

Master of Health Science Program Policy Statement
Department of Communication Science and Disorders
University of Missouri School of Health Professions

I. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A. A baccalaureate degree in communication science and disorders from an accredited college or university is desirable. However, applications will be accepted from individuals who have obtained a baccalaureate degree in another field. If accepted into the MHS program, they must complete the requirements of the undergraduate major in communication science and disorders before beginning graduate level coursework in the MHS program.
- B. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) for the most recent 60 hours of undergraduate study is a minimum requirement established by both the Graduate School and the Department.
- C. The applicant must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Successful applicants typically achieve a combined score of 1000 or better on the Verbal and Quantitative subtests.
- D. If English is not the applicant's native language, s/he must demonstrate native or near-native ability in spoken English by submitting official test scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Test of Spoken English (TSE) (unless the iBT is taken). Minimum scores for the TOEFL are 600 on the paper-based TOEFL, 250 on the computer-based TOEFL, and 100 on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT) including a minimum Speaking subtest score of 28. A minimum score of 55 on the TSE is required if the applicant does not take the iBT version of the TOEFL.
- E. The applicant must submit a letter of purpose, indicating achievements, relevant experiences, special interests, goals, etc.
- F. At the option of the Department a personal interview may be required.
- G. Applicants to the MHS program are accepted only once a year. All application materials must be postmarked by **February 1**. (See application procedures.) Students may begin study in either the summer or fall semester.

Meeting University and Department minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the MHS Program. Size and quality of the applicant pool, availability of faculty and other resources, and other factors are considered.

II. COURSE OF STUDY

- A. Candidates for the MHS degree must complete a minimum of 42 credit hours of graduate coursework, including at least 24 credit hours of advanced study (8000-level coursework). No more than 10 credit hours of clinical practicum may be counted toward the 42.
- B. Thesis Option - A student may choose to write a thesis as part of the MHS degree program. The thesis option is appropriate for students interested in research and/or further study toward the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The thesis is prepared by the student under the supervision of a faculty member in the Department. Credit for the thesis will not exceed 6 of the 42 required credit hours. Eligibility for the thesis option will be determined by a committee review of the student's credentials. See the Graduate Catalog for further information.
- C. **Required Graduate Courses for Speech-Language Pathology**
 - 7340 Aural Rehabilitation – 3 cr. hrs.
 - 8020 Developmental Language Disorders – 3 cr. hrs.
 - 8030 Acquired Language Disorders – 4 cr. hrs.
 - 8100 Speech Science – 4 cr. hrs.
 - 8200 Motor Speech Disorders – 3 cr. hrs.
 - 8210 Disorders of Fluency – 3 cr. hrs.
 - 8220 Disorders of Voice – 2 cr. hrs.
 - 8230 Dysphagia – 2 cr. hrs.
 - 8240 Orofacial Anomalies – 1 cr. hr.
 - 8260 Diagnosis in Speech-Language Pathology – 3 cr. hrs.
 - 8430 Alternative and Augmentative Communication – 2 cr. hrs.
 - 8500 Issues in Professional Practice – 1 cr. hr.
 - 8935 Clinical Practice in Audiology – 1 cr. hr.
 - 8945 Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology – 8 cr. hrs.

Plus elective course work to bring total to 42 credit hours

- D. Individual student programs are determined in consultation with the graduate advisor and must satisfy Department and Graduate School requirements and the requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. See the enclosed list of courses offered by the Department of Communication Science and Disorders. Consult the current Graduate Catalog for additional information.

IV. CLINICAL PRACTICUM

- A. Students must obtain the consent of the Clinic Director to enroll in any of the clinical practicum courses. A student on probationary status may not enroll in practicum courses.
- B. Students must complete 25 hours of clinical observation and satisfactorily complete all academic prerequisites prior to enrollment in clinical practicum courses.
- C. Students must complete their first four semesters of clinical practicum (includes one summer session) at the MU Speech and Hearing Clinic. Students will be assigned a limited outplacement during their fourth semester and two full-time eight-week outplacements during their fifth semester in the program.
- D. All students enrolled in 8000-level coursework in the Department must enroll in at least 2 semester hours of clinical practicum.

V. PROGRAM OF STUDY

The Program of Study form details a plan of study for completion of the requirements for the master's degree. A program of study form must be prepared, approved, and submitted to the Graduate School by the deadline published by the Graduate School. This plan of study is designed by the student in collaboration with the Graduate Student Advisor.

VI. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

As required by the Graduate School, all master's candidates must take a comprehensive examination. The Praxis II Speech-Language Pathology examination will be used as the comprehensive examination. In the event a student fails to achieve a passing score after two attempts at the Praxis II, a written comprehensive examination will be given by Program faculty. A passing score on either the Praxis II or a written comprehensive examination must be attained before the MHS degree will be awarded.

VII. PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR PROBATION AND DISMISSAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL

- A. Any student who fails to maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 or fails to achieve a 3.0 for any individual semester (term GPA) will be placed on probation. Students on probation must enroll for 12 semester hours (fall or winter semester), or 6 semester hours (summer session). They may not enroll in clinical practicum courses. By the end of the probationary period, they must have achieved a B or better in all department courses and must have attained a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- B. A student in the graduate program will be subject to faculty review and dismissal when any one of the following conditions prevails:
 - 1. The student has two consecutive semesters with a GPA below 3.0 each semester (summer session is considered a semester).
 - 2. The student's cumulative graduate GPA falls below 3.0.
 - 3. The student has received two grades of C or lower in any of the clinical practice courses.
- C. All dismissals from the Department will be the result of a majority vote of the regular Department faculty including the Clinic Director.

The University of Missouri complies with the guidelines of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans With Disabilities Act and need assistance with this or any portion of the application process, notify us as soon as possible at the address or telephone number shown on the enclosed letter. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.