Applying to the Graduate Program

Does your program focus on both clinic and research?

- It is a clinical program that provides research opportunities for students who would like the additional experience.

What’s your average GRE, GPA, TOEFL?

- The average GRE score for those that were accepted in 2015 was 311.
- The average GPA for those that were accepted in 2015 was 3.74.
- The University’s requirement for the TOEFL is a minimum score of 80 on the internet-based test. The requirement for the IELTS is a score of 6.5. In addition, proficiency in oral English is required for admittance. This requirement is typically met through a personal or telephone interview.

If I don’t finish all of the prerequisites, will I still be admitted?

- Yes, if you have a bachelor’s degree in another field other than Speech and Hearing Sciences, the completion of prerequisites will be determined by your advisor. These can be completed during the program in addition to your regular classes.

How many students are accepted from the University of Utah vs. outside undergraduate schools?

- We accept the most qualified students. Our students come from universities all over the world. Most of our students do come from the United States and Canada.

Do you offer a part-time graduate program?

- No.

Do you offer an online program?

- No.

Can I start the program in the spring semester?

- No, the course sequence for both audiology and speech-language pathology start in the Fall semester.

How many students apply each year, and how many students do you accept?

- In a typical year, we receive over 200 applications for a maximum of 45 spots in the SLP program. For Audiology, we receive over 45 applications for a maximum of 12 spots to fill each year.
How high does my GPA need to be for acceptance into the program?

- The Graduate School requires a minimum GPA of 3.0. Our department does not have an additional cut-off GPA for acceptance into the program.

Do you take other factors into consideration if my GPA is not as high as the average for acceptance into the program?

- Yes, we evaluate your application holistically with the other components such as your GRE score, your letters of recommendation, the writing sample, and your letter of intent. All of these factors are evaluated as a complete package.
- We evaluate your GPA in three ways: 1) for CSD courses, 2) last 60 credit hours, and 3) the cumulative Bachelor’s degree GPA at the time of application.

Application Details

Is there a different submission process for out-of-state students with the letter of recommendation form?

- There is not a different submission process for out-of-state students. The form is only for current University of Utah students. We do not have a form for out-of-state students.

How do I send in my three letters of recommendation?

- The letters of recommendation may be submitted electronically with your application. Click on the Recommendation link and provide the recommenders’ names and email addresses. An automatic email will be sent to them with a link to upload their letters of recommendation.

Can I finalize my application without the letters of recommendation?

- You do not need to wait until the letters have been received to submit your application. You may submit your application at any time. The letters will be matched to your application.

What are the specific requirements for the writing sample?

- The writing sample should be 2-10 pages long, double-spaced. It should be in the style of a research paper. You may use a paper that has been submitted from any college class that you were the sole author. (Group papers will not be accepted.) Please provide a clean copy without instructor’s comments. Clinical reports and student collaboration works will not be accepted.

When are the supporting materials to the application due?

- The application and all supporting materials are due January 15th.
Why are there 2 different application deadlines?

- April 1st is a university-wide deadline. The deadlines for the SLP and the Audiology programs are January 15th. Please make sure to have your application submitted by January 15th or it will not be considered.

Coursework

Would you recommend completing the prerequisites before I apply?

- Yes we encourage you to complete the prerequisites as the graduate programs are academically intense and will take up the majority of your time. You are required to have the prerequisites completed upon graduation.
- It is also less expensive if you complete the prerequisites as an undergraduate student.

Is a thesis required?

- No, completing a thesis is voluntary and is generally completed by students investigating the Ph.D. program or students with a strong interest in a specific area of speech pathology.

What types of Speech-Language-Hearing Training will I receive in the student clinic?

- We see a vast array in Speech-Language-Hearing from pediatric, adult, and geriatric populations. They will have:
  - Alzheimer’s disease
  - Aphasia
  - Articulation
  - Auditory Processing Disorders
  - Aural Rehabilitation
  - Brain Injury
  - Delayed Language
  - Hearing Testing
  - Impedance Testing
  - Language Learning Disabilities
  - Parkinson’s disease
  - Speech/Language/Hearing Problems due to Neurological Impairment
  - Specific Language Impairment
  - Stuttering
  - Tongue Thrust
  - Vestibular Assessment
• We provide the following services:
  
  Augmentative Communication  
  Hearing Aid Evaluation and Selection  
  Speech Therapy  
  Language Therapy  
  Pre-School Language Groups  
  Cochlear Implant Mapping  

If I have problems registering for a class who do I contact?  
• Amy Collard, Academic Coordinator, amy.collard@hsc.utah.edu

If I need a permission code to register for a class who do I contact?  
• Amy Collard, Academic Coordinator, amy.collard@hsc.utah.edu

Financing Your Degree and Tuition Questions

Do you offer scholarships that cover incoming student tuition?  
• No. There is no available funding for incoming students. If you need assistance funding your education, visit the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office website for more information (www.financialaid.utah.edu).  
• The department hires a limited number of students depending on funding and faculty research need.

How limited are the positions to work in the department?  
• Student positions are very limited. Do not depend on a position within the department to finance your education. Those who are hired will work no more than 10 hours per week. Please make other arrangements to finance your degree.

How many hours can students work every week while working in the department?  
• 10 hours per week including break weeks.

How do I apply for WRGP-WICHE (Western Regional Graduate Program) to receive in-state tuition? (For Au.D. and Ph.D. students only, WICHE is not available for SLP students.)  
• If you are admitted to the program, you will need to notify us upon your acceptance. You do not need to submit anything with your application. You do not need to inform us during the application process.
What is differential tuition?

- Differential tuition is a surcharge to cover expenses associated with clinical training programs.
- A tuition surcharge is levied on students in the following graduate programs: Clinical Dietetic, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy.
- The surcharge is administered on a flat-rate basis to resident and non-resident students alike.
- All of the programs that assess the additional tuition are high demand programs and are unique in the state.
- The additional tuition charge will qualify for Federal Student Loan programs.
- Au.D. students pay differential tuition 8 out of the 11 semesters they enroll. SLP students pay differential tuition 5 out of the 6 semesters they enroll.

If I am offered departmental funding, does it cover differential tuition?

- No.

Do students ever have outside employment during grad school, and how many hours per week are they usually able to work?

- Most students do not work outside the program so they can devote their time to their studies. It is the students’ individual decision to make.

Graduation

Are there many speech-language pathologist and audiologist jobs in Utah?

- There are many jobs in Utah. During your externships/rotations, you will be in contact with possible future employers.

How soon after graduation do students typically find jobs?

- Many SLP and AuD students graduate with a job offer.