

Widener University
SLP Program Curriculum

Year 1	CR	Course #	Pre/Co-Requisites
Summer 1			
SLP Professional Seminar	2	SLP 700	
Foundations of Interprofessional Practice	1	SLP 701	
Articulation and Phonological Disorders	3	SLP 702	SLP 703
Anatomy with Cadaver Lab	6	SLP 708	
<i>Phonetics</i> *for students who have not completed in undergrad	(1)	SLP 703	
Total Semester Credits	12 (13)		
Fall 1			
Adult Neurogenic Communication Disorders I	3	SLP 710	SLP 708
Cognitive Neuroscience	3	SLP 728	SLP 708
Global Health I	1	SLP 716	
Pediatric Communication Disorders	3	SLP 712	SLP 702
Clinical Internship I	2	SLP 713	
Total Semester Credits	12		
Spring 1			
School-Aged Communication Disorders	3	SLP 724	SLP 702, SLP 712
Adult Neurogenic Communication Disorders II	3	SLP 725	SLP 708, SLP 728 SLP 710
Dysphagia	3	SLP 726	SLP 708, SLP 728,
Research Methods and Evidence Based Practice	3	SLP 729	
Clinical Internship II	2	SLP 723	SLP 713
Total Semester Credits	14		
Year 2			
Summer 2*			
Fluency Disorders	2	SLP 830	
Voice Disorders	2	SLP 831	SLP 708, SLP 728,
Motor Speech Disorders	2	SLP 832	SLP 708, SLP 711
Clinical Externship I	3	SLP 833	SLP 713, SLP 723
Total Semester Credits	9		

Fall 2**			
Global Health II	1	SLP 718	SLP 716
Counseling in Speech-Language Pathology	2	SLP 840	
Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies	2	SLP 841	SLP 708, SLP 711, SLP 831
Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2	SLP 842	SLP 708, SLP 728
Clinical Externship II	3	SLP 843	SLP 713, SLP 723, SLP 833
Total Semester Credits	10		
Spring 2**			
Professional Issues and Ethics	3	SLP 850	
Aural Rehabilitation	3	SLP 851	
Clinical Externship III	3	SLP 853	SLP 713, SLP 723, SLP 833, SLP 843
Praxis Preparation Workshop	1	SLP 852	
Comprehensive Examinations (P/F)	0	SLP 854	
Total Semester Credits	10		
Total Program Credits	67 (68)		

****Summer 2:** Didactic Courses will be held during the first six weeks of the semester. Clinical Externships will be full-time during the last six weeks of the semester.

****Fall 2 and Spring 2:** Didactic Courses will be held during the first five weeks of the semester. Clinical Externships will be full-time during the last 10 weeks of the semester.

Course Descriptions

Summer 1

SLP Professional Seminar: 2 credit hours

This course provides an overview of the fundamentals of the speech-language pathology (SLP) profession. Students will be introduced to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Code of Ethics and Scope of Practice, professional practice competencies, concepts of evidence-based practice, and professional reasoning. Students will also learn self-reflection and self-assessment as they relate to successful performance in professional practice.

Foundations of Interprofessional Practice (Will be cross-listed with PT/OT/PA): 1 credit hour

This course provides students with an introduction to collaborative practice in education and

health care settings. The Interprofessional Education Collaborative Core Competencies (IPEC 2011, 2016) of values and ethics for interprofessional practice, professional roles and responsibilities, interprofessional communication, and teams and teamwork will be reviewed and discussed using a variety of interactive case studies.

Articulation and Phonological Disorders: 3 credit hours

This course offers an in-depth study of normal development of articulation and phonology, the causes of abnormal articulation and phonological development, and the assessment and treatment of these processes. Students will develop skills in phonetic transcription of errors, administration and evaluation of articulation assessment, and planning of treatment procedures.

Anatomy with Cadaver Lab (Will be cross-listed with PT/OT/PA): 6 credit hours

This course covers the human anatomical structures as they relate to articulation, phonation, respiration, resonance, hearing, and swallowing. Specimens, models, and video aid a regional approach to the study of structures. This course consists of both lecture and laboratory experiences with prosection and cadaver dissection.

Phonetics: 1 credit hour **for students who have not completed in undergraduate*

This course provides a study of American English pronunciation through the application of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Students will learn and practice transcription of English phonemes and allophones and will be introduced to the dynamics of articulation, phonologic rules, distinctive feature analysis, prosodic features, dialectal variants, and developmental phonology.

Fall 1

Adult Neurogenic Communication Disorders I: 3 credit hours

This is the first of a two-course series that will focus on acquired disorders of language and cognition. The impact of stroke, traumatic brain injury, dementia and other progressive diseases on communication will be investigated. Students will learn prevention, assessment, and treatment strategies through lecture, case-based scenarios, and simulation.

Cognitive Neuroscience (Will be cross-listed with PT/OT): 3 credit hours

This course provides information regarding the peripheral and central nervous systems as they relate to speech, language, cognition, and swallowing. Students will develop an understanding of neuropathologies that contribute to acquired communication and swallowing disorders. Information learned from the Anatomy course will dovetail with class discussions and assignments.

Global Health I (Will be cross-listed with PT/OT/PA): 1 credit hour

This course exposes students to the speech-language pathologist's professional role in community health. The contents cover health disparities and social determinants of health,

health literacy, and issues of health care access. Issues and history specific to the City of Chester are addressed. A required reading provides a framework for class discussion and reflection.

Pediatric Communication Disorders: 3 credit hours

This course investigates congenital and developmental disorders that affect the acquisition of speech, language and/or cognitive ability from infancy to pre-school age. Prevention, assessment, and treatment measures for early intervention and parental education will be discussed. Students will gain experience in the analysis of pediatric speech and language samples.

Clinical Internship I: 2 credit hours

This clinical practicum introduces students to the policies and procedures of client assessment and treatment. Students will provide clinical services to children and adults with communication and/or swallowing disorders in the interprofessional pro bono Chester Community Clinic under the supervision of licensed and certified speech-language pathologists. Students will be responsible for providing leadership within the clinic alongside their physical therapy and occupational therapy peers.

Spring 1

School Aged Communication Disorders: 3 credit hours

This course focuses on speech, language, and cognitive disorders in school-aged children and adolescents. Students will learn principles of prevention, assessment, and treatment measures that meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The social, emotional, academic, and vocational ramifications of communication disorders in this population will be explored.

Adult Neurogenic Communication Disorders II: 3 credit hours

This is the second of a two-course series that will focus on acquired disorders of language and cognition. The impact of stroke, traumatic brain injury, dementia and other progressive diseases on communication will be investigated. Students will learn assessment and treatment strategies through lecture, case-based scenarios, and simulation.

Dysphagia: 3 credit hours

This course provides students with an in-depth study of normal and disordered anatomy and physiology of the swallowing process in children and adults. Principles of prevention, assessment, and treatment will be discussed through lecture, laboratory experiences, case-based scenarios, and simulation.

Research Methods and Evidence Based Practice (Will be cross-listed with PT/OT/PA): 3 credit hours

This course introduces students to research processes used in the field of speech-language pathology. Students will learn to become critical consumers of research by evaluating research methodologies and analyses. Application of research principles into evidence-based clinical

practice will be explored.

Clinical Internship II: 2 credit hours

This clinical practicum continues students' experiences with client assessment and treatment. Students will provide clinical services to children and adults with communication and/or swallowing disorders in the interprofessional pro bono Chester Community Clinic under the supervision of licensed and certified speech-language pathologists. Students will be responsible for providing leadership within the clinic alongside their physical therapy and occupational therapy peers.

Summer 2

Fluency Disorders: 2 credit hours

This course explores contemporary theories, assessment, and treatment of fluency disorders in children and adults. Stuttering, neurogenic and psychogenic acquired stuttering, and cluttering will be explored. Topics of discussion include counseling, family involvement, and approaches to relaxation and mindfulness training.

Voice Disorders: 2 credit hours

This course investigates the anatomic, physiologic, acoustic, and perceptual aspects of normal and disordered voice production in children and adults. Students will learn protocols for the prevention, differential diagnosis, and treatment of voice disorders through lecture, laboratory experiences, case-based scenarios, and simulation.

Motor Speech Disorders: 2 credit hours

This course focuses on the etiologies and symptoms of neurological disorders that result in the dysarthrias and apraxia of speech. Perceptual and objective assessment measures and intervention practices will be discussed and practiced using a variety of case-based scenarios and simulated cases.

Clinical Externship I: 3 credit hours

This clinical practicum will provide students with experience delivering clinical services to individuals with communication and/or swallowing disorders in an off-campus setting under the supervision of licensed and certified speech-language pathologists. Students may be assigned to an educational setting, medical setting, or private practice. Students will also be responsible for providing leadership within the interprofessional pro bono Chester Community Clinic alongside their physical therapy and occupational therapy peers.

Fall 2

Global Health II (Will be cross-listed with PT/OT/PA): 1 credit hour

This course explores the many facets of cultural considerations for the speech-language pathologist. The content covers communication, health beliefs/practices, use of a translator, and conducting a cultural assessment. Emphasis is placed on practical considerations for

professional practice. A required reading provides a framework for class discussion and reflection, and a required cultural interview helps students with self-assessment as well as practical application.

Counseling in Speech-Language Pathology: 2 credit hours

This course focuses on counseling theory and methods used by speech-language pathologists in clinical practice. Individual and group counseling techniques appropriate for individuals who have communication disorders and their families will be discussed. Students will learn through lecture, role play, and case-based scenarios.

Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies: 2 credit hours

This course examines the speech, language, voice, and resonance disorders that may co-occur with cleft palate and other craniofacial anomalies. Discussion will include the oral-facial structures with particular attention to the role of the velopharynx in the production of intelligible speech.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication: 2 credit hours

This course investigates communicative approaches for individuals who have severe communication disorders or who are non-verbal. Technology specifically designed for communicative assistance will be reviewed and utilized in class. Procedures for assessment and communicative training will be discussed through lecture and case-based scenarios.

Clinical Externship II: 3 credit hours

This clinical practicum will provide students with experience delivering clinical services to individuals with communication and/or swallowing disorders in an off-campus setting under the supervision of licensed and certified speech-language pathologists. Students may be assigned to an educational setting, medical setting, or private practice. Students will also be responsible for providing leadership within the interprofessional pro bono Chester Community Clinic alongside their physical therapy and occupational therapy peers.

Spring 2

Professional Issues and Ethics: 3 credit hours

This course provides an overview of the regulations and requirements for professional practice in the field of speech-language pathology, including licensure and certification. Contemporary issues related to employment in various settings, professional competencies, ethical issues, continuing education, clinical supervision, conflict resolution, and clinical decision making will be discussed.

Aural Rehabilitation: 3 credit hours

This course explores the effects of hearing loss on communication and psychosocial well-being. Procedures for assessment and methods of treatment including amplification, speech reading, auditory training, and counseling will be discussed through lecture, case-based scenarios, and simulation.

Clinical Externship III: 3 credit hours

This clinical practicum will provide students with experience delivering clinical services to individuals with communication and/or swallowing disorders in an off-campus setting under the supervision of licensed and certified speech-language pathologists. Students may be assigned to an educational setting, medical setting, or private practice. Students will also be responsible for providing leadership within the interprofessional pro bono Chester Community Clinic alongside their physical therapy and occupational therapy peers.

Praxis Preparation Workshop: 1 credit hour

This workshop will provide students with an understanding of the Praxis exam, test-taking strategies, and a review of academic and clinical content in order to support student success on the exam, which is a requirement for licensure and certification. Following the workshop, students will be provided with an opportunity to take a practice Praxis examination.

Comprehensive Examinations (Pass/Fail)

The comprehensive examinations in speech-language pathology will be given over a two-day period in April of the final semester. One examination day will focus on assessment and treatment of children with communication disorders and one examination day will focus on assessment and treatment of adults with communication disorders. Comprehensive examinations will be a combination of written and presented material which will allow students to demonstrate their critical thinking skills and ability to integrate didactic knowledge and clinical practice.