

Applying to graduate school?

Not all students go to graduate school, but if you do want to be a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist, you will need a graduate degree (an MA, MS, or Clinical Doctorate for Speech-Language Pathology, or a Doctor of Audiology, AuD, for Audiology). You should start by carefully reviewing the information about graduate programs supplied by the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA): <http://www.asha.org/students/academic/Graduate-School/>. Be sure to choose an accredited program.

Plan to devote time, attention, and careful reading to the graduate school application process. This website provides a general overview, but, ultimately, *you* are responsible for your success in applying to graduate programs. Note that this page gives general advice; the graduate programs at OSU have separate sections of this website with specific application instructions for their programs.

General information:

- **Timeline** – Identify your programs about *two years before* you hope to begin a program (more below), and apply early in the FALL *one year before* you hope to begin a program. Hold a spot or two open in your schedule your senior year for additional requirements. Consult each program's website for its application deadline as these vary considerably.
- **GRE** – Take it in the Summer or Fall before applying. See www.gre.org for **basic information and to register**. Avail yourself of the study options that exist, including practice tests. We do not endorse a particular practice website, but here are some options to consider:

<http://tutoring.ehe.osu.edu/gre/>

<http://www.princetonreview.com/grad/free-gre-practice-test.aspx>

<http://www.manhattanprep.com/gre/practice-gre-test-full.cfm>

<http://www.mhpracticeplus.com/gre.php>

<http://www.kaptest.com/gre/gre-practice/free-gre-practice-test>

- **GPA** – The most important part of your application. Work to make your overall GPA a 3.6 or higher. Use ASHA’s Edfind (below) and the official website of each program to seek programs where you fit into the GPA average or range that each program publishes to describe its recent graduate classes. This information can help you identify a program for which your profile is more likely to prove competitive.
- **Three Letters of recommendation** – From instructors who can speak to your academic ability and potential to be successful in graduate school and in the profession. Unless you are applying to a program that specifically states otherwise, avoid letters from employers, family friends, personal counselors, or supervisors. Although people who have seen you complete work that may approximate clinical activities may seem like excellent letter writers, it can be difficult for admissions evaluators to know whether these people have knowledge concerning the academic demands of graduate programs.
- **Personal Statement** – Review each program’s prompt. Being able to address the specific content identified by the program in a way that is complete and compelling can add greatly to your overall application. See OSU’s Writing Center for help.
- **Official Transcripts** – Order official transcripts from ALL schools you have attended. See Registrar.osu.edu for Ohio State transcripts.
- **Observation hours** –Some graduate programs require you to obtain 25 hours of observation with a certified and licensed audiologist/speech-language pathologist before arriving. *Not all graduate programs require completion of these 25 hours prior to enrollment. Observation hours are not required for the undergraduate program.* Consult each program’s website to see whether they require these hours. If you establish that you do need to observe, it is your responsibility to document your observation hours.

Documentation requires a signature from the certified professional who is providing the services you observe. The best way to get your observation hours is usually to take SHS 3360, a special course designed for this purpose. It is an elective course that will count toward your total degree hours, but it does not count on the SHS major.

Identifying a program:

ASHA has a feature called EdFind on their website (www.asha.org). Use this to search for MA/SLP, AuD or PhD programs. View average admissions criteria, including average GPAs and GRE scores of recently admitted classes, program specializations, contact information, and more. EdFind is a good place to start, but it is crucial to also check each program's website for requirements. Take careful notes.

The American Academy of Audiology also indexes AuD programs:
<http://www.audiology.org/education/students/programs/Pages/default.aspx>.

The US News and World Reports ranks the top SLP and AuD graduate programs.

Establishing what you will need:

The BA degree in SHS from OSU provides a strong foundation in Communication Sciences and Disorders. However, the BA program cannot possibly include every admission requirement for the more than 200 MA/MS programs in Speech-Language Pathology or the AuD programs for Audiology.

You should identify your prospective graduate programs before your final year at Ohio State, and set aside a spot or two in your schedule for that year in case you are applying to a program with an additional course requirement. If you have questions about the course requirements for a program, ask a representative from that program.

Carefully review the website of each program to which you are applying. Contact the schools in which you are interested if you need more information about their specific programs. Do not ask questions that are addressed on their website! For those programs that you believe you are a competitive applicant, consider asking about any open houses they may offer or ask about scheduling a visit to their campus. Take careful notes.

