required Professional Experience (Form 77V-21) from the California Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board
    - Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Fellowship and Rating Report Form from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) is responsible for determining the appropriate requirements for the practice of speech-language pathology in the public schools. Questions regarding credentials should be addressed to the Graduate College of Education’s Credential and Graduate Services (415. 405-3594) or directly to the CCTC office in Sacramento (credentials@ctc.ca.gov).

11. TIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
   #1 – It is required to pass the CBEST, the Written English Proficiency-Level I requirement and obtain the Certificate of Clearance (COC) prior to admission.
   #2 - Make an appointment to meet with your advisor at least once per semester.
   #3 - Become well acquainted with the SLHS Program Website at: www.sfsu.edu/~comdis. The Graduate Advising Manual provides comprehensive guidelines to progressing through the SLHS Program.
#4 – Begin the long form KASA early in your program to track your progress through the SLHS Program, available on the SLHS Program website at: http://www.sfsu.edu/~comdis/graduation.html.

#5 – Buy a SFSU Bulletin, or refer to it on the San Francisco State University website - http://www.sfsu.edu website

#6 – The Cahill Learning and Media Resource Center in Burk Hall 319, has many resources pertinent to College of Education students.

#7 – Free email to all students can be accessed by going to http://www.sfsu.edu.

#8 – Microsoft Office (Word, Excel Power Point) is available at the SFSU bookstore at a discounted price.

#9 – Scholarship listings and applications for SPED & SLHS can be found at the College of Education website: http://coe.sfsu.edu/coc/gradoffice.

12. SPEECH, LANGUAGE and HEARING SCIENCES CLINIC
The SLHS clinic at SFSU provides diagnostic and therapeutic services to approximately 100 clients per semester – children who experience significant communication difficulties due to developmental delays; autism spectrum disorders; language and learning needs— and adults who wish to modify their accents, practice using their AAC systems or those who have experienced stroke, head injury, motor speech disorders, and voice disorders and more. The clients are representative of the rich ethnic diversity of the SF Bay Area; approximately 50% of these individuals could not afford these services in other settings. As a graduate student, you will complete four on-campus clinics, including those with children, adults in intervention sessions and advanced diagnostics.

13. OFF-CAMPUS INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS
Following completion of on-campus clinic experiences, students complete one school and one medical internship. Each semester, approximately 35 students complete their internship practicum in San Francisco–Bay Area schools, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and community clinic settings with children and adults. The SLHS program places interns throughout the SF Bay Area and occasionally beyond, based on individual situations and availability of supervision.

14. FALL COURSE ENROLLMENTS: GRADUATE
Most first semester classified graduate students will be advised to enroll in the following courses:
- CD 701, CD 708, and CD 768
- Most students will be eligible for articulation and/or language disorder clinic with children (CD 880 +CD 711), and/or a diagnostic clinic (CD 884+CD 711), or an adult clinic (CD 880+CD 713).
- Take SPED 788 or ISED 797 if schedule allows.
- Students should also have passed the CBEST upon admission to the program.

15. iLearn
SLHS faculty members use a computer program called iLearn to place course information and materials on line. iLearn allows students to access class information at any time, and facilitates communication between the student and faculty member, as well as with other students taking the course. Go to the following website to access contact information for a faculty member, as well as information about courses in which you are enrolled: http://ilearn.sfsu.edu.

QUESTIONS?
SLHS Program Coordinator and Faculty Advisors:
1. Dr. Laura Epstein, (415) 338-1058, or email lepstein@sfsu.edu
2. Dr. Marcia Raggio, (415) 338-7653, or email mraggio@sfsu.edu
3. Dr. Nancy Robinson, (415 405-2170, or email nancyr@sfsu.edu
4. Dr. Patti Solomon-Rice, (415) 338-7652, or email psoomon@sfsu.edu
5. Dr. Gloria Soto, (415) 1757, or email gsoto@sfsu.edu
6. Dr. Betty Yu, (415) 338-3429, or email bettyyu@sfsu.edu
7. Office Manager: Mallorie Desimone, (415) 338-1001, or email mallorie@sfsu.edu

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