

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

The two-year, full-time Master of Science program in Speech-Language Pathology prepares students to become competent speech-language pathologists who provide quality care in a respectful, culturally sensitive, caring, and knowledgeable manner. Committed and experienced faculty guide the didactic program in alignment with high-quality clinical experiences that prepare students for professional certification and licensure.

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology is committed to:  
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE | SERVING COMMUNITY | EMBRACING  
DIVERSITY | INSPIRING COMPASSION | FOSTERING CRITICAL THINKING  
| VALUING INDEPENDENCE.

The graduate program offers an engaging, faith-based academic environment which includes access to off-site community service and supervised clinical opportunities in a variety of medical, clinical and educational settings, in addition to the state-of-the art, on-campus Concordia University Wisconsin Speech, Language, and Hearing clinic. Students learn in supervised clinical settings that are supplemented by specific small-group didactic instruction that supports further exploration of topics related to clinical procedures, medical and clinical diagnoses and cultural and ethical considerations. Students develop effective and professional interaction skills with patients, families, and other health care professionals through service learning and university-supported Inter-professional Education (IPE) experiences. The program also prepares students to pass the Praxis examination in Speech-Language Pathology (<https://www.ets.org/praxis/asha>)).

At the conclusion of the CUW Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program, students are expected to have met the academic content and clinical practice competencies, short of a post-graduate clinical fellowship experience, associated with the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) and are eligible to apply for initial licensure required for practice in the state of Wisconsin.

This program requires successful completion of 42 core academic credit hours, 6 credit hours of electives, and 9 credit hours of clinical practicum resulting in a minimum of 57 credit hours of coursework (academic and clinical).

Completion of an undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders at CUW does not guarantee students admission to the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology. In addition, students with undergraduate degrees in fields other than communication sciences and disorders are eligible to apply to the master's program only after successful completion of prerequisite coursework.

For more information, visit [WWW.CUW.EDU/SLP](http://WWW.CUW.EDU/SLP) (<http://www.cuw.edu/SLP/>)

## Mission Statement

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology is dedicated to the missions of Concordia University Wisconsin and the School of Health Professions and is focused on developing independent life-long learners with strong critical thinking and communication abilities. In addition, the

Department of Speech-Language Pathology aims to prepare students for the opportunities and rigors of a vocation positively impacting communicatively-challenged individuals across the lifespan and their families by providing outstanding academic/clinical education, as well as community outreach. The department also aims to support the continuing education needs of practicing clinicians to ultimately have a positive impact on individuals with communication and/or swallowing challenges. This professional education is grounded in faith, excellence, and service to others.

## Essential Functions of a Speech-Language Pathologist

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology at CUW is committed to developing future speech-language pathologists who are independent critical thinkers who possess the knowledge and skills necessary to practice as a speech-language pathologist. In addition to meeting requisite knowledge and skills competencies, there are *essential functions* critical to successful treatment of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders. Students are therefore required to meet all essential functions needed with or without reasonable accommodations. Students who do not demonstrate essential functions at any point in their course of study, may be denied continuation in the program.

In 2007, the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD) outlined the essential functions necessary for speech-language pathologists. The document may be found at <http://www.capcsd.org/proceedings/2007/talks/EFchecklist.pdf>

**The following are specific skills/essential functions needed by speech-language pathologists in order to provide service within the scope of practice.**

### COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

- Speech-language pathologists must have strong communication skills, verbal and non-verbal.
- Students must demonstrate proficiency in spoken and written English in order to communicate effectively with clients/patients, caregivers, faculty, staff, peers, payer sources, and other health care professionals

### PHYSICAL HEALTH:

- Speech-language pathology students must be in good physical health overall. A student with a chronic illness may not be able to have consistent attendance in class and/or clinic, limiting their ability to gain all the knowledge and skills required.
- Students must possess the stamina for physical tasks. Must be able to sit/stand for several hours.
- Students must demonstrate the stamina to perform classroom/clinical tasks for the amount of time in a typical workday.

### OBSERVATION SKILLS/SENSORY ABILITIES:

- Speech-language pathologists must have keen observation skills.
- Students must be able to pick up on non-verbal communication and non-verbal cues (e.g., facial expressions, gestures, body language/orientation, joint attention, eye contact)
- Students need to be aware of the sensory needs of their clients/patients and the impact on communication.
- Students must therefore demonstrate functional hearing skills (aided or unaided) for speech frequencies.
- Students must have sufficient vision (with or without glasses) to participate in academic and clinical aspects of their education.

- Students must be able to read materials such as medical records, IEP's, and testing materials.
- Students must be able to complete visual assessment of the structure and function of oral-facial structures.
- Students must have the visual capability to read and interpret videos fluoroscopic swallow studies.

**INTELLECTUAL/COGNITIVE SKILLS:**

- Students must have the cognitive skills to achieve competencies in required academic coursework.
- Students must demonstrate the ability to attend, memorize, organize, analyze, integrate and apply the information from coursework in a clinical setting.
- Students must have sufficient problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- Students must demonstrate the ability to use professional written language.

**MOTOR SKILLS:**

- Students must have sufficient use of gross and fine motor skills to carry-out clinical service to clients/patients. This includes, but is not limited to: keyboarding, clinical, diagnostic, and lab equipment, and note-taking (in class and clinically during interview/case history).
- Students must demonstrate the ability to access operate and/or access transportation to all clinical and academic placements.
- Students must demonstrate the ability to transfer to and from the floor safely.
- Students must demonstrate the ability to move between areas (some maneuverability in small spaces), and use technology (e.g., AAC, computers, hearing aids, microphones).

**BEHAVIOR/SOCIAL SKILLS:**

- Students must have good judgment and behave professionally.
- Students must have good emotional health, to allow for use of intellectual skills even in stressful situations.
- Students must be reliable, mature and act responsibly.
- Students must demonstrate the ability to interact with faculty, preceptors, other students, other professionals, clients/patients, and caregivers in a variety of academic and clinical settings.
- Students must demonstrate understanding of the ASHA Code of Ethics and be able to apply it to difficult clinical situations.
- Students must have sufficient time management skills to complete all required academic and clinical coursework in a timely manner.
- Students must demonstrate the ability to take in constructive criticism and self-evaluation and use it to enhance their skill development.
- Students must show respect for individuals of diverse backgrounds.

**ACCREDITATION**

Concordia University Wisconsin is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges: North Central Association of Schools and Colleges

<https://www.cuw.edu/about/accreditation-approval.html> .

The Master of Science (M.S.) program in speech/language pathology at Concordia University Wisconsin is a Candidate for Accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

This is a "pre-accreditation" status with the CAA, awarded to developing or emerging programs for a maximum period of five years.

**Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology**

American Speech-Language Hearing Association  
2200 Research Boulevard #310  
Rockville, MD 20850  
800-498-2071

The CAA has determined that the program demonstrates sufficient compliance with the Standards for Accreditation as outlined in the 2019 Candidacy Compliance Continuum. As a result, the CAA has awarded candidacy for a period of five years beginning 3/1/2019 through 2/29/2024. Award of candidacy allows the program to matriculate students into the program as it continues to document compliance with accreditation standards for the duration of the candidacy accreditation cycle.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Speech-Language Pathology graduate program student outcomes are consistent with the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Clinical Competency and Certification Standards. All SLP graduates will likely meet the 2020 Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology. These standards can be found at <https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-SLP-Certification-Standards/>

SLP students will demonstrate:

- Knowledge of the biological sciences, physical sciences, statistics, and social behavioral sciences (ASHA Standard IV-A).
- Knowledge of basic human communication and swallowing processes, including the appropriate biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural bases (ASHA Standard V-B).
- Knowledge of communication and swallowing disorders and differences, including appropriate etiologies, characteristics, anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates in:
  - a. Articulation
  - b. Fluency
  - c. Voice and resonance
  - d. Receptive and expressive language
  - e. Hearing
  - f. Swallowing
  - g. Cognitive aspects of communication
  - h. Social aspects of communication
  - i. Augmentative and alternative communication modalities (Standard IV-C)
- Current knowledge of the principles and methods of, and clinical skills in prevention, assessment, and intervention for people with communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan (Standard IV-D and V-B)
- Knowledge and skills in oral, written and other forms of communication sufficient for entry into professional practice (Standard V-A)
- Knowledge of research processes and integration of research principles into evidence-based clinical practice (Standard IV-F)

- Knowledge of ASHA's current Code of Ethics and ethical conduct standards, professional contemporary issues, regulations and policies relevant to professional practice (Standards IV-E, G, and H)

Upon successful completion of all requirements and graduation from the Master of Science in speech-language pathology program at CUW, individuals will be prepared to apply for initial licensure required for practice in the state of Wisconsin. Upon completion of the SLP graduate program, students will have achieved all required knowledge and skills competencies consistent with the requirements of ASHA's Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CFCC – <https://www.asha.org/about/governance/committees/committeesmartforms/council-for-clinical-certification-in-audiology-and-speech-language-pathology/> (<https://www.asha.org/about/governance/committees/committeesmartforms/council-for-clinical-certification-in-audiology-and-speech-language-pathology/>)). Further, all students will have met the required 25 hours of observation and 375 hours of clinical practicum to be prepared to transition into their clinical fellowship year (CFY) following graduation. In addition, the SLP graduate program prepares students to pass the Praxis examination in Speech-Language Pathology (<https://www.ets.org/praxis/asha> (<https://www.ets.org/praxis/asha/>)).

Upon successful completion of their clinical fellowship, students will have achieved all requisite knowledge and skills competencies and will be eligible to apply for the certificate of clinical competence (CCC) through ASHA. Additionally, students will have demonstrated effective and professional interaction skills with patients, families, and other health care professionals through service learning and university- supported Inter-professional Education (IPE) experiences.

#### SLP GRADUATE CLINICAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Graduate students in the Speech-Language Pathology graduate program must be "In Good Standing" to enroll in the Clinical Practicum courses (SLP 650, SLP 651, & SLP 652) and to participate in scheduled clinical activities. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to be considered "In Good Standing". In addition, students must have completed the requisite academic coursework prior to enrolling in clinical practicum related to that specific disorder.

Additionally, students must have no documented professional and/or ethical behavioral concerns in their graduate program record/file.

Students may request access to their student record/file from their Departmental Advisor, the Clinic Director, and/or Department Chair.

#### ASHA Clinical Certification Standards (CCC-SLP)

Speech-Language Pathology graduate program student outcomes are consistent with the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Clinical Competency and Certification Standards. All SLP graduates will likely meet the 2020 Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology. These standards can be found at <https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-SLP-Certification-Standards/>

Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2018). 2020 Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology. Retrieved from <https://www.asha.org/certification/2020-SLP-Certification-Standards>.

**At the conclusion of the CUW Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program, students are expected to have met the academic content and clinical practice competencies, short of a post-graduate clinical**

#### **fellowship experience, associated with the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC).**

A detailed list of the requirements needed for ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) can be found at: <http://www.asha.org/certification/AboutCertificationGenInfo.htm>

### Curriculum

Code	Title	Hours
SLP 505	Child Language Disorders I	3
SLP 515	Research Methods	3
SLP 520	Speech Sound Disorders	3
SLP 525	Aphasia & Related Disorders	3
SLP 530	Augmentative & Alternative Communication	3
SLP 535	Child Language Disorders II	3
SLP 540	Fluency Disorders	3
SLP 545	Motor Speech Disorders	3
SLP 555	Dysphagia	3
SLP 610	Cognitive Communication Disorders	3
SLP 615	Assessment & Management of Multicultural Populations	3
SLP 620	Voice Disorders	3
SLP 630	Genetics of SLP Practice	3
SLP 635	Professional Issues and Counseling	3-4
SLP 645	Practicum: Audiology <sup>2</sup>	1
SLP 650	Clinical Practicum	1
SLP 651	Clinical Practicum: Level I	1
SLP 652	Clinic Externship: Level II	4
SLP 560	School Methods (elective (3 cr.))	
SLP 570	Neurological Bases of Communication (elective (3 cr.))	
SLP 665	Special Topics: (2 credits) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Total Clinical Credits (SLP 650, 651, 652)<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Elective Credits to Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Total Credit Load for SLP</b>		<b>57</b>

<sup>1</sup> **Elective – Special Topics: SLP 665** can be repeated with different specific topics; student must complete a minimum of 6 elective credits; students may opt for a thesis option in place of all 6 credits of electives or complete research practicum for up to 4 credits of 6 credit hours of electives.

<sup>2</sup> **SLP 645 - Audiology Practicum** Students must complete one section of this course.

<sup>3</sup> **SLP 650 and 651 Clinical Practicum** - 1 credit each, combination of which to total 5 credits.  
**SLP 652 Clinical Practicum** - 4 credits

#### **Graduate Capstone Experience (COMPS)**

A capstone to completion of the graduate program in speech-language pathology will be an oral comprehensive examination. This exam will be given during Winterim of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year after all academic coursework has been completed. The procedure is as follows:

- Students will be given a broad-based case developed by faculty.
- Students will have 1 week to prepare a 10-15 minute presentation which will be presented and defended to a pre-appointed faculty committee.
- There will then be a 15 minute Q & A with the committee. Questions may include any relevant information related to the case, within our scope of practice.
- Student will be dismissed for 15 minutes while the committee reviews and debates.
- The student will return to the room and offer a self-critique to the committee.
- The committee will offer feedback and indicate pass/ fail.
- If the student does not pass, a remediation plan will be developed with the committee.

## Admission Requirements

• Applicants to the Master of Speech-Language Pathology program apply through an online service called Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS).

To learn more about the CSDCAS application process, prerequisites, CUW's admission requirements, and admission deadlines, please visit <https://csdcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>.

• Bachelor's Degree in Communication Science & Disorders or equivalent (or a bachelor's degree in another major and the completion of a CSD leveling program from a regionally accredited institution)

• Minimum 3.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA, firm

• Personal Essay (not to exceed 1000 words)

*What has called you to the vocation of speech-language pathology? How is the Master of Science*

*in Speech-Language Pathology program at CUW a good fit to meet your educational and career goals?*

• GRE is **NOT** a requirement to the CUW Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology

• Resume

• Three letters of recommendation that can speak to your potential for success in a graduate SLP program and in the profession. (Preference for at least one letter of recommendation coming from an academic source in CSD/SLP) These are submitted to the CSDCAS recommender portal by your references.

• Documented and signed 25 ASHA qualified clinical observation hours or you plan to complete the observation hours prior to matriculation in the program. Applications without clinical observation hours will be included in the initial review.

• Ability to perform essential functions of a Speech-Language Pathologist as outlined by CAPCSD

*Consistent and reliable personal transportation is required for all students in order to access clinical practicum and experience sites.*

## Financial Aid

Federal student loans are available to graduate students seeking degrees who are US citizens or permanent residents. Students may apply online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) (<http://www.fafsa.gov>). Concordia's school code is 003842. Students are eligible for Federal Student loans and Graduate PLUS loans to cover the cost of tuition, books, fees, transportation, and living expenses.