

PLEASE NOTE: You must be accepted into the SLPA Program through the UH Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders (ComD) before you apply to the University. If you are not accepted into the Department (see the admissions procedures cited below), you will be un-enrolled from SLPA courses.

**University of Houston
Communication Sciences & Disorders
Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate Program
Application Packet**

Contents:

1. Introductory Letter, including deadlines and list of requirements
2. Pre-requisite coursework
3. Post Bachelors Application: Contact and Background Information
4. Eligibility & Essential Functions
5. Important Facts

Dear Prospective Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Certificate Program Student,

Thank you for your interest in the SLPA certificate program in Communication Sciences and Disorders (ComD) at the University of Houston-Sugarland. Please review the enclosed information carefully. Applications will be accepted from **October 1 through January 15**. **A minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.8 is required to be considered for admission.**

To apply for admission, you need to complete materials **FIRST** for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and then, **if accepted**, to the University of Houston using the online Texas Common Application following instructions from the Department. If you do not follow these steps, you will be un-enrolled from any classes for which you attempt to register.

UH ComD Application: All of the following information must be submitted.

APPLICATION PAGE: Contact and Background Information needs to be submitted on the form provided.

TRANSCRIPTS: One official transcript from each institution attended (INCLUDING UH, if you took undergraduate courses at UH). These must be received in a sealed envelope with a stamped seal across the envelope flap.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: A personal statement that describes your interests, relevant activities and any other pertinent information. Please keep to 1-2 pages long.

ATTENDANCE at SLPA CERTIFICATE PROGRAM INFORMATION

SESSION: Attendance at an information session is required for application to the program. Session dates, times, and locations vary each year. Please follow the link under part C of the SLPA Certificate Program Admissions page for information and instructions on registering for a session. Information sessions are typically held at the University of Houston – Main Campus, Clinical Research Services Building (CRS) in Room 139 (classroom), or at the University of Houston Sugar Land campus.

FEE: A \$50.00 non-refundable processing fee made out to UH COMD.

Mail to: SLPA Certificate Program Admissions
4455 Cullen Blvd. Room 100
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204-6018

Please Note: If you are accepted by the department, you will be required to deposit a **\$250.00 seat reservation fee to reserve your place in the SLPA certificate program**. If you do not attend, the fee will not be returned. If you do attend, the fee will be applied to your account.

Pre-requisite Coursework for the SLPA Certificate Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders

The SLPA Certificate Program prepares students to provide speech and language therapy services under the supervision of a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist in a variety of work settings. The program is designed for individuals who have already earned a bachelor's degree in another discipline. Students who complete the SLPA certificate program will have taken the necessary coursework required to apply for licensure in the State of Texas as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA). SLPA certificate courses that provide a basic understanding of speech, language, hearing, and swallowing, as well as (basic) courses in natural sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, and math must be completed. We strongly recommend that the following background courses be completed prior to entering the SLPA certificate program:

Biological Science (e.g., biology, human anatomy)

Physical Science (e.g., physics, chemistry)

Social Science (e.g., psychology, sociology, anthropology)

Math (e.g., college-level algebra or higher)

**UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS
SLPA Certificate Program APPLICATION**

Contact and Background Information

Full Legal Name _____

Current Mailing Address _____

Permanent Mailing Address _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone Number

Cell Number

List all Institutions Attended, including current enrollment:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Eligibility Requirements and Essential Functions
Adapted from a draft document of the
Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (2007)

In order to acquire the knowledge and skills requisite to the practice of speech-language pathology, to function in a broad variety of clinical situations, and to render a wide spectrum of patient care, individuals must have skills and attributes in five areas: communication, motor, intellectual cognitive, sensory-observational, and behavioral-social. These skills enable a student to meet professional requirements as measured by state licensure and national certification. Many of these skills can be learned and developed during the course of the program through coursework and clinical experience. The starred items (*), however, are skills that are more inherent and should be present when a student begins the program.

COMMUNICATION

A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

- Communicate proficiently in both oral and written English language. *
- Possess reading and writing skills sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.*
- Perceive and demonstrate appropriate non-verbal communication for culture and context.*
- Modify communication style to meet the communication needs of clients, caregivers, and other persons served. *
- Communicate professionally and intelligibly with patients, colleagues, other healthcare professionals, and community or professional groups.
- Communicate professionally, effectively, and legibly on patient documentation, reports, and scholarly papers required as a part of course work and professional practice.
- Convey information accurately with relevance and cultural sensitivity.

MOTOR

A student must possess adequate motor skills to:

- Sustain necessary physical activity level in required classroom and clinical activities.*
- Respond quickly to provide a safe environment for clients in emergency situations including fire, choking, etc.*
- Access transportation to clinical and academic placements.*
- Participate in classroom and clinical activities for the defined workday.*
- Efficiently manipulate testing and treatment environment and materials without violation of testing protocol and with best therapeutic practice.
- Manipulate patient-utilized equipment (e.g., durable medical equipment to include AAC devices, hearing aids, etc) in a safe manner.
- Access technology for clinical management (i.e., billing, charting, therapy programs, etc.).

INTELLECTUAL / COGNITIVE

A student must possess adequate intellectual and cognitive skills to:

- Comprehend, retain, integrate, synthesize, infer, evaluate and apply written and verbal information sufficient to meet curricular and clinical demands.*
- Identify significant findings from history, evaluation, and data to formulate and develop a lesson plan.
- Solve problems, reason, and make sound clinical judgments in patient assessment, diagnostic and therapeutic plan and implementation.
- Self evaluate, identify, and communicate limits of one's own knowledge and skill to appropriate professional level and be able to identify and utilize resources in order to increase knowledge.
- Utilize detailed written and verbal instruction in order to make unique and dependent

decisions.

SENSORY/OBSERVATIONAL

A student must possess adequate sensory skills of vision, hearing, tactile, and smell to:

- Visually and auditorily identify normal and disordered: fluency, articulation, voice, resonance, respiration characteristics; oral and written language in the areas of semantics, pragmatics, syntax, morphology and phonology; hearing and balance disorders; swallowing; social interaction; and cognition related to communication.
- Identify the need for alternative modalities of communication.
- Visualize and identify anatomic structures.
- Visualize and discriminate imaging findings.
- Identify and discriminate findings on imaging studies.
- Discriminate text, numbers, tables, and graphs associated with diagnostic instruments and tests.
- Recognize when a client's family does or does not understand the clinician's written and or verbal communication.

BEHAVIORAL/ SOCIAL

A student must possess adequate behavioral and social attributes to:

- Display mature empathetic and effective professional relationships by exhibiting compassion, integrity, and concern for others.*
- Recognize and show respect for individuals with disabilities and for individuals of different ages, genders, race, religions, sexual orientation, and cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.*
- Conduct oneself in an ethical and legal manner, upholding the ASHA Code of Ethics and university and federal privacy policies.*
- Maintain general good physical and mental health and self care in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and others in the academic and clinical setting.*
- Adapt to changing and demanding environments (which includes maintaining both professional demeanor and emotional health).
- Manage the use of time effectively to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic time constraints.
- Accept appropriate suggestions and constructive criticism and respond by modification of behaviors.
- Dress appropriately and professionally.

Essential Functions Statement

ALL STUDENTS - PLEASE SIGN THE STATEMENT BELOW
and return it along with your application packet

I declare that I have read and understand the attached description of Eligibility Requirements and Essential Functions. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards, I may be dismissed from the program.

Signature of Applicant Date

ALERT TO NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

A high level of English language proficiency is critical for clinical work as a speech-language pathologist. Satisfactory performance on the TOEFL does not, in and of itself, imply that one can meet this minimum standard. Please understand that if you are unable to meet this standard, you may be dismissed from the program. All applicants for the post-bachelor's program who are not native English speakers will be required to meet with a faculty member before admissions can be determined.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To request disability related accommodations that may be necessary in order to satisfy the requirements of this program, students must contact:

University of Houston Center for Students with DisABILITIES.

Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students withDisABILITIES

CSD Building #568, Room #110

University of Houston Houston, Texas 77204-3022

Phone: (713) 743-5400 TDD: (713) 749-1527

Fax: (713) 743-5396 Email: uhcsd@uh.edu

<http://www.uh.edu/csd/>