

Master of Science in Speech Pathology



Admission Requirements

Admission to the graduate program in Speech Language Pathology at Western Illinois University is highly competitive.

- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA or a minimum of 3.25 in the last 60 s.h. of undergraduate coursework
- 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.
- A completed application via the CSDCAS system in addition to submission of an application to the WIU School of Graduate Studies.

Application deadline is January 15 for fall matriculation.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Speech Pathology degree requires successful completion of 55 semester hours (sh) of coursework and clinical experiences, as well as 16 s.h. of internship. In addition, through clinical and internship experiences, students must meet the minimum clock hours of supervised clinical experience 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.

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 awards the Cynthia Monkman Scholarship for Clinical Excellence in the amount of \$2000/semester to one graduate student. The department also awards one-time, merit-based scholarships, including the Lester and Frances Collins Scholarship and the Prickett Memorial Scholarship.

The Master of Science in Speech Pathology degree program at Western Illinois University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Students who graduate from the program meet the academic requirements for the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Speech-Language Pathology. The program requires two years of full-time study to complete and includes advanced coursework, clinical practica and off-campus internships. Each entering class has an average of 20 students, which allows for close faculty-student interaction.

Program location:
Macomb

Contact Information

Questions about the program:
Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology
Julie Cox, Ph.D., CCC-SLP/L, graduate coordinator
Memorial Hall 230
(309) 298-1955
spa@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/spa

General admission questions:
School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad

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.



Western Illinois
University

wiu.edu/spa

Clinical Experiences

Each semester, students work clinically with clients across the lifespan and with a range of communication disorders. On-campus, clinical experiences are 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% 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 clinical experiences, faculty are engaged in research, serve in professional organizations, present at professional meetings and publish in scholarly journals.



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, faculty research labs and a voice lab with computerized speech lab and a laryngoscope.

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: 120
Average number of entering students: 20
Average GPA of admitted students: 3.6
Pass rate for the Praxis Examination: 100 percent
Program completion rate 94 – 100 percent
Employment rate within three months of graduation: 100 percent

From Our Graduate Students

"A master's degree from the WIU SPA department prepared me to confidently assess, diagnose and treat communication disorders across the lifespan. The WIU SPA program affords graduate students a quality, holistic education in Speech Pathology with an opportunity for diverse clinical practicum. The professor and peer relationships fostered in the WIU SPA department is an invaluable resource for your professional toolbox."

–Megan Bieber-Hoover, M.S. 2022

"I absolutely loved the WIU SPA department during my undergraduate and graduate education for the unique hands-on clinical experiences, 1:1 help with professors and the bonds I made with my classmates/cohort."

–Maeghan Schreiber, M.S. 2022



Western Illinois
University

wiu.edu/spa