

## University of Utah - Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Certification: Leveling Program

Students with undergraduate degrees in fields of study other than communication sciences and disorders (CSD) are strongly encouraged to apply to our SLPA graduate-level certification program. The following CSD and Allied Health required coursework must be completed before applying to the program (certain circumstances may allow for final completion of a course to take place after application/acceptance and beginning of the program.)

### Foundational Coursework Requirements

- *CSD 2200/2201 Physics of Speech and Hearing and Lab (4 credits)*: An introduction to the nature of sound, acoustic characteristics of speech, and sound transmission through the peripheral auditory system. The lab portion is required.
- *CSD 33100 Phonetics (3 credits)*: The analysis of speech through the application of phonetic theory and the introduction to applied phonetic transcription.
- *CSD 3120 Anatomy & Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanisms (3 credits)*: Anatomical, physiological, and neurological principles fundamental to the understanding of speech production and hearing.
- *CSD 4400/4401 Language Science and Lab (4 credits)*: Linguistic analysis is the basis for many assessment and intervention procedures used in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders. This course is designed to provide undergraduate students with a basic introduction to the principles and methods of linguistic analysis. The lab portion is required.
- *CSD 4500 Introduction of Audiometry (3 credits)*: Introduction to theory and methods of audiological assessment, including pure tone and speech audiometry, masking, and immittance in children and adults, as well as an introduction to physiologic procedures and hearing disorders.
- *CSD 5380 Speech and Language Development (3 credits)*: Introduction to the sequence and processes of typical and atypical speech and language development, includes information about core issues surrounding the study of language acquisition and methodologies used to examine children's linguistics competence
- *CSD 5520 Aural Rehabilitation (3 credits)*: Auditory development and current methodologies for managing children and adults with peripheral hearing loss and/or auditory processing disorders.
- *CSD 5400 Clinical Methods (3 credits) (highly recommended – not required)*: This course is designed to provide advanced undergraduate students with an introduction to clinical methods and principles of clinical practice in speech-language pathology and audiology. Topics and activities include the ASHA Code of Ethics, public laws, observation, documentation, assessing/treating communication disorders, writing reports, selecting goals, managing behavior, and interviewing/counseling; students will also complete upwards to 15 guided observation clinic hours required for the graduate program.

## Allied Health Course Requirements

Before, or during the Leveling Program, students applying to our SLPA certification program must show evidence of having taken the following:

- *Biological Sciences (3 credits)*: At least a 100-level university course with a content area related to human or animal sciences: includes biology, human anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, human genetics, and veterinary science. It must be from a Biology department. CSD Anatomy and Physiology is not acceptable.
- *Physical sciences (3 credits)*: At least a 100-level university course. Must be either Physics (recommended) or Chemistry.
- *Statistics (3 credits)*: At least a 100-level university course. An acceptable description would include descriptive statistics, probability, inferential, correlation, regression, measures of central tendency, t-tests, ANOVA, and hypothesis testing for one and two parameters. The course may be under Math, Statistics, Psychology, or Business as long as it meets the above criteria. If your statistics course is older than ten years, it is highly recommended you retake it.
- *Social/Behavioral Sciences (3 credits)*: At least a 100-level university course. Includes Psychology, Sociology, and Anthropology.

## Recommended Course Sequence

Students can begin coursework in the fall, spring, or summer semesters. After registration, students must email Leigh Ann Benevides at [LeighAnn.Benevides@utah.edu](mailto:LeighAnn.Benevides@utah.edu) to be added to the Leveling Program (Undergraduate) Canvas page.

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester
CSD2200/CSD2201: Physics of Speech & Hearing	CSD3100: Phonetics	CSD4400 /CSD 4401: Language Science with lab
CSD3120: Anatomy and Physiology	CSD4500: Intro to Audiology	
CSD5400: Clinical Methods	CSD5380: Speech & Lang. Development	
CSD5520: Aural Rehab		

In addition to completing the required coursework, 25 clinic observation hours are required to begin the SLPA certification program. You may use the attached *Guided Observation Form* to document these hours.

Successful completion of the Leveling Program does NOT guarantee acceptance into the SLPA certification program.

For more questions about the Leveling or SLPA programs, please contact the programs director, Dr. Tyler Christopoulos, at [tyler.christopoulos@utah.edu](mailto:tyler.christopoulos@utah.edu)