

SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING SCIENCES, B.S.

The Bachelor of Science degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences provides students with the foundational background to function in a changing health care landscape.

Upon graduation, students are equipped to pursue graduate degrees in speech-language pathology and audiology. Descriptions of these two vital members of the health care team are located in the career section below. Graduates may choose to use these skills by assuming positions as a speech-language pathology assistant, research assistant or patient care advocate.

While pursuing a bachelor's degree in speech, language and hearing sciences, students observe adults and children with various speech, language and auditory disorders. After completing the required courses, students have an opportunity to participate in an elective clinical practicum. Many students also choose to study abroad.

SLHS Undergraduate Handbook (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/pdf/csd-undergraduate-handbook.pdf>)

Curriculum Overview

SLU's speech, language and hearing sciences (SLHS) program requires 38 credits of speech, language and hearing sciences coursework along with the required credits of the core curriculum. It also requires 25 credits of clinical observation and completion of a capstone project.

Requirements for the degree include:

- 3.00 cumulative GPA
- 25 hours of clinical observation
- Capstone project
- A minimum of 120 credits (33 credits from the core curriculum in addition to 38 credits required for the major)

All students in the program experience guided observation of adults and children with various speech, language and hearing disorders. In addition, undergraduate students meeting all prerequisites can participate in an elective clinical practicum, typically done in the second semester of their senior year.

Clinical and Research Opportunities

SLU undergraduate students in speech, language and hearing sciences are encouraged to participate in research activities, either faculty-guided independent research or as a research assistant. Such activities provide learning experiences outside the classroom and serve to focus interest in the discipline. In addition to enriching the undergraduate curriculum, engaging in research is a valuable way to prepare for graduate studies.

Students will observe adults and children with various speech, language and auditory disorders at SLU's Reinert Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/clinics-and-community/speech-hearing-learning-clinic.php>). Following the completion of required courses, students also have an opportunity to participate in an elective clinical practicum.

The senior-year capstone course allows students to actively participate in speech, language and hearing sciences research.

Careers

Speech-language pathologists typically need a master's degree to practice. Most speech-language pathologists work in schools or health care facilities. Speech-language pathologists help prevent, identify, assess and provide treatment for communication and swallowing disorders to improve outcomes and quality of life of the client and their families. These include language development, acquired language disorders, stuttering, and voice and articulation disorders. Disorders related to literacy also have become an area of focus for speech-language pathologists. Speech-language pathologists serve children and adults, and work in various settings, including schools, hospitals, rehabilitation agencies, nursing homes, private practices and private clinics such as the Saint Louis University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

A doctoral degree (either a Ph.D. or an Au.D.) is required for audiologists entering the profession. Most audiologists work in health care facilities. An undergraduate degree in speech, language and hearing sciences can also act as preparation for other professional degrees such as medicine, special education or public health. Those not wishing to pursue an additional degree can practice as a speech-language pathology assistant in many states with a B.A. in communication sciences and disorders. Furthermore, some graduates have jobs as research assistants or patient care advocates with a bachelor's degree alone.

Speech-language pathology and audiology professions offer excellent employment opportunities. The average speech pathologist salary in Missouri is \$87,290 as of November 2023, but the range typically falls between \$79,990 and \$94,790. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are employed in various settings such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation agencies and private clinics or practices.

Admission

First-year Admission Requirements

All applicants are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration of all submitted credentials. Solid academic performance in college preparatory coursework is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant's file.

- High school diploma or acceptable score on the General Educational Development test (GED)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale
- Saint Louis University has moved to a test-optional admission process for all undergraduate programs. Applicants may submit standardized test scores, but those who choose not to will not be disadvantaged in the admission process.

Transfer Admission Requirements

Transfer applicants are encouraged to meet with the department to evaluate their transcripts. A 2.50 cumulative GPA is required.

Pre-Select SLHS Admission Option

Saint Louis University's Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Pre-Select Program offers an exclusive opportunity for juniors at SLU to be guaranteed a position in the speech, language and hearing sciences graduate program after graduation. This option aims to provide qualified SLU undergraduate students the opportunity to apply for early admission into the SLU speech, language and hearing sciences master's program during their junior year and be granted direct admission into the program, allowing students to bypass the CSDCAS online application and the GRE.

Criteria for Current SLU Students

- Minimum of 3.50 cumulative GPA and must maintain until graduation
- A grade of "C" or better in all SLHS major courses
- A personal statement letter
- Recommendations from two SLHS faculty

Students admitted can take SLHS 4650/5100 (Counseling) or SLHS 4600/5880 (Advanced Audiology) at graduate-level credit in their senior year.

Students who have transferred into SLU's SLHS department are eligible to apply for the pre-select admission option after completing a minimum of two full-time semesters at Saint Louis University and meeting the other criteria listed above.

Application Process

1. Attend the pre-select interest meeting in the spring to review the admission requirements and discuss the application process.
2. Complete the SLHS pre-select admission form during the spring semester of junior year, no later than April 15, for pre-admission the following year. Forms are available from the undergraduate program director.
3. Two recommendations using a standard recommendation form are required from SLU SLHS faculty who can attest to your academic and/or professional attributes and support your application for the pre-select program.
4. A letter of application with a personal statement including professional interests, goals, personal attributes, etc., that supports your candidacy for the SLHS pre-select program should be included.
5. A statement of intent will be included after you are sent a verification statement of your early admittance to the SLHS graduate program. This is submitted by March 30 of senior year.

Applicants will receive written notification of acceptance or rejection into the SLHS pre-select program no later than May 30 of junior year. Failure to complete academic and graduation requirements will compromise pre-select admissions.

Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$54,760

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer/>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.

- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2023, 99% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$459 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by December 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Leveling Option

The leveling option is designed for students who wish to pursue a graduate degree in speech-language pathology or audiology and already have a baccalaureate degree in a different discipline. The curriculum (29 credits) of the leveling option is based on the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences undergraduate curriculum and is designed to provide the courses necessary to apply to a graduate program in one of these professions.

Leveling Program (<https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/speech-language-hearing-sciences/speech-language-hearing-sciences-ms/#roadmaptext>)

Accreditation

For more information about the SLU speech, language and hearing sciences program's student outcomes data (completion rates, Praxis exam pass rates and employment rates), CAA complaint policy and accreditation information, please see the student outcome data and accreditation information (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/csd-accreditation-0218.pdf>) below.

View Student Outcome Data and Accreditation Information (PDF) (<https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/-pdf/csd-accreditation-0218.pdf>)

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the marginalized status of individuals with disabilities.
2. Graduates will be able to identify how students' actions can impact their professional decisions with ethical consequences.
3. Graduates will be able to apply the principles of evidence-based research to understand typical speech and language development.
4. Graduates will be able to apply the principles of evidence-based practice to identify acceptable treatment methodologies.

Requirements

Students in SLU's speech, language and hearing sciences undergraduate program take the following courses:

Standard

Code	Title	Credits
	University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)	32-35

BIOL 1260	General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter	3
or BIOL 1240	General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution	
CHEM 1000	Chemistry and the Environment (or any general chemistry course)	3
or CHEM 1080	Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture	
CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
PSY 1010	General Psychology	3
STAT 1100	Introduction to Statistics (satisfies CORE 3200)	3
or MATH 1300X	Elementary Statistics with Computers	

SLHS Courses

SLHS 2000	Phonetics	2
SLHS 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
SLHS 2400	Foundations of Language	3
SLHS 3000	Cultural Linguistic Diversity	3
SLHS 3200	Speech & Hearing Science	3
SLHS 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
SLHS 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
SLHS 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
SLHS 4300	Clinical Methods	3
SLHS 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
SLHS 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
SLHS 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
SLHS 4800	Senior Seminar	2
or SLHS 4050 & SLHS 4060	Research Seminar and Research Practicum	

General Electives		38
Total Credits		120

Continuation Standards

- All speech, language and hearing sciences courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher in order to count for the major (courses may only be taken twice).
- Students must maintain a 2.50 cumulative GPA as freshmen and sophomores, a 2.75 cumulative GPA as juniors, a 2.90 cumulative GPA as seniors and a 3.0 cumulative GPA is required to graduate.
- Students will be dismissed from the program if they are on probation for three semesters and do not meet the GPA requirements.

SLHS Scholars

Code	Title	Credits
University Undergraduate Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		
BIOL 1260	General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter	3
CHEM 1000	Chemistry and the Environment (or any general chemistry course)	3
or CHEM 1080	Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture	
CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
PSY XXXX	Psychology Elective: satisfies 3600	3
STAT 1300	Elementary Statistics with Computers	3

SLHS Courses

SLHS 2000	Phonetics	2
SLHS 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
SLHS 2400	Foundations of Language	3
SLHS 3000	Cultural Linguistic Diversity	3
SLHS 3200	Speech & Hearing Science	3
SLHS 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
SLHS 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
SLHS 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
SLHS 4300	Clinical Methods	3
SLHS 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
SLHS 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
SLHS 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
SLHS 4600	Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment	2
or SLHS 4900		
SLHS 4700	Clinical Practicum	2
SLHS 4800	Senior Seminar	2
or SLHS 4050 & SLHS 4060	Research Seminar and Research Practicum	

General Electives		35
Total Credits		121

Program Notes

- SLHS Scholars must enroll in SLHS 4600 (cr) or SLHS 4900 Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment (2 cr) as an advanced course senior year and enroll in SLHS 4700 Clinical Practicum (2 cr) during the spring of their senior year.
- SLHS Scholars must obtain at least 15 clinical clock hours (SLHS 4700 Clinical Practicum (2 cr)) and 25 observation hours (SLHS 4350 Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD (1 cr)).

Continuation Standards

SLHS Scholars must maintain a 3.50 cumulative GPA through completion of the bachelor's degree and obtain a "B" or higher in all required SLHS Scholars courses. If the Scholar fails to meet the above requirements, they will not be able to continue in the SLHS Scholars Program. In this case, they would move to the Standard Track and still be eligible to apply to the post-baccalaureate SLHS Program through the Pre-Select or standard application method.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Standard

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
STAT 1100 or MATH 1300X	Introduction to Statistics or Elementary Statistics with Computers	3
SLHS 1000	Introduction to Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences	3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
ENGL 1500	The Process of Composition (If received 25 or higher on ACT, can take elective instead)	3
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	2-3
Credits		12-13
Spring		
SLHS 2400	Foundations of Language	3
CHEM 1000 or CHEM 1080	Chemistry and the Environment or Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture	3
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
IPE 2100	Interprofessional Collaboration and Healthcare in Global Context	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
XXXX	Elective	3
Credits		18
Year Two		
Fall		
SLHS 2000	Phonetics	2
BIOL 1240 or BIOL 1260	General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution or General Biology: Transformations of Energy and Matter	3
CORE 1900	Eloquentia Perfecta 1: Written and Visual Communication	3
HCE 2010	Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics (Or Elective)	3
EDUC 1300	Exceptional Learners (Or Elective)	3
XXXX	Elective	3
Credits		17
Spring		
Option to Study Abroad this Semester		
SLHS 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CORE 3600	Ways of Thinking: Social and Behavioral Sciences (Choose any Psychology course that meets this UUC attribute)	3
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	2-3
HSCI 2500 or EDF 2240	Human Development across the Lifespan or Growth Development and Learning	3
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
CORE 2500	Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation	0
Credits		14-15

Year Three

Fall

SLHS 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
SLHS 3200	Speech & Hearing Science	3
SLHS 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
EDSP 3700	Intro to Disabilities Studies (Or Elective)	3
XXXX	Minor Elective	3

Credits

15

Spring

SLHS 3000	Cultural Linguistic Diversity	3
SLHS 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
PSY 3210	Developmental Psych: Child (Or Elective)	3
CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
XXXX	Elective	3
XXXX	Elective	3

Credits

18

Year Four

Fall

SLHS 4300	Clinical Methods	3
SLHS 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
SLHS 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
HSCI 2200	Medical Terminology (Or Elective)	3
XXXX	Elective	3
XXXX	Elective	3

Credits

16

Spring

SLHS 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
SLHS 4700	Clinical Practicum (Or Elective that meets UUC Reflection-in-Action attribute)	2
SLHS 4800 or SLHS 4050 and SLHS 4060	Senior Seminar or Research Seminar and Research Practicum	2
SLHS 4600 or SLHS 4900	or Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment	2
SLHS 4650	Counseling	3
XXXX	Elective	3

Credits

15

Total Credits

125-127

Program Notes

Minimum credits for graduation is 120; the SLHS major requires 38 SLHS credits. Students may choose three credits of elective SLHS courses to meet the 38 required credits from a variety of SLHS electives: SLHS 1420 Deaf Culture and Sign Language (2 cr), SLHS 4600 (cr), SLHS 4700 Clinical Practicum (2 cr), or SLHS 4900 Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment (2 cr).

SLHS Scholars

The SLHS Scholars track is no longer admitting students beginning Fall 2025.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
STAT 1100 or MATH 1300X	Introduction to Statistics or Elementary Statistics with Computers	3
SLHS 1000	Introduction to Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences	3
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	2-3
CORE 1500	Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community	1
ENGL 1500	The Process of Composition (If received 25 or higher on ACT, can take elective instead)	3
Credits		12-13
Spring		
SLHS 2400	Foundations of Language	3
CHEM 1000 or CHEM 1080	Chemistry and the Environment or Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture	3
CORE 1600	Ultimate Questions: Theology	3
CORE 1700	Ultimate Questions: Philosophy	3
IPE 2100	Interprofessional Collaboration and Healthcare in Global Context	3
XXXX	Minor Elective	3
Credits		18
Year Two		
Fall		
SLHS 2000	Phonetics	2
BIOL 1240	General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution	3
ENGL 1900	Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research	3
HCE 2010	Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics	3
EDUC 1300	Exceptional Learners	3
XXXX	Elective	3
Credits		17
Spring		
SLHS 2200	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
XXXX	Psychology Elective: satisfies CORE 3600	3
CORE 2800	Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression	2-3
HSCI 2500 or EDF 2240	Human Development across the Lifespan or Growth Development and Learning	3
CORE 3400	Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture	3
CORE 2500	Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation	0
Credits		14-15
Year Three		
Fall		
SLHS 3700	Speech and Language Development	3
SLHS 3200	Speech & Hearing Science	3
SLHS 4200	Audiology: Basic Audiometry	3
EDSP 3700	Intro to Disabilities Studies (Or Elective)	3
PSY 3210	Developmental Psych: Child	3
Credits		15

Spring		
SLHS 3000	Cultural Linguistic Diversity	3
SLHS 4150	Survey of Speech & Language Disorders	3
CMM 1200	Public Speaking	3
Minor Elective		3
XXXX	Elective	3

Credits **15**

Year Four		
Fall		
SLHS 4300	Clinical Methods	3
SLHS 4350	Professional Writing & Documentation for the SLP and AuD	1
SLHS 4400	Aural Rehabilitation	3
HSCI 2200	Medical Terminology	3
XXXX	Minor Elective	3
XXXX	Minor Elective	3

Credits **16**

Spring		
SLHS 4500	Neurological Basis of Communication	3
SLHS 4700	Clinical Practicum	2
SLHS 4800 or SLHS 4050 <i>and</i> SLHS 4060	Senior Seminar or Research Seminar <i>and</i> Research Practicum	2
SLHS 4600 or SLHS 4900	or Speech Sound Disorders Assessment & Treatment	2
SLHS 4650	Counseling	3
XXXX	Elective	3

Credits **15**

Total Credits **122-124**

Program Notes

SLHS Scholars must enroll in SLHS 4700 Clinical Practicum

Contact Us

Apply for Admission (<https://www.slu.edu/admission/>)

Contact Doisy College of Health Sciences

Recruitment specialist
314-977-2570
dchs@health.slu.edu

2+SLU

2+SLU programs provide a guided pathway for students transferring from a partner institution.

Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, B.S. (STLCC 2+SLU)
(<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/2plusslu/stlcc/slhs/>)