

SLP Coursework Related FAQ

Questions from perspective students. Answers by current students and faculty.

What is a 1st year student vs. a 2nd year student in the UTHSC Speech Pathology program?

A first year student is a graduate student who majored in something other than speech pathology/communication disorders and is taking courses that are required prerequisites. A second year is a graduate student who is coming into the program and already has a degree in speech pathology/communication disorders (or has taken the required prerequisite courses).

If I have a low GPA and high GRE (or vice versa) should I still apply?

We currently weigh GRE scores (your highest verbal and quantitative scores) and GPA equally in the admissions process. Therefore, higher GRE scores can compensate for lower GPAs and vice versa. These are our primary criteria for admission and it is a very competitive program, so the highest scores possible are desired.

What kinds of grades do I need to stay in graduate school?

According to the handbook, each student is responsible for obtaining an 80% or higher on each assignment, exam, and in each class. If a student makes a grade lower than 80%, remediation is required. If below 80% is obtained in a class, the entire course must be remediated. One course grade of lower than 80% puts a student on academic probation. The second course grade obtained below 80% results in dismissal from the program.

What is difference in a thesis defense vs. comprehensive test?

Following the completion of all required coursework, most students take comprehensive exams that cover material from all the required courses. However, if a student is interested in research they may opt to complete a thesis, under the supervision of one of the academic professors in the department. A thesis typically takes 3 semesters to complete so students interested should contact the professor with whom they would like to work fairly early in the program. Every student must either pass comprehensive exams or defend a thesis to graduate.

Tell me about the aural habilitation concentration.

The concentration allows students to gain more exposure to and experience with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. This concentration requires more hours in Child Hearing Services and also requires that you take specific hearing-related electives.

Tell me about the AAC/severe disabilities concentration.

The concentration allows students to gain more exposure to and experience with individuals who are with severe communication disabilities who may require the use of AAC. This concentration requires more hours in AAC and also requires that you take specific electives in these areas.

If I don't have a speech pathology/communication science/disorders degree but I have taken some classes, what year will I be? (1st vs. 2nd)

This varies on a case by case basis depending on which courses you have already taken. Your advisor will assist you in planning an efficient schedule.

What kind of electives are there to choose from?

Electives that are offered can change from year to year, but some of the common elective options are:

Autism, AAC, Pediatric Audiology, Advanced Child Language, FEES, Advanced Cognitive Disorders, Advanced Voice Disorders, Adolescent Language Disorders, Basal Ganglia Disorders, Severe Communication Disorders, Special Topics.

How many classes do I need to take in this program?

In order to earn a MS-SLP, satisfactory completion of a minimum of 75 hours in academic coursework and a minimum of 15 hours in clinical practicum are required. (Up to 30 hours of requirements may be waived on the basis of knowledge and skills gained at the undergraduate level or prior to enrollment.)

What is the Praxis pass rate for this program?

100%

<https://www.uthsc.edu/health-professions/asp/documents/asha-data.pdf>

What is the job placement after graduation?

100%

How do the above two things compare to rankings?

While most individuals rate a school based on their ranking, it is important to take into consideration the prestige of the program in addition to the rate of passing the praxis and of job placement after graduation. Programs that have high Praxis pass rate and job placement are those that successfully prepare their students for their career and set them up with the necessary knowledge for the future.