Admission Requirements

Admission to the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology at Western Illinois University is highly competitive. Applicants must have an overall grade point average of at least 3.0, or a minimum GPA of 3.25 in the last two years of undergraduate coursework. Applicants must submit the following materials:

- **Three letters of recommendation** – There are no specific requirements for who writes these letters, however, because we are interested in academic and clinical skills in speech-language pathology, it is recommended at least two letters are from Communication Sciences and Disorders or Speech Pathology faculty.

- **Personal statement** – The personal statement is an opportunity to explain why you want to become a speech-language pathologist and why you want to attend WIU. Additionally, the personal statement serves as a sample of your writing ability.

- **GRE scores** – These scores are considered when making admissions decisions; however, there are no minimum requirements. Please send your GRE scores to the WIU CSDCAS #6978. Students must submit application materials, and a $30 application fee, to the WIU School of Graduate Studies, as well as an application to WIU through the CSDCAS system. More information on CSDCAS can be found at portal.csdcas.org.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Speech Pathology degree requires successful completion of 44 semester hours (sh) of coursework and clinical experiences, as well as 10 sh of internship. In addition, through clinical and internship experiences, students must meet the minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised clinical experiences required by ASHA.

Students who wish to obtain Illinois public school licensure must also meet all professional educator licensure requirements established by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Clinical Experiences

Each semester, students complete clinical practica with clients across the lifespan and with a range of communication disorders. On-campus, clinical experiences include practica in WIU’s Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, and an adapted physical education clinic conducted in collaboration with the WIU Department of Kinesiology. Off-campus practicum sites include hospitals, public and private elementary schools, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and a day program for adults with intellectual disabilities.

During the final semester of the program, students complete two full-time, off-campus internships. One internship focuses on pediatric clients, and the other on adult clients. Students who wish to be licensed to work in schools will complete their pediatric internship in a public school setting.

Graduate Career Opportunities

Careers in Speech-Language Pathology are consistently ranked high in terms of projected job growth and job satisfaction. WIU graduates have a 100 percent employment rate within three months of graduation. Students go on to pursue careers in a variety of settings, including public schools, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and private practice.
Faculty Expertise
Faculty members have extensive clinical experience across a wide range of professional settings. All faculty who supervise clinical experiences hold ASHA certification and Illinois state licensure. In addition to teaching courses and supervising practica, faculty are engaged in research, serve in professional organizations, present at professional meetings and publish in scholarly journals.

Funding Opportunities
The program offers graduate assistantships that provide monthly stipends and tuition waivers. Assistantships are awarded competitively based on factors such as academic performance, clinical skills, teaching ability and professionalism.

The department also awards one-time, merit-based scholarships, including the Severinsen Scholarship, the Lester and Frances Collins Scholarship and the Prickett Memorial Scholarship.

In addition, WIU provides a number of financial aid programs, including loans, grants, scholarships, work study and part-time employment. Contact the Financial Aid office at (309) 298-2446 for complete information. Special financial assistance opportunities are available for minority graduate students. Application materials, and a detailed program description, are available in the Graduate Studies office.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability and veteran status.

Facilities
The SPA department and the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic are located on the second floor of Memorial Hall. This space includes two electronic classrooms, seven speech-language pathology clinical rooms, a sensory room, two audiology booths, a graduate student computer lab and faculty research labs.

Accreditation
The MS in Speech Pathology degree program 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, MD 20850, (800) 498-2071 or (301) 296-5700.

Fast Facts About the SPA Graduate Program
Average number of applicants: 160
Average number of entering students: 20
Average GPA of admitted students: 3.6
Average GRE scores: Verbal 150, Quantitative 149, Writing 4.0
Pass rate for the Praxis Examination: 100 percent
Program completion rate: 94 - 100 percent
Employment rate within three months of graduation: 100 percent

Featured Alumni
“The best part of the WIU SPA department is the small class sizes that allow you to form close, meaningful relationships and connections with your professors, patients and classmates.”

– Kianna Lyall, MS, 2019

“I would recommend WIUSPA because of the numerous clinical opportunities within the surrounding communities. This allowed me to build a professional network while still in school.”

– Morgan Weirather, MS, 2019