

ComD Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Certificate Program

The SLPA Certificate Program prepares students to provide speech and language therapy services under the supervision of a certified speech-language pathologist in a variety of work settings. Graduates of the SLPA certificate program will be eligible for licensure in the State of Texas as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA). The program is designed for individuals who have already achieved a bachelor's degree in another discipline; however, it is possible that ComD undergraduates may petition to add the SLPA certificate program to their undergraduate plan.

The requirements for completion of the SLPA Certificate include 24 credit hours of coursework and 8 credit hours of clinical training for a total of 32 credit hours. Students will acquire a minimum of 25 observation hours and 95 hours of clinical training under the direct, 100% supervision of a certified and licensed speech-language pathologist.

The typical course sequence for students with an undergraduate degree in another discipline is listed below.

Fall 2011:

3396: Special Topics in COMD: Phonetics

Analysis of spoken English in articulatory, perceptual, and acoustic terms, with emphasis on general American dialect and its phonetic transcription.

4398: Speech and Language Development

Normal acquisition of speech and language structure including dimensions of hearing from the period of infancy through early adolescence.

Spring 2012:

3375: Speech and Language Disorders in Children

Theories and research related to phonological and language development and disorders in pre-school children. General diagnostic and remedial approaches for children with phonological and language-based problems.

4382: Aural Rehabilitation

Principles, methodology, and procedures used with children and adults living with hearing impairment. Includes amplification devices, communication skills training, educational programming and current issues.

Summer 2012:**3385: Special Problems: Speech and Language Disorders in Adults***

Theories and research related to acquired speech and language disorders in adults for SLPAs. General diagnostic and remedial approaches for adults including aphasia, motor speech disorders, voice disorders and cognitive communication disorders.

5311: Competencies and Strategies for the SLPA -1*

Roles and responsibilities of the SLPA. Topics include; rules and regulations in public school settings, service delivery models, health and safety, assistive technology, and introduction to intervention and data collection.

Fall 2012:**5312: Competencies and Strategies for the SLPA -2***

Roles and responsibilities of the SLPA. Topics include; screening, cultural competence, working with interpreters, the psychosocial impact of communication disorders, advanced data collection and effective collaboration with team members.

5491: SLPA Externship 1*

Supervised clinic experience in school, clinic or hospital setting 4 hours per week for 12 weeks. Addresses development of clinical skills and professionalism, Emphasis on developing competencies for ethical and effective clinical practice.

Spring 2013:**5492: SLPA Externship 2***

Supervised clinic experience in school, clinic or hospital setting 4 hours per week for 12 weeks. Continuation of 5491: Addresses development of clinical skills and professionalism, Emphasis on developing competencies for ethical and effective clinical practice.

5291: Applied Professional Ethics *

Issues pertinent to the professional life of the SLPA. Explores scope of service, licensure and registration, ethics, team membership, culturally sensitive practice, interpretation and translation services, and conflict resolution.

**Indicates new courses currently being developed to be submitted for approval in fall, 2011*