

Springfield College
Department of Health Sciences
Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Certificate Program

Curriculum

Courses:

The certificate program would serve as preparation for applying for state licensure in MA (and many other states) as a speech-language pathology assistant and for ASHA SLPA Certification. For those seeking to become speech-language pathologists, the curriculum would also serve to support students completing prerequisite courses prior to applying for admission to graduate school for speech-language pathology.

Required Core Curriculum (18 credits, each course is 3 credits)

- **CMDS 101 Introduction to Communication Disorders**
This course presents a survey of the processes of communication sciences and disorders of children and adults, including fluency, voice, aphasia, articulation and language disorders. Students are introduced to various aspects of the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology and the types of clients served by their practice.

- **CMDS 259 Clinical Phonetics**
This course is used to familiarize students with the anatomy and physiology of vowels and consonants of the English language. Students learn broad transcription of spoken language and how to recognize dialectal variance as well as variance arising from a variety of medically disabling conditions. Students are introduced to manner and place theory of articulation and are presented with laboratory experiences in which they are given transcription tapes to analyze.

- **CMDS 353 Anatomy & Physiology of Speech/Hearing Mechanisms**
This course is designed to study specific structures of the head and neck regions and their interrelation to respiration, phonation, articulation, and sound reception. The student examines the intricate processes involved in the physical aspects of the human communication process.

- **CMDS 368 Articulation and Phonological Disorders**
This course familiarizes students with the speech articulation process involved in the production of standard American English, the intricacies of connecting sounds to produce meaningful speech, as well as causes and outcomes of disorders of phonology. The student learns to evaluate phonologic disorders and plan the remediation thereof.

- **CMDS 456 Language Acquisition and Development**
This course provides an overview of the normal language acquisition and development process throughout the life span, with particular emphasis on birth through school age. The interrelationships among linguistic, neurophysical, cognitive, social, and cultural factors as they affect language acquisition are discussed. The student becomes familiar with various theories of language acquisition, the rule systems of the English language, stages of language development, and techniques for collecting and analyzing a language sample.

- **CMDS 483 Language Disorders in Children**
Topics include etiology, diagnosis, evaluation, cultural differences, and treatment of children with language disorders. Clinical case material is discussed and analyzed. Introduction to diagnostic

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tools and evaluations/methodology. Basic theoretical constructs pertaining to the treatment of the language-impaired populations from birth through high school.

Selectives (each course is 3 credits; a student could add any of these to the certificate but would not be required to do so to complete the certificate.)

Students applying for the ASHA SLPA may complete their clinical field work and additional training requirements within a College course; they can also do this independently. Graduate programs in speech-language pathology are variable in their requirements for graduate admission. These elective options would allow students the ability to tailor coursework to their programs of interest.

- CMDS 457 Clinical Procedures for Communication Disorders
(note - would include the 1-hour ethics, 1-hour universal safety precautions, and 1-hour patient confidentiality requirements for ASHA SLPA Certification; students can also complete these 1-hour courses on their own)
This course is an introduction to the professions of speech/language pathology and audiology. Management issues related to the clinical process, as well as ethical practices, are introduced and developed. The course topics include: the referral process, the clinical interview, therapy procedures, counseling concurrent with clinical service, and report writing and formats.
- CMDS 486 Clinical Practicum
(note – would meet ASHA SLPA requirement for 100 hours of clinical field work under the supervision of a licensed and certified SLP - 80 hours of direct and 20 hours of indirect, also includes 25 observation hours required for admission into graduate programs, but students could obtain this independently outside of a course)
Students observe and assist in providing speech-language pathology or audiology services in a community setting under the supervision of a licensed, certified speech-language pathologist or audiologist. Students contract for forty-five to fifty on-site hours per semester hour of credit.
- CMDS 363 Speech and Hearing Science
This course covers topics related to physics and psychoacoustics of sound, anatomy and physiology of normal hearing and processing, speech production, the speech spectrum with basic analysis and instrumentation, and clinical and practical applications of concepts.
- CMDS 355 Introduction to Audiology
This is an introduction to the profession of audiology. The education and training requirements to become an audiologist are presented. Theories of hearing, clinical testing instrumentation, and assistive devices are explored in detail. Students administer basic hearing tests and explore audiogram interpretation. Off-site observations are required.
- CMDS 462 Aural Rehabilitation
This course introduces students to the habilitation and rehabilitation of adults and children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Assessment and therapy procedures related to auditory training, speechreading, assistive technology, speech/language/communication facilitation, hearing aid training, and cochlear implant therapy are taught. Educational management, counseling strategies and consultation models are presented.