Program Faculty

Shaheen N. Awan, Ph.D. CCC-SLP ASHA Fellow; Voice and Resonance Disorders, Speech Science, Research
Kristin M. Pelczarski, Ph.D. CCC-SLP; Fluency, Phonological Awareness, Child Language
Pamela A. Smith, Ph.D. CCC-SLP; Traumatic Brain Injury, Aphasia, Orofacial Disorders of Speech.
Petula Vaz, Ph.D. CCC-SLP, Dysphagia, Research
Sharon Blake, M.S., CCC-SLP Clinical Staff
Kerry Cimino, M.S., CCC-SLP Clinical Staff
Jody Siep, M.S., CCC-SLP Clinical Staff (CSIU)
Peggy Snyder, M.S., CCC-SLP Clinical Staff
Anita Wasilewski, M.S., CCC-SLP Clinical Staff
Cindy Yocum, M.S. CCC-SLP Clinical Staff

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About the program

This graduate program prepares students for clinical practice with a variety of communication disorders and in a variety of clinical settings. The program is heavily based on clinical experience in BU’s on-campus clinic and culminating with a full semester of externship practicum in a clinic, hospital and/or school setting.

The graduate speech-language pathology program provides a comprehensive curriculum that prepares the graduate for work in a wide variety of occupational settings. In addition to courses typically offered, BU has separate courses in augmentative communication, swallowing disorders, traumatic brain injury and both a preschool and school-age language course.

Over the past seven years, 100 percent of the graduates have passed the National Examination in Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Graduates of this program are eligible for certification in Teaching Speech to Language-Impaired Students granted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Pathology issued by the Council for Clinical Certification of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and licensure in speech pathology issued by the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language-Hearing.
Retention

Graduate students must maintain a QPA of 3.0 with no more than one grade lower than a B- throughout the graduate program. If a grade lower than a B- is earned in the final Clinic course prior to externship (72.576), the course must be repeated with a grade of B or higher prior to enrolling in a field experience. If a grade lower than a B- is earned in a field experience (72.584 or 72.586), the course must be repeated. To progress in the graduate program, students must maintain an adequate academic standing and adhere to the department suitability clause.

Graduation

The graduate program in speech pathology consists of a minimum of 55 semester hours with most courses being required. Clinical experience is considered necessary and inseparable from the existing course sequence. It becomes an important step in the development of a competent clinician, linking theory with clinical experience, and preparing for certification and eventual employment in the field.

Required Courses

72.550 Aphasia
72.552 Language Disorders in Preschool Children
72.554 Fluency Disorders
72.556 Disorders of Phonology and Articulation
72.558 Clinical Practicum and Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology I
72.560 Voice Disorders
72.562 Language Disorders in School-aged Children
72.564 Craniofacial Disorders
72.565 Motor Speech Disorders
72.566 Clinical Practicum and Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology II
72.570 Cognitive Based Language Disorders
72.572 Augmentative and Alternative Communication
72.574 Clinical Instrumentation in Speech Pathology
72.576 Clinical Practicum and Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology III
72.581 Swallowing I: Anatomy, Physiology, Disorders
72.582 Research in Speech and Language Pathology
72.583 Swallowing II: Assessment and Management
72.584 Field Experience in Speech Language Pathology I
72.586 Field Experience in Speech Language Pathology II

Thesis Option:

72.599 Master’s Thesis
The thesis may substitute for six credits of required coursework. Courses that may not be substituted include 72.582, 72.584, 72.586, 72.576, 72.584, and 72.586. The substitution of a thesis for six credits of academic coursework will have no effect on the content or credit requirement for American Speech-Language-Hearing Association certification.