

**Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology (MA-SLP)
Degree Requirements 2026-2028**

Successful completion of this degree prepares students to meet the requirements for the State of Ohio Licensure in Speech-Language Pathology and the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Students in the MA-SLP program must complete either a thesis or non-thesis option for the Master’s program of study, with the choice between these options made by the end of Year 1. Students must pass the NTE Praxis examination as a requirement for graduation and typically take it Spring of Year 2.

Thesis option. The option requires that the student conduct original research under the guidance of a Master’s committee (an advisor and, minimally, one other graduate faculty member from the Department). Students choosing this option must complete all required coursework and a total of 3 or more credits of SPHHRNG 7999 Thesis Research. This option requires a prospectus meeting prior to data collection, carrying out of the research itself, preparation of the thesis document, and a thesis defense.

Non-thesis option. This non-thesis option requires that the student complete all required coursework and 7 elective credits that form the non-thesis track including the 1 credit SPHHRNG 6990: *Capstone Experience in Speech-Language Pathology* that is taken during the student’s final semester to represent work with an advisor on a scholarly project (often referred to as a “Capstone Project”). The Capstone Project must include a written portion, and may include an oral portion as well.. NOTE: Possible electives are printed in italic type in the schedule below and can be taken to meet the non-thesis requirement, typically in Year 2 of the program. Students can choose to take other electives with faculty approval. See additional information below.

As can be seen in the course distribution below, the maximum number of credits any student should be taking in any semester is 17. With the maximum number of allowable full-time credits for graduate students capped at 18, there is no situation in which a student should need to exceed that maximum to complete the program on time.

REQUIRED COURSES—YEAR 1

Year 1: Autumn

Number	Course Title	Credits
6710	Speech Sound Disorders in Children	3
6725	Language Disorders in Early Childhood	3
6466	The Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology of Swallowing	2
6762	Language Disorders in Adults	3
6751	Clinical Seminar in Speech and Language Disorders – I	1
6752	Clinical Seminar in Speech and Language Disorders – II	1
6844	Practicum in Communication Disorders	2
Total Credits:		15

Year 1: Spring

Number	Course Title	Credits
5741	Voice Disorders and Cleft Palate	3
6764	Evaluation and Treatment of Dysphagia in Adults and Children	3
6761	Cognitive Communication Disorders Across the Lifespan	3
6763	Motor Speech Disorders	3
6753	Clinical Seminar in Speech and Language Disorders – III	1
6754	Clinical Seminar in Speech and Language Disorders – IV	1
6844	Practicum in Communication Disorders	2
Total Credits:		16

Year 1: Summer (Note: Maximum course load = 15 credits) (Elective Courses are noted in Italics)

Number	Course Title	Credits
6860	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	3
6726	Disorders of Language and Literacy: School Age	3
6740	Stuttering: Theory and Treatment	3
6755	Clinical Seminar in Speech and Language Disorders – V	2
6844	Practicum in Communication Disorders	2
6170	<i>Clinical and Educational Methods in the Schools</i>	2
6565	<i>FEES Fundamentals</i>	1
	<i>Other Elective coursework (if not taking 6170 or 6566)</i>	0-2
Total Credits:		13-14

REQUIRED & ELECTIVE COURSES—YEAR 2 (Elective Courses are noted in Italics)**Year 2: Autumn (Note: 8 credits are required for full-time status; maximum course load = 18 credits)**

Number	Course Title	Credits
7742	Advanced Clinical Seminar in Speech and Language Disorders	1
7844	Advanced Practicum in Communication Disorders	8
7844 + 6189	Advanced Clinical Practicum +Field Experience in the Schools	2+6
6566	<i>Instrumental Evaluation of Voice & Swallowing</i>	2
6770	<i>Specialty Topics in Pediatric Speech-Language Pathology</i>	2
7550	<i>Bilingual Assessment & Intervention</i>	3
7999	<i>Thesis Research (in consultation with advisor, required for thesis option)</i>	0-1
Total Credits:		11-14



Year 2: Spring (Note: 8 credits are required for full-time status; maximum course load = 18 credits)

Number	Course Title	Credits
6150	<i>The SLPs Role in Autism Spectrum Disorders</i>	2
	<i>Other elective coursework</i>	0-4
6771	<i>Counseling in Communication Disorders</i>	2
7742	Advanced Clinical Seminar in Speech and Language Disorders	1
7844	Advanced Practicum in Communication Disorders	8
7844 + 6189	Advanced Clinical Practicum + Field Experience in the Schools	2+6
6990	Capstone Experience in Speech-Language Pathology	1
OR		
7999	Thesis Research (in consultation with advisor, required for thesis option)	1
Total Credits:		13-17

Year 2: Summer (Note: 4 credits are required for full-time status)

Number	Course Title	Credits
7844	Advanced Practicum in Communication Disorders	0-8
	<i>Elective coursework</i>	0-4
Total Credits:		0-12*

* Students have the option of completing the program in five semesters. This term is only for those who need or choose to extend the program to the sixth semester.

Total required credit hours for:

Thesis option = 65

Non-thesis option = 69

ELECTIVE COURSES

The purpose of elective courses is to allow students to (a) extend their studies in directions suited to their interests, (b) meet non-thesis requirements for the MA-SLP, and (c) meet requirements for school certification by the State of Ohio Department of Education and enable one to obtain school licensure in Ohio and other states.

Ohio Department of Education has two options for SLPs working in school settings: licensure or registration. School licensure requires 2 courses: one related to school SLP and regulations (SPHHRNG 6170) and the other that provides a clinical experience in the school setting (SPHHRNG 6189). These electives are taken by most MA-SLP students, regardless of their immediate career goals. Many school districts in Ohio prioritize hiring those with a school license and many other states require the licensure requirements and do not have a registration option. SPHHRNG 6189 can only be taken by enrolled MA-SLP students. Therefore, taking these electives and pursuing school licensure provides valuable career flexibility. The two courses and their associated credits are:

- SPHHRNG 6170 Clinical and Education Methods in Schools (2 credits)
- SPHHRNG 6189 School Placement/Internship (6-8 credits); can only be taken in the semester the student has a school placement/internship

Note: Only SPHHRNG 6170 can be counted toward the non-thesis option; SPHHRNG 6189 cannot be counted for that purpose.