

# Speech Language Pathology Program

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Hello, my name is Maggie and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about GVSU's Masters of Science in Speech Language Pathology program. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program will prepare students to become speech-language pathologists through coursework and clinical practica.

Track 1 is an accelerated 60-credit hour program that is completed in 16 months as a full-time student. Coursework is completed on GVSU's Health Campus on the Medical Mile in Grand Rapids. Clinical practica are completed off-campus, normally within a two-hour radius of Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall. Reliable transportation is needed, and students should expect to spend most of each day Monday-Friday attending classes or clinicals during the first three semesters (fall, winter, and spring/summer). The final semester is a full-time unpaid clinical internship. In order to enroll in Track 1, students must have completed all prerequisite coursework.

Track 2 was designed for students who earned baccalaureate degrees in fields other than communication sciences and disorders. This track is a six-semester program. The first two semesters, fall and winter, are spent taking the prerequisite coursework that is typically offered to students pursuing bachelor's degrees in communication sciences and disorders. Normally, students will attend classes two to three times weekly during these first two semesters. The next four semesters (fall, winter, spring/summer, and fall) are the 60 credits of coursework and clinical practicum described for Track 1.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment for speech-language pathologists is expected to grow 25% by the year 2029, so this is a great time to pursue this degree.

Standard GVSU admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

In addition to the standard GVSU admission requirements, the Master of Science in speech-language pathology program requires an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or higher, a professional resume, a personal statement outlining your educational goals and what you hope to accomplish in your career, and an interview by invitation. We also require the following prerequisite coursework: statistics, biological science, chemistry or physics, social science, anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism, language development, phonetics, hearing science,

speech science, basic audiology, neurological foundations of communication disorders, and two courses in communication disorders.

More program details, as well as the online application, can be found on the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders website, [www.gvsu.edu/grad/slp](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/slp).

The great news about GVSU's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at [www.gvsu.edu/financialaid](http://www.gvsu.edu/financialaid) or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu).

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology at GVSU is a 60 credit hour program that has been accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Commensurate with the standards defined by the Council for Clinical Certification in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, coursework covers prevention, assessment, and intervention for individuals with communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan. Disorder areas include speech sound production, fluency, voice and resonance, receptive and expressive language, the impact of hearing on speech and language, swallowing, cognitive aspects of communication, social aspects of communication, and augmentative and alternative communication modalities. Evidence-based practice, interprofessional education and practice, and issues surrounding equity and inclusion are additional focal areas of the program and are infused throughout the curriculum. For a complete listing of all courses please visit [www.gvsu.edu/grad/slp](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/slp).

The Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology at GVSU is unique for a number of reasons. First, it is an accelerated program in which students earn the master's degree in four consecutive semesters- fall, winter, spring/summer, and fall. Thus, graduates can begin their careers as speech-language pathologists just 16 months after beginning the master's program. Second, our students engage in clinical experiences in the community during the first semester. Located on Grand Rapids, Michigan's renowned "Medical Mile," we have partnerships with educational and healthcare facilities that provide exceptional learning opportunities for our students. Third, our clinical and tenure-track faculty members have a plethora of experience working with individuals with communication and swallowing disorders, and are devoted to preparing the next generation of highly qualified speech-language pathologists.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology graduate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Courtney Karasinski, at [karasinc@gvsu.edu](mailto:karasinc@gvsu.edu) or to The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu). Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.