

Prerequisite Courses

M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology

Clinical Observation

Many programs require clinical observation before entry into their programs; however, the OSU program does not and instead provides this experience in the first term of the MA-SLP program.

Prerequisite Courses

We require at least one course in each of the following areas as pre-requisites to our program:

- Phonetics and phonetic transcription (SHS 3320 at OSU)
- Normal language development (SHS 3330 at OSU)
- Anatomy, physiology and science of speech (SHS 4420 at OSU)
- Language science (SHS 4430 at OSU, or a course in general linguistics, psycholinguistics or language science)
- An introductory course in audiology focusing on evaluation (SHS 4540 at OSU)
- Aural rehabilitation (SHS 5732 at OSU)
 - Note: At many schools, including OSU, the audiology course and aural rehabilitation course each have their own pre-requisites and this creates a sequence of four courses. Students without a strong background in science and math are encouraged to take the full sequence: SHS 3340 Basic Acoustics; SHS 4440 Anatomy, Physiology, and Science of Hearing; SHS 4540 Introduction to Audiology; and SHS 5732 Aural Rehabilitation.
 - Students who plan to take SHS 4540 or 5732 at OSU and who feel comfortable taking those courses without their pre-requisites should contact the course instructor(s) to ask whether the instructor would allow them to take the course without its pre-requisites.
- a course in college-level statistics
- a course in college-level physics or chemistry
- a course in behavioral/social sciences
- a course that emphasizes content related to human or animal sciences such as biology; human anatomy and physiology; neuroanatomy and neurophysiology; human genetics; veterinary science

Please also see the document “OSU SLP Prerequisites Chart” on our website. It gives specific lists of courses that do or do not fit each of our prerequisite requirements, including course names from other universities.

Students have a number of options for completing the pre-requisite courses listed above. (Continued on p. 2)

- 1) **Continuing Education.** Some students enroll as continuing education students for a year before entering graduate school (either at OSU or any other school that offers an undergraduate degree in communication disorders). This has the advantage of allowing the student to complete the full complement of courses at a more “leisurely” pace, often while paying undergraduate tuition rates. Continuing Education at OSU is managed by the [Extended Education Program](#).

- 2) **Online Education.** Some students take the pre-requisites courses as online distance education through OSU or other universities that offer comparable courses. The Department of Speech and Hearing Science at OSU has a Summer Institute, which offers most of the pre-requisite courses online. Students can complete up to four online courses during the OSU Summer Semester. ***Information about the online Summer Institute of the Speech and Hearing Science Department appears on the SHS home page as an “Event”.*** One of the SHS pre-requisites (SHS 4430 Language Science and Language Disorders) is not yet offered by OSU through the Summer Institute, but numerous universities offer comparable courses one-line. Courses such as introduction to linguistics or introduction to psycholinguistics courses are appropriate to use for this pre- requisite.

- 3) **Electives for an undergraduate degree.** Students who are working on an undergraduate degree at a university that has some, or all, of the pre- requisite courses available can take the courses at that university as electives—a degree in Speech and Hearing Science is not necessary for admission. If not all of the courses are offered, the remainder can be taken on-line.

Although pre-requisite courses do not need to be taken before applying to graduate school, they must be completed prior to entry into the graduate program in the Autumn Semester. Consequently, we often have several students completing the on-line Summer Institute the summer before starting the graduate program in the Autumn. Interested students should note, however, that having a large number of outstanding pre-requisite courses to take at the time of application may cause evaluators to lower their estimation of the competitiveness of the application. As many pre-requisites as possible should be completed by the time you apply.

Most of the information required by applicants is available on our website, but if you have additional, specific questions after reviewing the documents on our website you can direct them to wendel.13@osu.edu.

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