

**PROSPECTIVE STUDENT HANDOUT**  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING SCIENCES SAN**  
**FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**(Updated 09-06-2020)**

Visit the SLHS Department Website at <http://slhs.sfsu.edu>

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

- **Yearly Application Deadline: December 15** ○ In addition, an unofficial copy of the Fall Semester transcript with any courses taken to meet post- baccalaureate prerequisites is required to be submitted by January 15.
- **Students are admitted only in Fall Semester**
- **The Master's Degree in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences meets requirements to apply for**
  - **California State Licensure**
  - **Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential (SLPSC)**
  - **Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)**
- **The following information supplements the Instructional Guide for Cal State Apply ([https://gcoe.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/htapp/Guide to Cal State Apply--CD.pdf](https://gcoe.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/PDFs/htapp/Guide%20to%20Cal%20State%20Apply--CD.pdf)), which can be accessed at the GCOE "How to Apply" link: <https://gcoe.sfsu.edu/current-students/how-apply>**

***Prerequisites to complete before applying to the Department of SLHS for the Master of Science***

**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 Department regrets that we do not 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 have completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree curriculum in SLHS.

In order to apply for the Master of Science degree, Department of 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://slhs.sfsu.edu/>), 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 Department as a graduate student. In order to *submit* an application to the SLHS Graduate Department, 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 Department.

At this time, our undergraduate courses are not available to postbaccalaureate students, nor do we offer an on-line option at this time. We encourage prospective master's candidates to complete the equivalent of the SLHS coursework via university or on-line course offerings at other institutions. To the best of our knowledge, the following universities offer pos-baccalaureate degrees. This may not be a comprehensive list and we encourage all interested students to contact the universities directly in case any changes have occurred in their programs.

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

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

- California State University, Northridge: <http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/preSLHSs/preSLHSs.html>
- Eastern New Mexico University: <http://liberal-arts.enmu.edu/health/SLHSis/online.shtml>
- Idaho State University: <http://www.isu.edu/csed/speech/professional.shtml>
  
- LaSalle University:  
[http://www.lasalle.edu/schools/cpcs/content.php?section=post\\_bac\\_certificates&group=preslp&page=index](http://www.lasalle.edu/schools/cpcs/content.php?section=post_bac_certificates&group=preslp&page=index)
- Longwood University, Farmville, Virginia: <http://www.longwood.edu/socialworkcsds/9359.htm>
- New Paltz State University of New York: <http://www.newpaltz.edu/commdis/postbacertificate.html> University of South Carolina <http://www.sph.sc.edu/comd/degreeDepartments.htm>
- Utah State University <http://comd.usu.edu/htm/distance-education/online-bach/onlinebach-overview>

Additional options for completion of undergraduate courses may be found on the American Speech- Language Hearing Association website, under "Find an Academic Department" (<http://www.asha.org/students/academic/EdFind/>).

## **2. Informational Meetings**

Meetings are held regularly by the Credential Services Office. Visit <https://goe.sfsu.edu/events/information-session> to reserve a seat. Meetings are designed to inform prospective students of ways to meet the requirements for admission to the Department. Explanation of the requirements, a description of the Department, and timelines are discussed. All applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an information meeting.

## **3. 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.
  - The Written English Proficiency requirement is based on the Statement of Purpose, which is submitted with the application.
  - To meet the Written English Proficiency Requirement, applicant must receive a score of 2.5 or higher on the Written English Proficiency Rubric (immediately below).

- 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 complete an English Writing course from an approved list that will be maintained by the department prior to filing for Advancement to Candidacy.
- If you are an international student or if you have a bachelor's degree from outside the United States, please contact the Graduate Admissions directly. There may be additional requirements for admission, such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

**Written English Proficiency Rubric:** The Written English Proficiency requirement is based on the Statement of Purpose, which is submitted with the application. To meet the Written English Proficiency Requirement, applicant must receive a score of 2.5 or higher.

Category	Description	0, .5 or 1*
Organization	A well-organized piece of writing is not only clear, it's presented in a way that is logical and aesthetically pleasing. You can tell non-linear stories or place your thesis at the end of an essay and get away with it as long as ideas are well ordered.	
Focus	In good writing, everything makes sense and readers don't get lost or have to reread passages to figure out what's going on. Focused writing sticks with the core ideas without running off on too many tangents.	
Ideas and Themes	Does your statement of purpose have clearly identifiable ideas and themes?	
Language	Does your statement of purpose include precise and accurate word choices and wellcrafted sentences? We do look for excellence in grammar and style. However, the writer is not restricted to the grammar of the Standardized American English dialect, if another English dialect is preferred.	
Voice	Write from a perspective that is unique to you. Be true to your authentic voice, because it is the most impactful voice you have. Your essay should tell us who you are and capture your unique story. This is what sets you apart from all other writers. It's your unique way of stringing words together, formulating ideas, and relating scenes or images to the reader. In any piece of writing, the voice should be consistent and identifiable.	

\*0 = No evidence; .5 = Inconsistent evidence; 1 = Consistent evidence

Adapted from Donovan, M. (2017, Oct. 3). *Eight Characteristics of Good Writing*. Writing Forward.  
<https://www.writingforward.com/betterwriting/characteristics-of-good-writing>

- 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.

### 3. BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENT

The Basic Skills Requirement is mandated through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC - [https:// www.ctc.ca.gov/](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/)). 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.

- **CBEST (California Basic Skills Examination)** Submit an electronic version of the results. You can register for the test online:  
[www.cbest.nesinc.com](http://www.cbest.nesinc.com). Out of state applicants can access this exam online at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/cbest/>.
- **Out-of-State Basic Skills Exam.** Submit an electronic version of the results. Not all states' Basic Skills Exams have been approved by CTC. Contact the Credential Services Center ([credinfo@sfsu.edu](mailto:credinfo@sfsu.edu)) to find out if the test you took is approved. For more information on specific tests, contact the appropriate Department of Education for the state in which the test is given.
- **CSET: Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills.** Submit an electronic version of the results. For info, go to [www.cset.nesinc.com](http://www.cset.nesinc.com). Students must pass ALL 4 subtests for acceptance as fulfilling the basic skills.
- **Other Options for Satisfying the Basic Skills Requirement (see chart below):**

Examination	English	Math
CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP) (taken in Spring of 11 <sup>th</sup> grade)	"College Ready" or "Exempt"	"College Ready" or "Exempt"
Entry Level Math (ELM)**		50*
English Placement Test (EPT)**	151	
<i>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.</i>		

\*ELM tests taken prior to March 2002 required a minimum passing score of 550.

\*\*The English Placement Test (EPT) and Entry-Level Mathematics Exam (ELM) are no longer offered.

Examination	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Math
College Board SAT (taken <i>after</i> March 2016)	560	570
Examination	Critical Reading (or Verbal)	Math

College Board SAT (taken <i>before</i> March 2016)	500	550
<b>Examination</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Math</b>
ACT	22	23
<b>Examination</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Math</b>
College Board Advanced Placement Examinations	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP English Language and Composition</li> <li>• AP English Literature and Composition</li> </ul>	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP Calculus AB</li> <li>• AP Calculus BC</li> <li>• AP Statistics</li> </ul>

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

Upon completion of degree requirements, applicants must have demonstrated knowledge of the biological sciences, physical sciences (either a course in **physics** or in **chemistry**), 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 Department requires that courses in these areas be completed or enrolled in upon application to the graduate Department, 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. *More about the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Application Components*

- A. **TRANSCRIPTS:** Submit one official set of sealed transcripts from every college or university attended. SFSU transcripts can be unofficial copies from MySFSU.
- B. **GPA:** The Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 for master's degree applicants.
- C. **DEGREE:** Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university. Applicants with degrees from outside the United States must have the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a US regionally accredited institution. The degree must be awarded before enrolling in the masters Department. If the degree is not awarded at the time of the application deadline, applicants must provide transcripts at the time of application and updated transcripts once the degree has been awarded.

- D. **ASHA STANDARD IV-A PREREQUISITES:** See ASHA Prerequisites Form in Cal State Apply platform. Complete and re-upload.
- E. **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** The Mission of the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) at San Francisco State University (SFSU) is based on our commitment to antiracism and other forms of antidiscrimination. Applicants must submit an essay outlining personal attributes and professional experiences that illustrate a potential for excellence in the field and demonstrate your commitment to anti-discrimination. The essay should include a brief discussion of your future professional and academic goals, as well as your potential contribution to the improvement of services for individuals from under-served communities. In the field of speech, language and hearing sciences, under-served communities include those from communities that are non-White, non-monolingual English speaking, low-income, and have limited access to quality healthcare and education. You must identify and discuss how you wish to challenge barriers to accessible, equitable and transformative communication for individuals with communication disabilities, especially those from underserved communities. We also invite you to discuss your own background and life experiences that make you uniquely qualified to address the needs of under-served communities. The essay should be no longer than three double-spaced pages. Below is the rubric for the statement of purpose. To meet the Written English Proficiency Requirement, applicant must receive a score of 2.5 or higher.

Category	Description	0, .5 or 1*
Organization	A well-organized piece of writing is not only clear, it's presented in a way that is logical and aesthetically pleasing. You can tell non-linear stories or place your thesis at the end of an essay and get away with it as long as ideas are well ordered.	
Focus	In good writing, everything makes sense and readers don't get lost or have to reread passages to figure out what's going on. Focused writing sticks with the core ideas without running off on too many tangents.	
Ideas and Themes	Does your statement of purpose have clearly identifiable ideas and themes?	
Language	Does your statement of purpose include precise and accurate word choices and wellcrafted sentences? We do look for excellence in grammar and style. However, the writer is not restricted to the grammar of the Standardized American English dialect, if another English dialect is preferred.	
Voice	Write from a perspective that is unique to you. Be true to your authentic voice, because it is the most impactful voice you have. Your essay should tell us who you are and capture your unique story. This is what sets you apart from all other writers. It's your unique way of stringing words together, formulating ideas, and relating scenes or images to the reader. In any piece of writing, the voice should be consistent and identifiable.	

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<https://www.writingforward.com/better-writing/characteristics-of-good-writing>

- F. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Candidates must submit at least two letters of recommendation. Letters should come from individuals who have observed and collaborated with the applicant in a professional or educational setting. It is preferred that the letters be from people who can comment on the applicant's experiences with people with disabilities and/or in an educational setting. It is also appropriate to have recommendations from those who can speak to the applicant's academic ability and potential for success in a

graduate-level Department. Additional letters beyond the required two will also be accepted to augment the application. Letters need to be typed on professional letterhead with original signatures. Letters from relatives are not acceptable.

- G. **RESUME:** You may include an updated resume with your application. It may contain information about your academic, employment, and volunteer experiences that are pertinent your application and the SLHS Department objectives.
- H. **WRITTEN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT:** The Written English Proficiency requirement is based on your Statement of Purpose. Please see rubric above on page 2.
- I. **BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENT** - The Basic Skills Requirement is mandated through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC [https:// www.ctc.ca.gov/](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/)). **Choose one of the following options to fulfill this requirement:**
  - **CBEST (California Basic Skills Examination)** Submit an electronic version of the results. You can register for the test online: [www.cbest.nesinc.com](http://www.pearsonvue.com/cbest/). Out of state applicants can access this exam online at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/cbest/>.
  - **Out-of-State Basic Skills Exam.** Submit an electronic version of the results. Not all states’ Basic Skills Exams have been approved by CTC. Contact the Credential Services Center ([credinfo@sfsu.edu](mailto:credinfo@sfsu.edu)) to find out if the test you took is approved. For more information on specific tests, contact the appropriate Department of Education for the state in which the test is given.
  - **CSET: Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills.** Submit an electronic version of the results. For info, go to [www.cset.nesinc.com](http://www.cset.nesinc.com). Students must pass ALL 4 subtests for acceptance as fulfilling the basic skills.
  - **Other Options for Satisfying the Basic Skills Requirement (see chart below):**

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Examination	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Math
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Examination	Critical Reading (or Verbal)	Math
College Board SAT (taken <i>before</i> March 2016)	500	550
Examination	English	Math
ACT	22	23
Examination	English	Math
College Board Advanced Placement Examinations	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AP English Language and Composition</li> <li>AP English Literature and Composition</li> </ul>	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AP Calculus AB</li> <li>AP Calculus BC</li> <li>AP Statistics</li> </ul>

J. **CERTIFICATE OF CLEARANCE:** Certificate of Clearance is required only for those who are recommended for admission. The Certificate of Clearance (COC) consists of fingerprint clearance via Live Scan and the completion of an online application with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Because all graduate students in the Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Department must participate in an internship within an educational setting, all students recommended for admission must go through a background check. This is in accordance with California state law and Education code. Therefore, upon recommendation for admission to the SLHS Department, students must apply for and obtain a Certificate of Clearance with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) OR submit proof of prior completion of the clearance.

Acceptable documentation in lieu of a Certificate of Clearance: valid credentials or permits issued by the CTC, including substitute, pre-intern, clear or preliminary, or Child Development permits. District or other job related clearance is not acceptable. If you are already in possession of the COC, please submit it with your application.

#### **SFSU GRADUATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION CREDENTIAL DEPARTMENT STORAGE POLICY**

All materials submitted to San Francisco State University (SFSU) become the property of SFSU and will not be returned. SFSU will not photocopy or otherwise duplicate materials for applicants' personal use. Applicants should make copies for personal use before submitting material to SFSU.

Upon being recommended by SFSU to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for award of a Preliminary or Clear credential, all materials not directly related to the application for the credential or SFSU accreditation will be destroyed.

A record of the application and recommendation for the Preliminary or Clear credential and supporting documents will be stored for 7 years. Consult the SFSU Registrar for information about University transcript policies.



**CONTACT**

Office Name	Students can:	Location/hours	Phone and Fax	Email/web
Credential Services  Credential Services Admissions & Analysts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask general questions about application process</li> <li>• Submit additional documentation required for application</li> </ul>	Burk Hall 244 M-F – 9:00-12:00 1:00-4:45	P: 415-405-3594  F: 415-338-1940	Email: <a href="mailto:credinfo@sfsu.edu">credinfo@sfsu.edu</a> <a href="mailto:creddocs@sfsu.edu">creddocs@sfsu.edu</a> (to submit additional documents) Website: <a href="http://gcoe.sfsu.edu/">http://gcoe.sfsu.edu/</a>
University Graduate Studies Admissions	(A) Check the status of CSU Graduate application (B) Download form from website	Admin Bldg 250	P: 415-3382234 F: 415-405-0340	<a href="mailto:gradstdy@sfsu.edu">gradstdy@sfsu.edu</a> <a href="http://www.sfsu.edu/~gradstdy">www.sfsu.edu/~gradstdy</a>
Financial Aid	(C) Get assistance with State and Federal Financial aid Departments	One Stop in Student Service Bldg.	P: 415-3387000	<a href="http://www.sfsu.edu/~finaid">www.sfsu.edu/~finaid</a>
Bursar's Office	(D) Registration fees and deadlines, directions for payment	Administration Building or One Stop, Student Services Bldg. (check web for hours)	P: 415-3381281	<a href="http://www.sfsu.edu/~bursar">www.sfsu.edu/~bursar</a>

### ***More about the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at SFSU***

The Master of Science degree is required for employment as a speech-language pathologist. Graduation from SFSU with a BS in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences does not guarantee admission into the master's program. Every individual must apply to, and be accepted into, the SLHS Department's M.S. Program in Speech-Language Pathology.

Entrance into the master's program is highly competitive with a few hundred applicants for 50 or fewer openings each fall semester.

Note: The Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences no longer offers a master's degree in audiology.

- 1. The Master of Science offered by the Department for Speech-Language Pathology include 60+ units of core courses and 18+ units of clinical practica.**
- 2. ASHA CCC, CA State Licensure, and CA Credential in Speech-Language Pathology.** Upon completion of the MS degree from Department of SLHS, 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 250 students enrolled in the SLHS Department – 175+ undergraduates and 90+ graduate students.

### **4. SLHS M.S. 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.

### **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, Teresa Gray, Marcia Raggio, Gloria Soto, Anusha Sundarrajan, and Betty Yu. Group advising sessions are held at the beginning of each semester and are announced in classes. Information bulletins are posted near the SLHS office (BH 113). Individual appointments with SLHS faculty

members are available, as needed. They can be scheduled by emailing Mallorie Desimone, Academic Office Coordinator, at [mallorie@sfsu.edu](mailto:mallorie@sfsu.edu).

## **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 departments and 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 (2020 Certification 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 Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. SLHS students provide services to clients in the SLHS Clinic on campus, at public school sites, and in Bay Area hospitals and community clinics. To meet ASHA standards and move through the master's Department within 2 years, classified SLP graduate students must take a clinic for at least 4 semesters of their enrollment in the SLHS Department, and take coursework for at least one summer semester. Pursuit of a specialization may require a second 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 must be in 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.

## **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 (SLPAHADB). 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 Department;

- Background clearance from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing by way of the Certificate of Clearance as part of admission to the SLHS Department
  - Complete the Master of Science program in Communicative Disorders.
- For the *clear* SLPSC, the candidate may apply directly to the Commission and must verify:
  - Passing score (currently 162) 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 (RPE - Application packet at this link: [https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/forms\\_pubs/combined\\_slp\\_app\\_pack\\_rpe.pdf](https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/forms_pubs/combined_slp_app_pack_rpe.pdf)) from the California Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, and Hearing Aid Dispensers' 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](mailto: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 Department Website at: <http://slhs.sfsu.edu/>. The Graduate Advising Manual provides comprehensive guidelines to progressing through the SLHS Department.
- #4 – Begin the long form KASA early in your Department to track your progress through the SLHS Department, available on the SLHS Department website at: <http://slhs.sfsu.edu/gradadvising#graduation>.
- #5 – The SFSU Bulletin is 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 – .
- #9 – Scholarship listings and applications for SLHS can be found at the Graduate College of Education website: <https://gcoe.sfsu.edu/current-students/scholarships>.

### **12. Nicholas J. Certo Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic**

Dr. Certo was the Chair of Special Education, Graduate College of Education, from 1992-2012

(<https://gcoe.sfsu.edu/content/remembering-nickcerto>). The Nicholas J. Certo Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic was named after him, to express deep gratitude for his indispensable guidance to the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. The Nicholas J. Certo Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic 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 augment their accents, affirm their genders, 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. In addition, approximately 50% of these individuals could not afford these services in other settings. As a graduate student, you will complete two on-campus clinics, one with children, and another with adults, via intervention sessions and advanced diagnostics.

### **13. OFF-CAMPUS INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS**

Following completion of on-campus clinic experiences, students complete two internships. Each semester, approximately 35-50 graduate students complete their internship practica in schools, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities

and community clinic settings with children and adults. The SLHS Department places interns throughout the SF Bay Area and occasionally beyond, based on individual situations, specializations, availability of supervision, and other factors.

#### **14. FALL COURSE ENROLLMENTS: GRADUATE**

First semester classified graduate students will be advised to enroll in the following courses:

- SLHS 701, SLHS 708, SLHS 754, SLHS 714, and ISED 797
- Most students will be eligible for fall clinics upon entry (SLHS 880 +SLHS 713)
- Please see [slhs.sfsu.edu](http://slhs.sfsu.edu) for more information about the courses that are required for the M.S. degree.

#### **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>.

#### **16. QUESTIONS?**

Please do not hesitate to contact the SLHS Department Chair and Faculty Advisors:

- Dr. Laura Epstein, Professor and Chair, (415) 405-2170, or email [lepstein@sfsu.edu](mailto:lepstein@sfsu.edu)
- Dr. Teresa Gray, Assistant Professor, (415) 338-1058, or email [teresag@sfsu.edu](mailto:teresag@sfsu.edu)
- Dr. Marcia Raggio, Professor, (415) 338-7653, or email [mraggio@sfsu.edu](mailto:mraggio@sfsu.edu)
- Dr. Gloria Soto, Professor, email [gsoto@sfsu.edu](mailto:gsoto@sfsu.edu)
- Dr. Anusha Sundarrajan, Assistant Professor, (415) 338-7652, or email [anusha@sfsu.edu](mailto:anusha@sfsu.edu)
- Dr. Betty Yu, Professor, (415) 338-3429, or email [bettyyu@sfsu.edu](mailto:bettyyu@sfsu.edu)
- Academic Office Coordinator: Mallorie Desimone, (415) 338-1001, or email [mallorie@sfsu.edu](mailto:mallorie@sfsu.edu) or [slhsinfo@sfsu.edu](mailto:slhsinfo@sfsu.edu)



## SPEECH, LANGUAGE and HEARING SCIENCES PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

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### FALL DEADLINE: December 15

Further, an unofficial copy of the Fall semester transcripts is required to be submitted by January 15

Submit a University application through Cal State Apply <https://calstate.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login> Please note that the CSU Graduate Application must be submitted online on or before the deadline regardless of what day the deadline falls.

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### ATTEND AN INFORMATION MEETING

The Credential and Graduate Services Center holds meetings regularly. Meetings are designed to inform prospective students of the best possible ways to meet the requirements for admission into the program. Visit our website <http://gcoe.sfsu.edu/events/information-session> for the schedule and information on how to reserve a seat.

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### REQUIREMENTS FOR SPEECH, LANGUAGE and HEARING SCIENCES PROGRAM

#### University Requirements:

- Online Graduate Application
- Application fee \$70.00
- Unofficial transcripts from all colleges or universities attended

#### PROGRAM MATERIALS:

- Application fee \$25.00 (non-refundable)
- Bachelor's Degree – *must be posted before starting the program*
- GPA: 3.0 overall
- Statement of Purpose
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Letters of recommendation – *minimum of two*
- Written English Proficiency Requirement
- Fulfill Basic Skills Requirement
- ASHA Standard IV Requirements Course List
- **Certificate of Clearance – *upon recommendation for admittance to the SLHS program***

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### ADMISSION PROCEDURES

The faculty reviews all applications after the deadline. There are no rolling admissions. Applicants will be notified by mail eight to ten weeks after the deadline regarding admission decisions. Applicants must meet both department and university requirements to be formally admitted to the program and university.

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## CSU GRADUATE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION:

- 1. UNIVERSITY APPLICATION:** Apply to San Francisco State University's Graduate Division (415/338-2234, ADM 250), using the online Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate application to The California State University:  
<https://calstate.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
- 2. FEE:** There is a **\$70.00** fee for this application. You can pay online at the time of the application submission or you can pay Graduate Admissions after you've submitted your application.
- 3. TRANSCRIPTS:** Upload one unofficial set of transcripts from *every* college or university attended to the SF State Graduate Admissions.  
Official transcripts will be required for admitted students. If you have previously attended SF State, you *may* not need to send transcripts. Please check with Graduate Admissions regarding their policies.
- 4. TOEFL:** If you are an international student or if you have a bachelor's degree from outside the United States, please contact the Graduate Admissions directly. There may be additional requirements for admission, such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

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## SPEECH, LANGUAGE and HEARING SCIENCES PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION:

- 1. PROCESSING FEE:** The College of Education charges a \$25.00 ***non-refundable*** fee for the program application. Pay the fee online using the following link: [https://commerce.cashnet.com/CGSC\\_ADM](https://commerce.cashnet.com/CGSC_ADM) and upload proof of payment on Cal State Apply.
- 2. DEGREE:** Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university. Applicants with degrees from outside the United States must have the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a US regionally accredited institution. The degree must be awarded before enrolling in the master's program. If the degree is not awarded at the time of the application deadline, applicants must provide transcripts at the time of application and updated transcripts once the degree has been awarded.
- 3. GPA:** The Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Graduate Program require a minimum GPA of 3.0 for master's degree applicants.
- 4. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** The Mission of the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) at San Francisco State University (SFSU) is based on our commitment to antiracism and other forms of antidiscrimination. Applicants must submit an essay outlining personal attributes and professional experiences that illustrate a potential for excellence in the field and demonstrate your commitment to anti-discrimination. The essay should include a brief discussion of your future professional and academic goals, as well as your potential contribution to the improvement of services for individuals from under-served communities. In the field of speech, language and hearing sciences, under- served communities include those from communities that are non-White, non-monolingual English speaking, low-income, and have limited access to quality healthcare and education. You must identify and discuss how you wish to challenge barriers to accessible, equitable and transformative communication for individuals with communication disabilities, especially those from underserved communities. We also invite you to discuss your own background and life experiences that make you uniquely qualified to address the needs of under-served communities. The essay should be no longer than three double-spaced pages. Check #7 for more information.

5. **RÉSUMÉ:** You may include information about your academic, employment, and volunteer experiences that are pertinent your application and program objective.
  
6. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Candidates must upload at least two letters of recommendation. Letters should come from individuals who have observed and collaborated with the applicant in a professional or educational setting. It is preferred that the letters be from people who can comment on the applicant’s experiences with people with disabilities and/or in an educational setting. It is also appropriate to have recommendations from those who can speak to the applicant’s academic ability and potential for success in a graduate-level program. Additional letters beyond the required two will also be accepted to augment the application. Letters from relatives are not acceptable. ***Letters need to be typed on professional letterhead with original signature, and submitted via the CalState Apply portal.***
  
7. 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.
  - The Written English Proficiency requirement is based on the Statement of Purpose, which is submitted with the application.
  - To meet the Written English Proficiency Requirement, applicant must receive a score of 2.5 or higher on the Written English Proficiency Rubric (immediately below).
  - 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 complete an English Writing course from an approved list that will be maintained by the department prior to filing for Advancement to Candidacy.
  - If you are an international student or if you have a bachelor’s degree from outside the United States, please contact the Graduate Admissions directly. There may be additional requirements for admission, such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

**Written English Proficiency Rubric:** The Written English Proficiency requirement is based on the Statement of Purpose, which is submitted with the application. To meet the Written English Proficiency Requirement, applicant must receive a score of 2.5 or higher.

Category	Description	0, .5 or 1*
Organization	A well-organized piece of writing is not only clear, it’s presented in a way that is logical and aesthetically pleasing. You can tell non-linear stories or place your thesis at the end of an essay and get away with it as long as ideas are well ordered.	
Focus	In good writing, everything makes sense and readers don’t get lost or have to reread passages to figure out what’s going on. Focused writing sticks with the core ideas without running off on too many tangents.	
Ideas and Themes	Does your statement of purpose have clearly identifiable ideas and themes?	
Language	Does your statement of purpose include precise and accurate word choices and wellcrafted sentences? We do look for excellence in grammar and style. However, the writer is not restricted to the grammar of the Standardized American English dialect, if another English dialect is preferred.	



Voice	Write from a perspective that is unique to you. Be true to your authentic voice, because it is the most impactful voice you have. Your essay should tell us who you are and capture your unique story. This is what sets you apart from all other writers. It's your unique way of stringing words together, formulating ideas, and relating scenes or images to the reader. In any piece of writing, the voice should be consistent and identifiable.	
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\*0 = No evidence; .5 = Inconsistent evidence; 1 = Consistent evidence

Adapted from Donovan, M. (2017, Oct. 3). *Eight Characteristics of Good Writing*. Writing Forward. <https://www.writingforward.com/betterwriting/characteristics-of-good-writing>

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.

**8. BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENT: Choose one of the following options to fulfill this requirement. Please submit an electronic version of the score report for the option that you choose.**

**A. CBEST (California Basic Skills Examination):** Upload an electronic version 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:** Upload an electronic version 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:** Upload an electronic version 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):**

Examination	English	Math
CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP) (taken in Spring of 11 <sup>th</sup> grade)	"College Ready" or "Exempt"	"College Ready" or "Exempt"
Entry Level Math (ELM)**		50*
English Placement Test (EPT)**	151	
<i>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.</i>		

\*ELM tests taken prior to March 2002 required a minimum passing score of 550.

\*\*The English Placement Test (EPT) and Entry-Level Mathematics Exam (ELM) are no longer offered.

Examination	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Math
College Board SAT (taken <i>after</i> March 2016)	560	570
Examination	Critical Reading (or Verbal)	Math
College Board SAT (taken <i>before</i> March 2016)	500	550
Examination	English	Math
ACT	22	23
Examination	English	Math
College Board Advanced Placement Examinations	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP English Language and Composition</li> <li>• AP English Literature and Composition</li> </ul>	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP Calculus AB</li> <li>• AP Calculus BC</li> <li>• AP Statistics</li> </ul>

9. **ASHA STANDARD IV REQUIREMENTS COURSE LIST:** 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 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.

10. **CERTIFICATE OF CLEARANCE:** Certificate of Clearance is required only for those who are recommended for admission. The Certificate of Clearance (COC) consists of fingerprint clearance via Live Scan and the completion of an online application with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Because all graduate students in the Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Department must participate in an internship within an educational setting, all students recommended for admission must go through a background check. This is in accordance with California state law and Education code. Therefore, upon recommendation for admission to the SLHS Department, students must apply for and obtain a

Certificate of Clearance with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) OR submit proof of prior completion of the clearance.

Acceptable documentation in lieu of a Certificate of Clearance: valid credentials or permits issued by the CTC, including substitute, pre-intern, clear or preliminary, or Child Development permits. District or other job related clearance is not acceptable. If you are already in possession of the COC, please submit it with your application.

**Out of State Applicants: Please email [credinfo@sfsu.edu](mailto:credinfo@sfsu.edu) for more information on how to apply for clearance.**

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office Name	Resources	Location/Hours	Phone, Fax, Web, Email
<b>Credential and Graduate Services Center</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ask general questions</li> <li>- Research/view job openings</li> <li>- Pick up/Drop off applications</li> <li>- View credential program file</li> </ul>	Burk Hall 244 Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 4:45 PM	P: 415-405-3594 F: 415-338-1940 <a href="http://gcoe.sfsu.edu/">http://gcoe.sfsu.edu/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:credinfo@sfsu.edu">credinfo@sfsu.edu</a> <a href="mailto:creddocs@sfsu.edu">creddocs@sfsu.edu</a> (to submit additional documents)
<b>Credential and Graduate Services Center</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Get scholarship information</li> <li>- Turn in graduate forms</li> </ul>	Burk Hall 244 Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:45 PM	P: 415-338-2389 <a href="mailto:retta@sfsu.edu">retta@sfsu.edu</a>
Department of Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtain SLHS course information</li> </ul>	SLHS – Burk Hall 114	P: 415-338-1001 F: 415-338-0916 Website: <a href="http://slhs.sfsu.edu">http://slhs.sfsu.edu</a> Email: <a href="mailto:slhsinfo@sfsu.edu">slhsinfo@sfsu.edu</a>
Graduate Admissions Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check student standing</li> <li>- Download graduate forms</li> </ul>	Administration 250 Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	P: 415-338-2234 F: 415-405-0340 <a href="http://grad.sfsu.edu/">http://grad.sfsu.edu/</a> <a href="mailto:gradstudy@sfsu.edu">gradstudy@sfsu.edu</a>
Financial Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information on state and federal financial aid programs</li> </ul>	One-Stop in Student Services Building 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM	P: 415-338-7000 F: 415-338-0949 <a href="http://www.sfsu.edu/~finaid/">http://www.sfsu.edu/~finaid/</a> <a href="mailto:finaid@sfsu.edu">finaid@sfsu.edu</a>
Bursar’s Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pay registration and other fees</li> <li>- Access payment directions and deadlines</li> </ul>	Administration 155 & One-Stop, Student Services	P: 415-338-1281 F 415-338-7717 <a href="http://www.sfsu.edu/~bursar/">http://www.sfsu.edu/~bursar/</a> <a href="mailto:bursar@sfsu.edu">bursar@sfsu.edu</a>