

**Master of Science in Speech and Hearing Science
Distance Education Program**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Tennessee State University (TSU) offer the Master of Science (MS) degree in Speech and Hearing Science via Distance Education?

Yes. The TSU Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology offers a 53 hours, part-time MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science via distance learning beginning in the spring semester of every odd year. Applicants are admitted to the program as a cohort group. If accepted as a member of the cohort, all students must begin and end the program together.

2. How long does it take to complete the MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science via distance?

The MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science can be completed in 8 semesters through the distance education modality.

3. What is an academic year for the Distance Education Program in Speech and Hearing Science?

An academic year for the Distance Education Program delivery is Spring-Summer-Fall.

4. Do I need a bachelor's degree in the area of speech-language pathology to apply to the Distance Education Program?

It is not necessary to have a bachelor's degree in the area of speech-language pathology to apply to the Distance Education 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.

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. 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

7. Are the prerequisite courses offered through the Distance Education format?

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.

8. How is the distance format for the MS in Speech and Hearing Science delivered?

Courses are delivered online asynchronously via eLearn@Tnstate and synchronously through the Zoom Virtual Classroom.

9. Will the University train me to use the technology?

At the beginning of each semester, the Office of Distance Education and Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology provides an online orientation to familiarize students enrolled in online courses with eLearn and the Zoom Virtual Classroom. Students must also complete the online orientation, take an online mastery test, and send a Certificate of Completion to their professors.

10. Will I have to travel to TSU during my academic and clinical programs?

Although classes are offered online, a professor may require his or her students to travel to the TSU campus to take the midterm and/or final exam (exams can also be taken online at approved testing sites that are members of the Consortium of College Testing Centers) or to participate in class activities that are best delivered on-campus.

The number of times that a student may have to attend a mandatory on-campus session during a semester is at the discretion of the professor. Because professors understand that students may live out-of-state or great distances from the university within the state, they typically work together to ensure that students meet with all of their professors at the time of the on-campus visit which is generally scheduled on a weekend.

Students are also required to complete two summers of clinical practicum experience on campus. During the first summer of the program, students will spend approximately three weeks on campus. During the second summer, students will spend approximately six weeks on campus.

11. 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.

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

Students will spend the first summer clinical practicum experience at TSU working with preschool children in a Language Stimulation and Prevention Summer Camp. The second summer clinical practicum experience will be spent at TSU in a Summer Articulation, Language and Fluency Camp. The third and fourth clinical practicum experiences will be arranged during the fall and spring semesters in an approved site close to the area in which the student resides. The final clinical practicum experience will be arranged during the last summer of the students' program in an approved medical site close to the area in which the student resides. All clinical practicum experiences will be supervised by speech-language pathologists who hold the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Certificate of Clinical Competence.

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

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 information about tuition and fees, financial aid and/or scholarships, go to www.tnstate.edu, click on "Current Student" and then under the "Funding" link, click on "Fee Payment/Confirmation", "Financial Aid" and/or "Scholarships".

14. 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.

15. When is the application deadline?

The Department accepts a new Distance Education Cohort Group into the MS degree program in Speech and Hearing Science every odd year. Applications must be submitted via CSDCAS by July 1 of every even year.

16. 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.

17. Who do I contact for additional information?

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