

**Master of Science in Speech and Hearing Science
Traditional Program**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long does it take to complete the MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science for traditional/on-campus students?

Traditional/on-campus students have choices among three program of study tracks:

Full Time Traditional: The MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science can be completed in 5 semesters.

Part Time Traditional: The MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science can be completed in either 8 semesters or in 12 semesters.

In addition to the academic requirements, students must also complete a minimum of two full-time clinical externship practica during their chosen program of study. Most students complete the MS Program in the number of semesters indicated on the program of study. However the number of semesters needed to complete the MS degree program may vary due to academic or personal/extenuating circumstances.

2. Do I need a bachelor's degree in the area of speech-language pathology to apply to the program?

It is not necessary to have a bachelor's degree in the area of speech-language pathology to apply to the Master of Science Program in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. All applicants without a background in speech-language pathology must complete 15 hours of prerequisite coursework in the area of speech-language pathology prior to submitting an application for the graduate program.

3. Can students apply to the Speech Pathology Graduate program if they have not completed all of the prerequisite courses prior to the application deadline?

No. Students who are currently enrolled in prerequisite courses, please contact your advisor. As of September 1 2018, students must satisfactorily complete all prerequisite coursework prior to application.

4. What prerequisite courses are required for the MS degree in Speech and Hearing Science?

The following prerequisite courses must be completed before applying to the graduate program:

SPTH 2600: Phonetics

SPTH 2500: Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanism

SPTH 2800: Introduction to Speech, Hearing and Language Disorders

SPTH 3300: Clinical Methods in Articulation Disorders

SPTH 3500: Language and Speech Development in Children

5. Are students required to complete the undergraduate coursework required by ASHA's 2020 standards prior to admission?

No, the ASHA-required science coursework is not required for admission to the program. However, the Department adheres to the standards and guidelines established by ASHA's Council on Academic Accreditation, therefore students must complete all ASHA academic and clinical requirements before the Department will verify completion and/or proficiency in required areas related to certification.

It is strongly recommended that students complete all required ASHA coursework prior to graduation from the MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science.

ASHA 2014 Standards - Required Coursework in the Basic Sciences and Statistics

- Biological Science
- Social/Behavior science
- Physical Science (physics or chemistry)
- Statistics (must be computational and taken outside of Speech Pathology, or Communication Disorders Departments)

6. How are the prerequisite courses offered?

The prerequisite courses are offered both on campus in a traditional classroom setting and online. The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology grants permission to take the prerequisite courses as a non-degree seeking student only after the applicant has gone through departmental advisement. Taking the prerequisite courses as a non-degree seeking student does not ensure or obligate acceptance into the Master of Science (MS) program in Speech and Hearing Science. A formal application for the MS program must be made

through the School of Graduate and Professional Studies following procedures and policies indicated in the current Graduate Catalog.

7. What are the average test scores and GPA of the applicants who were offered and accepted admission to the Speech Pathology Program?

GPA- Overall: 3.57

GPA-Speech: 3.77

GRE V: 152

GRE M: 148

MAT: 385

8. Can I complete my clinical practicum experiences in the MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science online?

All students must complete a minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised clinical practicum experiences in speech-language pathology. Students are allowed to complete 25 hours of clinical observation in both online and on campus formats. However, students must complete 375 clinical clock hours through direct client/patient contact.

The state of TN and ASHA will allow the delivery of clinical services through telepractice for a limited amount of time. Students will have to engage in direct face-to-face service delivery and therefore, will be required to travel to the site of their clinical practicum experience.

9. How will I complete my clinical practicum experiences for the MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science?

Students will spend their first three semesters working in the TSU Speech and Language Clinic. The fourth and fifth semesters will be spent in full-time clinical externship locations. All clinical practicum experiences will be supervised by speech-language pathologists who hold the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Certificate of Clinical Competence.

10. How much does it cost to attend TSU?

To find out information about tuition and fees go to:

<https://www.tnstate.edu/bursar/fees.aspx>. Look under Costs & Tuition Payments.

You will find several links. Select the link that is applicable to you.

11. What types of funding opportunities are available to help defray the cost of my education?

The Department offers a limited number of Graduate Assistantships. In addition, the Department may offer financial support via grants when the funding is available.

Currently, grant funding is available for students who plan to work in a Tennessee school system after graduation from the program. Information and application directions for grant funding are sent to students after acceptance into the program.

Counselors in the TSU Student Financial Aid Office are available to assist persons who are interested in finding out about various types of financial assistance and scholarships to pay for tuition and fees. To find out more information about financial aid, go to: https://www.tnstate.edu/financial_aid/

12. Can I receive funding for taking the prerequisite courses as a non-degree seeking student?

To receive Federal Student Financial Aid, the prerequisite courses in which you are enrolled must be required for the graduate program. Because you are required to take 15 hours of prerequisite coursework if you do not possess a bachelor's degree in the area of speech-language pathology, you are eligible for financial aid.

To receive financial aid you must complete the "Special Graduate Students" form and be enrolled in six credit hours of prerequisite coursework. A list of all prerequisite courses in which you are enrolled must be sent to the Office of Student Financial Aid along with the completed and signed "Special Graduate Student" form.

13. When is the application deadline?

The application deadline for traditional admission is February 1 of each year.

14. How do I apply?

The application process for the Tennessee State University (TSU) MS program **must** be completed through the Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS).

Instructions for the application submission process are provided on the Department's TSU homepage, CSDCAS website and the website at the TSU School of Graduate Studies and Research website.

For additional information about the CSDCAS process, please visit the "Frequently Asked Questions" page.

CSDCAS Application

Incomplete and unverified applications will **not** be reviewed. Completed application packets must have the following:

- An official Bachelor's degree transcript and transcripts from EVERY accredited US college and/or university attended.
- Standardized test scores:
 - Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Miller's Analogy Test (MAT): GRE: send an official GRE Score submitted to CSDCAS. (Designated Institutional Code: 4126). Be sure to send your official GRE score to CSDCAS prior to February 1 for processing.
 - GRE: Upload a copy of GRE score by submitting under Documents: Other
 - MAT: upload a copy of Miller Analogies Test (MAT) score by submitting under Documents: Other
- A minimum of three letters of recommendation.
 - It is strongly recommended that letters of recommendation be from college-level instructors who have taught you in an academic or clinical class.
 - It is required that letters of recommendation be submitted via CSDCAS.
 - Please note that CSDCAS will ONLY accept electronic letters of recommendations.
 - University and work related letters must be submitted on letterhead.
- A personal essay on your intent and interest in Speech/Language Pathology
- An application fee to CSDCAS
 - <https://portal.csdcas.org/csdcasHelpPages/instructionsand-faq/school-information/submitting-paymentsfee-waivers/index.html>.
- A \$35.00 application fee submitted to the TSU School of Graduate Studies and Research office.

15. Who do I contact for additional information?

For information regarding admission, please contact the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at 615-963-7081.