

## The Profession

Speech-language pathologists are specialists who diagnose and treat individuals with delays or disorders in articulation, language, voice, swallowing, literacy, and fluency. Because speech and hearing problems are both communication disorders, speech-language pathologists work closely with audiologists to determine sources of communication problems and to coordinate programs of rehabilitation. Graduates of this program are prepared for positions in a variety of professional settings including school systems; community speech, language, and hearing centers; private practice; physicians' offices; hospitals and clinics; rehabilitation centers; day care centers; college and university programs; and residential institutions.

## The Program

The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology offers a Master of Science degree in Communicative Disorders with an emphasis in speech-language pathology through the College of Health Related Professions at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in a consortium with the College of Professional Studies at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. This unique educational and training consortium combines the academic and clinical resources of a major medical sciences campus with those of a large, comprehensive, urban university. The curriculum is designed to emphasize the sciences of speech, language, and hearing, the acquisition of knowledge about human communicative disorders, and the study and practice of methods for evaluation and treatment. Practicum experiences are provided at a large number of different settings in the central Arkansas area.

### Preprofessional Requirements

Students applying for admission to the graduate program must have earned a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. If the major is in a field other than communicative disorders (speech-language pathology/audiology), 30 hours of specified pre-professional, undergraduate course work in this area is required prior to admission. A cooperative undergraduate program is offered at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

### Professional Curriculum\*

The program requires a minimum of 49 graduate hours. Students choosing the thesis option may count up to 6 credit hours of ASP 600V-Thesis toward the 49 graduate hour minimum; those choosing the research project option may count up to 3 credit hours of ASP 516V-Independent Research toward the 49 hour minimum. A degree is awarded upon successful completion of a comprehensive examination, all academic and practicum requirements of the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, the requirements of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Graduate School, and requirements of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association. More specific information about program requirements can be secured by contacting the UAMS Graduate School or the department.

### Professional Course Work

The first number listed for courses is the UAMS Graduate School listing; the second is the University of Arkansas at Little Rock listing.

**ASP 5013 (7360)-Research Methods in Communication Disorders** Introduction to research methodologies in audiology and speech pathology. Includes prospectus development, funding sources, data collection, analysis, and professional research writing and editing in communicative disorders and/or speech science.

**ASP 5042 (7294)-Augmentative and Alternative Communication** Theory, design, and organization of nonverbal communication systems. Emphasis on considerations for choosing specific devices for particular clients. Includes manual, graphic, electronic, and mechanical systems.

**ASP 5073 (7366)-Advanced Anatomy and Physiology for Speech** Investigates the anatomy and physiology of speech and language. Topics include respiration, phonation, articulation, neurological control of speech and language, and embryological development of the speech structures.

**ASP 5093 (7371)-Neurogenic Language Disorders** Assessment procedures and intervention techniques for acquired neurogenic language disorders in adults. Covers language disorders secondary to cerebrovascular accident, traumatic brain injury, and dementia.

**ASP 5113 (7364)-Language Assessment and Therapy** Acquisition of first language competence in relationship to language behavior. Includes the phonological, morphological, syntactical, and semantic components of language. Language deviations-emphasis on symptomology, etiology, evaluation, and therapy. Language testing and therapy explored in the second half of the course.

**ASP 5122 (7270)-Fluency Disorders** Procedures, theories, and therapeutic techniques in the treatment of various types and degrees of stuttering and cluttering.

**ASP 5133 (7367)-Infant-Toddler Communication: Development-Assessment** Investigates prelinguistic/early linguistic communication and feeding/swallowing development, and methods of multidisciplinary assessment and intervention for infants and toddlers (birth to five) with special needs. Includes current formal and informal assessment tools and techniques, current intervention strategies, enhancing the therapeutic process across environments, utilizing team collaboration and facilitating parent-infant interaction.

**ASP 513V (7093)-Topics in Speech-Language Pathology** A seminar offered for special projects or topics related to procedures and instrumentation, theoretical foundations, assessment, clinical, or rehabilitative speech-language pathology. May be repeated for additional credit not to exceed 9 hours.

**ASP 5143 (7363)-Sociolinguistics** The linguistic structure of language, nature, and forms of symbolic behavior. Human uses of symbols from various groups and socio-economic levels, particularly in communication. Prerequisite: Courses in phonetics and normal language acquisition.

**ASP 5152 (7261)-Organization and Administration** Organization, administration, and accreditation of school, university, and community programs. Private practice and billing procedures. Various and alternative career opportunities including corporate speech pathology practice. Issues related to medicaid, medicare, and other third party payers, as well as current legislation and professional practice issues.

**ASP 5163 (7320)-Auditory-Based Speech/Language Intervention** Auditory-based speech and language intervention with infants and toddlers who are deaf and/or hard of hearing. Emphasis is on the principles of the normal development sequence of the listening skills, assessment of skills obtained within the hierarchy, and intervention

aimed at teaching skills not yet acquired. Auditory-based intervention of infants and toddlers requires family participation; therefore, learning styles of parents and caregivers will be discussed.

**ASP 5173 (7365)-Counseling in Communication Disorders** Principles of counseling for working with persons with communication disorders and their families throughout the life span. Review of major theories of counseling. Case presentations to demonstrate understanding of the counseling process.

**ASP 5183 (7372)-Advanced Articulation Disorders** Advanced study of functional and organic articulation disorders. Variables related to articulation, assessment and diagnosis of articulation disorders, and therapeutic procedures.

**ASP 5192 (7273)-Neurogenic Speech Disorders** Assessment procedures and intervention techniques for acquired neurogenic speech disorders in adults. Focus is on dysarthria and verbal apraxia.

**ASP 5213 (7368)-Dysphagia** Examines normal oral, pharyngeal, and esophageal swallowing function in adults and children, including neurology, physiology, and the effects of aging. Swallowing disorders are discussed with an emphasis on oral and pharyngeal function. Various methods of evaluation are considered, as well as current management and treatment options.

**ASP 5233 (7385)-Audiologic Rehabilitation: Children** Audiometric evaluation procedures and the habilitation/rehabilitation of infants and children with hearing loss. Emphasis is placed on the determination of appropriate remediation, language and speech therapy, auditory training, and counseling parents for home programming.

**ASP 5243 (7386)-Audiologic Rehabilitation: Adult** Principles of audiologic rehabilitation for adults, including diagnosis, counseling, use of amplification and other assistive devices, and communication strategies. Various models of audiologic rehabilitation presented with students presenting case studies demonstrating the basic procedures underlying each model.

**ASP 5253 (7276)-Voice Disorders** Assessment procedures and rehabilitative techniques for voice disorders in children and adults. Instrumental and behavioral approaches are covered, as well as medical and/or surgical treatment approaches. A team approach to care is emphasized.

**ASP 5262 (7275)-Craniofacial Speech Disorders** Provides an understanding of speech disorders often associated with craniofacial differences. Information presented on craniofacial development, relevant anatomy and physiology, as well as procedures for behavioral and instrumental evaluation and treatment of craniofacial speech disorders. Emphasis placed on a team approach to care.

**ASP 5273 (7396)-Advanced Differential Diagnosis of Speech and Language Disorders** Advanced study in differential diagnosis of speech and language disorders of children and adults and proficiency in the use and interpretation of standardized assessment procedures. Prerequisite: an under-graduate course in diagnostic methods or its equivalent.

**ASP 5282 (7282)-Learning Disabilities** An introduction to the characteristics, definitions, etiologies, assessment, and therapeutic procedures in the treatment of children diagnosed with learning disabilities. Emphasis placed on the scope of practice for speech-language pathologists and the due process procedures for these children.

### **ASP 5292 (7292)-Multiculturalism and Communicative Disorders**

A framework for systematically analyzing cultural similarities and differences is provided. Serves as a model to examine verbal and nonverbal cultural differences in the clinical setting.

### **ASP 536V (7094)-Independent Research**

Research or individual investigation for master's level graduate students. Credits earned may be applied toward meeting degree requirements if the project is approved and if a letter grade is given. Repeated registration is permitted, but only 3 hours can be applied toward graduation requirements. Prerequisite: ASP 5013

### **ASP 540V (7081)-Practicum**

Applied, supervised practicum experiences for graduate students that encompass the breadth of the current scope of practice with both adults and children from culturally diverse backgrounds. Students enroll in practicum each semester.

### **ASP 600V (8000)-Thesis**

Thesis students must register for a total of 6 semester hours; 1 to 6 hours per semester. Prerequisite: ASP 5013.

\*Students pursuing the Master of Science degree in Communicative Disorders with an emphasis in speech-language pathology are considered to be students in the UAMS Graduate School who are taking courses offered by the faculty of the College of Health Related Professions. Accordingly, the UAMS Graduate School Catalog is considered the primary catalog for all students in this program. All provisions (including grievance procedures) in the UAMS Graduate School Catalog and the UAMS Graduate School Handbook are the authority applicable to students pursuing the Master of Science degree in Communicative Disorders.

#### **Accreditation**

The master's (M.S.) education program in speech pathology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences/University of Arkansas at Little Rock is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

#### **Certification and Licensure**

Graduates of this Master of Science degree program are academically and clinically eligible to apply for the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and to apply for licensure in speech pathology with the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech Pathology and Audiology. Successful completion of the program does not itself insure certification and/or licensure. Each student is responsible for familiarizing himself/herself with the applicable certification and licensure requirements.

#### **Financial Assistance**

In addition to the financial aid opportunities described in the Financial Aid Information section of the UAMS Graduate Catalog, the department has program-specific financial assistance. Contact Mrs. Beth McWeeny at (501) 569-3155 for further information about aid which may be available to qualified speech pathology graduate students.

#### **Application Procedures and Deadlines**

Application for admission to the Master of Science Degree Program in Communicative Disorders is made through the Graduate School Office, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 4301 West Markham Street, #601, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72205-7199. All completed applications and all application materials must be received no later than February 15 of each year for admission in the following fall semester. Earlier submission of applications and all application materials is recommended. Early admission may be considered for selected students. Students are admitted for the fall semester only.

All international applicants, including resident and non-resident aliens, whose native language is not English and who do not have a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution, are required to take the TOEFL. Please see the Graduate School Catalog at [http://www.uams.edu/gradschool/pro\\_students/](http://www.uams.edu/gradschool/pro_students/) for more information about the required minimum score.

Applicants are considered without regard to race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or disability status as a criterion in deciding against any individual in matters of admission, placement, transfer, hiring, dismissal, compensation, fringe benefits, training, tuition assistance, and other personnel or educationally-related actions.

#### **Fees**

Shown below are fees for 2011-2012. Fees are subject to change without notice by action of the Board of Trustees. Contact your department chairman prior to registration to learn the exact fees. Note that all fees are due upon registration.

Tuition for all students

Arkansas resident \$298.00 per semester credit  
Non-resident \$644.00 per semester credit

Other fees (laboratory, liability insurance premiums, etc.)

\$68.30 fall semester (liability & laboratory)

\$55.00 spring semester (laboratory)

\$55.00 summer semester (laboratory)

\$79.90 student health fee (fall & spring semesters, for full-time students)

\$46.30 Technology fee (fall & spring semesters)

\$60.00 Student clinic fee\* (fall & spring semesters)

\*Most full-time students in Arkansas; additional information at (501) 686-5730.

Additional fees may apply; contact the department chairman prior to registration for exact fees.

This brochure describes the program requirements for the 2011-2012 academic year. While it is expected that most of the requirements will apply to 2012-2013 as well, some changes are likely. You are strongly advised to contact the department/program office to receive the latest information.

**Telephone (501) 569-3155**

**[www.uams.edu/chrp/audiospeech](http://www.uams.edu/chrp/audiospeech)**

**Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic  
2801 South University Avenue  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204**

# Master of Science in Communicative Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology)

**(501) 569-3155**

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**UAMS**  
**COLLEGE OF  
HEALTH RELATED  
PROFESSIONS**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES**

2011-2012

**A Program Offered by the  
College of Health Related Professions  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
and the  
College of Professional Studies  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
(through the Graduate School at UAMS)**

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