



**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PROGRAM
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING
FALL 2023**

1. Full Legal name _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Last First Middle Maiden
2. Current Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
3. Email Address (you must list an email address that you will check regularly as we will communicate decisions regarding acceptance as well as questions we may have via email):

4. Date of Birth (used for identifying purposes only): _____
5. Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
6. Current Employer: _____
7. Have you previously taken classes at WKU? Yes No
8. List the states in which you anticipate completing your clinical externships: _____

9. Postsecondary Institutions you have attended (list all schools attended)

Name of School	Major (e.g., CD, Education)	Degree (A.A., B.S.)	Dates Attended

In addition to this application, you are also responsible for applying to WKU’s Graduate School (<http://www.wku.edu/graduate/>) and completing ALL university admission requirements. **(MAKE SURE TO CHOOSE THE FALL 2023 COHORT)**

The Graduate School will collect your application materials and forward them to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) if you meet minimum requirements of the Department. Your application will then be reviewed for an acceptance decision by the CSD Department. It is your responsibility to ensure that all application materials are received by the CSD Department and Graduate School - **the priority date: Monday, February 6, 2023, 11:59p.m. Central.**

11. Unlisted YouTube video presentation link (see Video Presentation explanation). **DO NOT HAND-WRITE.**

By submitting this application, you are certifying that all information entered above is correct.

Signature

Date

Video presentation

Submit an oral communication sample in the form of a video that tells us what you can bring to our graduate program that is unique or valuable, and what sets you apart from other applicants. It will be rated on content, professionalism, organization, and positive engagement. Limit the video to **no more than two minutes in length.**

How to post your video

Using your PC or Mac

- Sign up or into a YouTube account.
- Click on “Upload” at the top right of the page.
- Click on the drop-down menu and select “Unlisted”
- When the video finishes processing, copy and paste the link
- Check your link to make sure it is working and that the correct link is listed on your application.

Basic Sciences

There are four basic science courses that must be completed per ASHA guidelines. You must complete a three-credit hour course in each of the following categories of science: Biological, Math/Statistics, Physical, and Social. Examples of courses accepted in each of those areas are listed below:

Biological Science: Intro to General Biology, Human Biology, Ecology, Plant Biology, Human Anatomy and Physiology (not the same as Speech A&P), Animal Biology, Cell Biology, Microbiology, or CLEP: Natural Science

Statistics: Statistics – if course does not specifically have “statistics” in the name a syllabus will be required for review

Social Science: Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Human Geography, Gerontology, CLEP: Psychology

Physical Science: Physics, Chemistry or CLEP: Chemistry

Prerequisites	Have you completed a course in this area of science? If so, list course number and name (ex: BIO 101 – Intro to Biology) and where and when you took it (ex: Univ of Alaska – Spring 2008.)	If you have not completed a course in this area of science, list a course number and name you plan to take or are currently enrolled in (ex: BIO 100 – Intro to Biology) and where and when you plan to take it (ex: Univ of Alaska – Summer 2021). Many courses are available online at WKU during the Spring and Summer semesters. These may be taken after you submit your application as long as they are completed prior to the beginning of graduate school.
<i>Biological Science</i>		
<i>Statistics</i>		
<i>Social Science</i>		
<i>Physical Science</i>		

Prerequisite Coursework Worksheet

Instructions and Rationale:

You may skip this section if your undergraduate degree is in Communication Disorders, Speech-Language Pathology or Speech and Hearing Sciences.

There are 8 core prerequisites* that will fall under the communication disorders (or the appropriate departmental name it falls under at the given university) department. These courses are listed on the following worksheet and the course descriptions can be viewed at: <http://www.wku.edu/undergraduatecatalog>

The following worksheet will assist you and the admissions committee in determining if you have and/or will have completed all of the prerequisite coursework for admission to our Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology program. **ALL prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to the beginning of the semester for which you are applying to be admitted.** You may wish to have your undergraduate advisor assist you with completing the prerequisite coursework form. Errors could affect your eligibility for admission.

Please complete this worksheet and list completed courses or a plan for completion of all prerequisite coursework. If accepted to the program you must submit a transcript showing all courses completed no later than August 21, 2023 and a Bachelor’s degree. **You will not be permitted** to begin the graduate program without proof of completion. Submit the worksheet to the WKU Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

****Syllabi for any courses listed may be requested for review. All coursework will be subject to review by the Communication Disorders Admissions Committee. We will only accept coursework from approved universities, and we reserve the right to accept or deny coursework.****

For a list of already-approved courses, click here:

https://www.wku.edu/communicationdisorders/approved_prerequisite_courses.php

WKU Core Prerequisites*	Have you completed a course that would cover this content? If so, list the course number and name (ex: COMD 3120 – Disorders of Artic and Phonology) and where and when you took it (ex: Univ of Utah – Fall 2009.)	If you have not completed a course in this area of science, list the course number and name you plan to take or are currently enrolled in (ex: BIO 100) and where and when you plan to take it (ex: Univ of Alaska – Summer 2021.)
<i>CD 405 – Applied Phonetics</i>		
<i>CD 481 - Speech and Language Development</i>		
<i>CD 485 – Introduction to Assessment in Communication Disorders</i>		
<i>CD 484 - Speech Anatomy and Physiology</i>		
<i>CD 482 – Audiology</i>		
<i>CD 483 – Introduction to Disorders of Articulation and Phonology</i>		
<i>CD 486 - Language Disorders</i>		
<i>CD 347 – Science of Speech and Hearing</i>		

Please initial the following statements to indicate that you understand and agree, should you be accepted into the program:

___ I understand that I cannot begin the graduate program without completing all prerequisite courses.

___ I understand that SLP 590 (Clinical Internship) requires that I be in Bowling Green, Kentucky during the first summer semester from the end of June to the beginning of August (approximately 6 weeks). Completion of the clinical internship is required before I can be placed at a clinical externship.

___ Successful completion of SLP 590 is required to begin external placements.

___ I understand that **I will be required to seek external clinical placements outside of a 65-mile radius** from 1906 College Heights Blvd, Bowling Green, KY (Campus address) as areas within the 65-mile radius are reserved for campus clinical sites only.

___ I understand that due to extensive difficulty securing contractual affiliation agreements, students may not arrange externship placements in the state of California.

___ I understand that upon graduation, I will not be eligible for teacher certification in Kentucky, and I understand that this lack of teacher certification eligibility may impact my eligibility for teaching certification in states other than Kentucky.

___ I will start classes in August 2023 and graduate May 31, 2025.

___ I understand that I will attend a mandatory virtual orientation in early August, date and time TBD. This **must be attended virtually** to receive important information about the program AND clinical practicum experience. (Mark your calendar if accepting).

___ I understand that once I am admitted into this program, **ONLY** my assigned Western Kentucky University e-mail address will be used for correspondence with the CSD department and no alternate e-mail addresses will be used.

After reading and initialing the above statements, please continue to the Essential Functions and Technical Standards on the following pages.

Western Kentucky University
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
College of Health and Human Services

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND
CONTINUED ENROLLMENT FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH
LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PROGRAM**

The Communication Sciences and Disorders program at Western Kentucky University is designed to prepare graduates for clinical careers as speech-language pathologists through rigorous academic training and intense clinical preparation. The requirements for graduation meet or exceed the standards set forth by the Council of Academic Accreditation (CAA) and American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), which serve as the accrediting and certifying agencies for both the academic and clinical components of the program.

In order to acquire the knowledge and skills requisite to the practice of speech-language pathology to function in a broad variety of clinical situations, and to render a wide spectrum of patient care, individuals must have skills and attributes in five areas: observational/sensory, communication, psychomotor, cognitive, and affective/behavioral. These skills enable a student to meet graduate and professional requirements as measured by state licensure and national certification. Many of these skills can be learned and developed during the course of the graduate program through coursework and clinical experience. The starred items (*), however, are skills that are more inherent and should be present when a student begins the program. All students admitted into the Speech-Language Pathology program must meet the following essential qualities.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

To be successful in the graduate speech-language pathology program and ultimately to perform the role of the speech-language pathologist a student must consistently:

1. Utilize appropriate and effective spoken, written, and nonverbal communication with clients and colleagues from a variety of cultural backgrounds. Students must have the cognitive ability to learn complex information, be able to perform clinical problem solving, and synthesize and apply information from the discipline of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders and related disciplines to formulate diagnostic and treatment judgments.
2. Possess sufficient motor, sensory, memory, and coordination abilities to perform routine client/patient care in speech-language pathology.
3. Have the capacity to maintain composure and emotional stability during periods of high stress.
4. Demonstrate affective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality client/patient care.
5. Demonstrate flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in an academic or clinical environment.
6. Have the ability to reliably and critically self-evaluate their professional-technical and personal skills that contribute to positive client outcomes.
7. Have the ability to accept constructive criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND CONTINUED ENROLLMENT

The technical standards for admission to and continued enrollment in the Speech-Language Pathology program reflect the essential qualities and abilities that are considered necessary to a student's academic and clinical performance. Ability to meet these Technical Standards is required for admission and also must be maintained throughout a student's progress in the Speech-Language Pathology program. In the event that, during education, a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, then the student may be asked to leave the program. Students should carefully review the technical standards below to determine if assistance is needed to perform any of the required tasks. To perform the essential functions of a speech-language pathologist and be successful in the Speech-Language Pathology program, an individual must possess specific skills and abilities in the following areas:

- 1. Observation Skills/Sensory Abilities**
- 2. Communication Skills**
- 3. Psychomotor Skills**
- 4. Cognitive Abilities**
- 5. Affective/Behavioral Skills**

1. Observation Skills/Sensory Abilities

A student must possess:

- Observation skills adequate to observe, interpret, and document clients'/patients' activity and behavior accurately during assessment and treatment procedures.
- Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in clinical settings.
- Tactile ability sufficient for physical treatment and assessment.
- Ability to accurately monitor through both visual and auditory modalities, equipment displays and controls used for assessment and treatment of patients.

2. Communication Skills

A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

- Communicate effectively with patients, faculty, staff, peers, and other health care professionals in spoken, written and non-verbal forms.
- Understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice.
- Read, comprehend, and interpret information accurately from diagnostic tests, equipment, and patient records. Proofread and edit own documentation. Legibly complete documentation in a timely manner.
- Modify his/her communication style to meet diverse communicative needs.

3. Psychomotor Skills

A student must possess adequate motor skills to:

- Attend and participate in lecture and laboratory classes, and access laboratories, classrooms, and workstations.
- Attend and participate in clinical internships/externships in assigned locations.
- Accomplish required tasks in clinical and academic settings.
- Have the fine motor coordination to accurately and efficiently use equipment and materials during assessment and treatment of clients/patients.
- Participate in classroom and clinical activities for the defined workday (minimum 4 hours).

- Execute movements reasonably required to move from area to area, maneuver in small places, use equipment, materials, technology, and AAC devices, etc. as needed to provide clients with appropriate general care.
- Access transportation to clinical and academic placements.

4. Cognitive Abilities

A student must possess adequate intellectual, ethical, emotional, and cognitive skills to:

- Comprehend, integrate, and synthesize a large body of information/knowledge in a short period of time.
- Analyze complex client/patient problems.
- Reflect on clinical and academic performance and self-assess performance accurately.
- Maintain attention and concentration for sufficient time to complete clinical activities for at least 4-hour blocks of time.
- Achieve academic and clinical knowledge and lifelong learning skills.
- Participate in clinical settings and achieve the levels of competence required by the academic and clinical faculty and off-campus supervisors.
- Solve problems critical to the practice of speech-language pathology.
- Self-evaluate, identify, and communicate limits of one's own knowledge and skills.
- Identify and utilize resources in order to increase knowledge and skills.
- Utilize detailed written and oral instruction in order to make independent decisions. Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, judge, and synthesize as needed in the academic and clinical arenas.

5. Affective/Behavioral Skills

A student must possess adequate social and behavioral attributes to:

- Demonstrate appreciation and respect for individual, social, and cultural differences in fellow students, colleagues, staff, clients/patients, and significant others.
- Demonstrate appropriate behaviors, emotional stability, and attitudes to protect the safety and wellbeing of clients/patients and classmates.
- Possess and demonstrate empathy, and demonstrate commitment to the role of the Speech-Language Pathologist.
- Demonstrate ability to appropriately handle situations that may be emotionally, physically, or intellectually stressful.
- Demonstrate flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in academic and clinical situations.
- Demonstrate honesty, integrity, and professionalism.
- Maintain confidentiality of client/patient information.
- Recognize when a client or client's family does or does not understand the clinician's written and/or oral communication and adjust communication accordingly.
- Dress appropriately and professionally.
- Maintain general good physical and mental health and self-care in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and others in the academic and clinical settings.
- Recognize the changing levels/roles of supervision as competence grows or settings change.
- Manage the use of time effectively to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic time constraints.
- Accept constructive criticism and respond by modification of behaviors.

Candidates for acceptance to the Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards.

Acceptance decisions are made on the assumption that each candidate can meet the technical standards without consideration of disability. Letters of acceptance will be offered contingent on either a signed statement from the applicant that she/he can meet the program's technical standards without accommodation, or a signed statement from the applicant that she/he believes she/he can meet the technical standards if reasonable accommodation is provided.

Once a student has communicated the need for accommodations, the Student Disabilities Services office (SDS) will determine that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws and will recommend accommodations based upon provided documentation from licensed professionals. SDS and the Communication Disorders Department would then jointly determine whether or not the recommended accommodations are reasonable, whether or not they provide the student with an equal opportunity for success, and whether or not they can be carried out within the academic and clinical structure of the program.

Read and sign **ONLY ONE** of the below statements:

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards of admission listed above and that I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards without accommodation. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards it may void admission or result in dismissal from the program.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Alternative statement for students requesting accommodations.

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards of admission listed above and that I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with certain accommodations. I have contacted the Student Disabilities Office to determine what accommodations may be available. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodations, it may void admission or result in dismissal from the program.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Email this completed departmental application as an attachment to csdapplications@wku.edu. Be sure to complete the Graduate School portion of the application process as well.