

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

**Web Site:** <https://twu.edu/communication-sciences-oral-health/communication-sciences-coms/coms-programs/ms-in-speech-language-pathology/>

Working with the full range of human communication, speech-language pathologists (SLPs) evaluate and diagnose speech, language, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders and treat such disorders in individuals of all ages, from infants to the elderly (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association).

The TWU master's degree program in Speech-Language Pathology is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The program has two different learning venues.

The on-campus venue admits students each summer and fall and provides evening classes on the Denton and Dallas campuses. Students participate in clinical experiences two to five days a week at the TWU Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic in Denton, The Stroke Center - Dallas (<http://www.strokecenterdallas.org/>), and pediatric and adult externship sites throughout the Denton and Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The distance learning venue runs in two-year cohort cycles and offers a schools-focused cohort and a healthcare-focused cohort. While most classes are offered synchronously online, students attend classes on the Denton campus for up to one week each summer.

- Schools-focused cohort: Partially funded by the Texas Education Agency, this distance learning focus was created to help ameliorate the shortage of speech-language pathologists in Texas schools. This venue is offered to students across the state of Texas through partnerships with Education Service Centers and sponsoring school districts and admits students in summer semesters of odd years.
- Healthcare-focused cohort: This distance learning focus was created to address the growing need for SLPs in healthcare. Students across the country participate in synchronous online evening courses each semester as well as practicum experiences in their local communities. Cohorts are admitted in summer semesters of even years.

## Pre-Master's Leveling Courses for SLP

Students who plan to pursue a master's degree in speech-language pathology (SLP) at TWU but have a bachelor's degree in a field other than communication sciences and disorders, speech-language pathology, or an equivalent will need to complete leveling courses prior to starting the graduate program. While TWU offers these pre-master's leveling courses, they may be taken at another university. The TWU pre-master's leveling coursework does **not** meet the requirements for state licensure as an SLP-Assistant.

In the event a student does not get accepted into graduate school or chooses not to continue on to graduate school, options are available to continue in the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant program. After successful completion of this certificate program, students would be eligible to apply for Texas

licensure as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant and to apply for the national certification exam.

**Note: Acceptance into and completion of the leveling coursework does not guarantee acceptance into TWU's SLP master's program.**

## About the Leveling Courses

- Offered to individuals who plan to apply to the TWU MS SLP program
- Includes eight online undergraduate-level courses over three consecutive semesters beginning each summer
- Classes meet synchronously online two to three evenings each semester
- Students must maintain grades of A or B to continue with leveling coursework

## Admission Requirements

Applications are accepted each year **between January 1 and April 1** for classes beginning in the summer semester. To be considered for acceptance into the leveling courses, applicants must:

- Have a bachelor's degree
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.25 for the last 60 hours of college coursework
- Apply to TWU as an undergraduate transfer student (<https://twu.edu/admissions/transfer/>) by completing the Transfer Apply Texas application
  - Select Communication Sciences as the first school program choice.
  - On page 3 of the GoApplyTexas application (Educational Background), check the boxes for the first question indicating that you already have a bachelor's degree AND are seeking a second bachelor's degree. Do not check the last boxes.
- Submit official copies of all transcripts to TWU's Office of Admissions Processing. As it may take Admissions Processing several weeks to approve your application to the university after receiving all transcripts and any other required documents, these items should be submitted prior to the April 1 leveling application deadline.
- Once admitted to TWU as an undergraduate transfer student, complete the Pre-Master's Leveling Department Application (<https://forms.gle/94XhGxTA54JA9tR76/>). To complete the department application, applicants must first create their TWU Pioneer Portal account (<https://portal.twu.edu/>) and log in to their TWU Google Drive account (<https://accounts.google.com/signin/v2/identifier/?service=wise&passive=1209600&continue=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Fmy-drive&followup=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Fmy-drive&flowName=GlifWebSignIn&flowEntry=ServiceLogin>) using their TWU email address and Pioneer Portal password.
- To complete the department application, applicants must submit:
  - The names, titles/positions, employers, and email addresses of two recommenders (The department staff will email the recommenders directly asking for a letter of recommendation)
  - A one-page letter of intent describing the reasons you would like to be a speech-language pathologist (this will be uploaded within the online department application)

Students must be accepted by both the university and the department. Department notices of acceptance will be emailed by May 1.

## Course Sequence

The pre-master's SLP leveling coursework consists of eight courses (total of 22 semester credit hours). The courses listed below meet the leveling requirements for TWU's MS in Speech-Language Pathology program. Leveling courses taken at other universities should have equivalent course content.

### Summer

- COMS 2233 Comparable Courses - Anatomy & Physiology courses offered through Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) departments. A&P courses offered through biology departments will not meet this requirement but will fulfill the basic biological science requirement.
- COMS 3333 Comparable Courses - Phonetics courses offered through CSD departments. Phonetics courses offered through Linguistics or other departments must include transcription practice with IPA.
- COMS 3001 Comparable Courses - An introduction of the etiology and treatment of communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan.

### Fall

- COMS 3063 Comparable Courses - Normal speech and language development courses offered through Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) departments. Similar courses offered through psychology or other departments must be approved by the TWU COMS department.
- COMS 4103 Comparable Courses - Speech disorders, articulation disorders, speech sound disorders, or similar coursework offered through CSD departments. In the event that this course is combined with language disorders, two such "speech and language disorders" courses would be required.

### Spring

- COMS 3523 Comparable Courses - Basic foundational audiology courses offered through CSD departments.
- COMS 3553 Comparable Courses - School-age language development courses offered through CSD departments. Often this course is taught as Language Science. Note: Not all CSD departments offer this course. In the event a student is able to take all leveling coursework except this one at another university, another CSD course will be permitted to replace it.
- COMS 3563 Comparable Courses - Language disorders (for children or adults) or similar coursework offered through CSD departments. In the event that this course is combined with speech disorders, two such "speech and language disorders" courses would be required.

## Marketable Skills

Marketable skills prepare students for success in a variety of professional settings. Developed through academic coursework, co-curricular engagement, and extracurricular involvement, these skills include communication, critical thinking, teamwork, ethical reasoning, adaptability, and digital literacy. Whether directly related to a student's major or serving as complementary strengths, marketable skills enhance career readiness and reflect TWU's commitment to producing graduates who are prepared to thrive in today's dynamic workforce.

1. Effectively diagnose a variety of communication and swallowing disorders by evaluating and selecting appropriate assessment tools, administering the tools correctly, and interpreting the results accordingly.

2. Effectively treat a variety of communication and swallowing disorders by designing appropriate treatment plans, implementing therapy, and assessing client progress.

## Admissions

All students must meet the University requirements as outlined in the Admission to the TWU Graduate School (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>) section of the catalog.

The academic program may have additional admission criteria that must also be completed as outlined on the program's website.

## Program Requirements

1. A minimum of 43 academic semester credit hours (SCH) plus six successful semesters (18 SCH) of clinical practicum are required for those seeking a graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Those individuals seeking a degree with an undergraduate major other than Communication Sciences may be required to take additional semester credit hours.
2. All students must successfully complete a Comprehensive Exam for degree completion and graduation.

## Additional Program Requirements

**Immunizations:** Speech-Language Pathology is a health care field. Each student must submit documentation (<https://twu.edu/media/documents/student-health-services/Demographic-Form-Immun-Requirements-Communication-Science-Program.pdf>) that all required immunizations are current to Student Health Services at Texas Woman's University after admittance and prior to attendance in any clinical experience. Immunizations must remain current throughout enrollment. Students who are out of compliance will be unable to participate in required externships, clinical rotations, or client interactions on campus which may result in a delay or halt of academic progression.

**Background Check:** A background check is required prior to any clinical experience and is conducted by a third party at the student's expense and every subsequent 12th month in the program. Some externship sites require an additional background check which the students will complete at their expense. Instructions for completing this requirement are provided during orientation. Non-clearance of a background check could result in a delay or halt of academic progression.

**Drug Screening:** A drug screening is required prior to any clinical experience and is conducted by a third party at the student's expense and every subsequent 12th month in the program. Some externship sites require an additional drug screening which the students will complete at their expense. Instructions for completing this requirement are provided during orientation. Any student with a non-negative drug screen result or who refuses the drug screen will be dismissed from the SLP master's program.

**Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training (CPR):** Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers from the American Heart Association is required of all students in preparation for the requirements of clinical rotations. This training is at the student's expense. Instructions for completing this requirement are provided after program admission.

**Health Insurance:** Many practicum sites require the student to have health insurance coverage. Documentation must be provided to the clinical site.

## Retention Requirements

Students receiving a grade of C or lower in one graduate course must retake the course and earn a grade of B or higher in order to successfully complete the master's program. Students must not receive more than one C (or lower) in graduate coursework. Students receiving two C grades or lower, in the same or different courses/practicum, will be dismissed from the program. Students must also maintain professional and academic integrity at all times and must abide by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) (<http://www.asha.org/>), university, college, department, and program codes of ethics/conduct and policies and procedures while in the program.

## Program of Study

61-62 semester credit hours (SCH).

Code	Title	SCHs
<b>Required Academic Courses</b>		
COMS 5003	Research in Communication Sciences	3
COMS 5012	Aural Habilitation	2
COMS 5521	Contemporary Issues in Communication Disorders	1
COMS 5232	Language Disorders in Preschool Children	2
COMS 5333	Assessment and Diagnosis of Communication Disorders	3
COMS 5353	Adult Dysphagia	3
COMS 5423	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	3
COMS 5452	Pediatric Dysphagia	2
COMS 5483	Neural Bases of Communication	3
COMS 5523	Speech Science	3
COMS 5542	Fluency Disorders	2
COMS 5553	Speech Sound Disorders	3
COMS 5583	Management of Neurogenic Communication Disorders	3
COMS 5603	Language Disorders in School-Age Children	3
COMS 5722	Voice and Resonance Disorders	2
COMS 5022	Integrating Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Professional Practice	2
COMS 5621	Special Populations and Communication Disorders	1
<b>Required Clinical Practicum</b>		
COMS 5413 or COMS 5443	Clinical Practicum (to be taken 5 times) Clinical Externship	15
COMS 5473	Advanced Clinical Externship	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select 2-3 SCH from the following		2-3
COMS 5133	Families and Young Children in Deaf Education	
COMS 5632	Healthcare and the Speech-Language Pathologist	
HS 5753	Interprofessional Collaboration and Health Promotion	
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>61-62</b>

## Recommended Plan of Study: On-Campus Venue (Fall start)

<b>First Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>		<b>TCCN</b>	<b>SCHs</b>
COMS 5333	Assessment and Diagnosis of Communication Disorders		3
COMS 5413	Clinical Practicum		3
COMS 5483	Neural Bases of Communication		3
COMS 5603	Language Disorders in School-Age Children		3
	<b>SCHs</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Spring</b>		<b>TCCN</b>	
COMS 5353	Adult Dysphagia		3
COMS 5443	Clinical Externship		3
COMS 5553	Speech Sound Disorders		3
COMS 5583	Management of Neurogenic Communication Disorders		3
	<b>SCHs</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Summer</b>		<b>TCCN</b>	
COMS 5443	Clinical Externship		3
COMS 5452	Pediatric Dysphagia		2
Elective			2-3
	<b>SCHs</b>		<b>7-8</b>
<b>Second Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>		<b>TCCN</b>	
COMS 5003	Research in Communication Sciences		3
COMS 5413	Clinical Practicum		3
COMS 5423	Augmentative and Alternative Communication		3
COMS 5523	Speech Science		3
	<b>SCHs</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Spring</b>		<b>TCCN</b>	
COMS 5443	Clinical Externship		3
COMS 5521	Contemporary Issues in Communication Disorders		1
COMS 5542	Fluency Disorders		2
COMS 5722	Voice and Resonance Disorders		2
COMS 5621	Special Populations and Communication Disorders		1
	<b>SCHs</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Summer</b>		<b>TCCN</b>	
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS			
COMS 5012	Aural Habilitation		2
COMS 5232	Language Disorders in Preschool Children		2
COMS 5022	Integrating Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Professional Practice		2
COMS 5473	Advanced Clinical Externship		3
	<b>SCHs</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Total SCHs:</b>			<b>61-62</b>

## Recommended SLP Plan of Study: Distance Venue (Summer start)

### First Year

Summer 1		TCCN	SCHs
COMS 5553	Speech Sound Disorders		3
COMS 5333	Assessment and Diagnosis of Communication Disorders		3
Elective			2-3
<b>SCHs</b>			<b>8-9</b>

Fall 1		TCCN	
COMS 5443	Clinical Externship		3
COMS 5483	Neural Bases of Communication		3
COMS 5603	Language Disorders in School-Age Children		3
<b>SCHs</b>			<b>9</b>

Spring 1		TCCN	
COMS 5353	Adult Dysphagia		3
COMS 5443	Clinical Externship		3
COMS 5583	Management of Neurogenic Communication Disorders		3
<b>SCHs</b>			<b>9</b>

### Second Year

Summer 2		TCCN	
COMS 5232	Language Disorders in Preschool Children		2
COMS 5022	Integrating Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Professional Practice		2
COMS 5443	Clinical Externship		3
COMS 5542	Fluency Disorders		2
<b>SCHs</b>			<b>9</b>

Fall 2		TCCN	
COMS 5012	Aural Habilitation		2
COMS 5423	Augmentative and Alternative Communication		3
COMS 5443	Clinical Externship		3
COMS 5521	Contemporary Issues in Communication Disorders		1
<b>SCHs</b>			<b>9</b>

Spring 2		TCCN	
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS			
COMS 5003	Research in Communication Sciences		3
COMS 5443	Clinical Externship		3
COMS 5523	Speech Science		3
<b>SCHs</b>			<b>9</b>

### Third Year

Summer 3		TCCN	
COMS 5452	Pediatric Dysphagia		2
COMS 5473	Advanced Clinical Externship		3
COMS 5722	Voice and Resonance Disorders		2

COMS 5621	Special Populations and Communication Disorders	1
<b>SCHs</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Total SCHs:</b>		<b>61-62</b>