

MASTER OF ARTS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY - DISTANCE DELIVERY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of South Dakota Distance Program in Speech-Language Pathology is a three-year (10 semester) program designed primarily for working professionals in the state of South Dakota with an undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders to obtain their Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology.

One evening course per academic-year semester and two afternoon courses each summer will be offered via distance technology. Clinical experiences, including practicum and Internships, will be arranged whenever possible at locations in or near the student's preferred geographic location; one internship site can be at the student's primary place of employment, assuming that appropriate supervision can be obtained.

Students will move through the program together in a cohort model. This second distance cohort has been approved and will begin Summer, 2011. As with the first cohort, the program will kick off with a two-day orientation on the Vermillion campus in late May or early June. Applications for the distance program must be received by **April 15, 2011**. For additional application information, visit: www.usd.edu/csd/distance-ma.cfm.

Admission, retention, academic, and clinical requirements for the program are the same as those for the on-campus, residential program. The program is accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and will replace the current summers-only program. It should be noted that additional three-year cohorts in the future cannot be guaranteed.

TUITION RATES

For the most up-to-date online course tuition information, please visit: www.usd.edu/cde/tuition-rates.cfm

GETTING STARTED

Prospective graduate students may apply through the Graduate School at www.usd.edu/grad/how-to-apply.cfm.

The Graduate School forwards completed applications to the appropriate academic department for review. The department will then recommend the admission status of the applicant to the Dean of the Graduate School, who will make the final decision on admission status.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission into the Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program requires:

- Baccalaureate degree in communication sciences and disorders (or completion of core prerequisites) with an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better, based on a 4.0 scale, in all undergraduate courses as well as in the communication disorders major.
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE test scores
- Official transcripts
- Statement of Purpose

No minimum GRE test score required for admission; this score is considered along with the other application materials.

Students accepted into this graduate program must also complete a criminal background check through Verified Credentials prior to matriculation. Information regarding this background check will be sent to those students accepted into the program in the acceptance packet. Graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology are expected to possess the prerequisite characteristics, knowledge, and skills necessary for success in the program and practice in the professions.

Students who are applying to the Distance M.A. in SLP should indicate "Distance SLP" at the top of their application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline is **April 15, 2011**. The Distance M.A. Program in SLP is a three-year cohort. The next cohort will start in June, 2011.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The University of South Dakota
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Phone: 605-677-5474
Fax: 605-677-5767
csd@usd.edu

The University of South Dakota
Graduate School
Phone: 605-677-6240
Phone: 800-233-7937
grad@usd.edu
www.usd.edu/grad

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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Course/No.	Course Title	Site	Rotation
DCOM 736	Diagnostics (3 cr.)	DDN	June 2011
DCOM 731	Fluency (3 cr.)	DDN	July 2011
DCOM 787	Theories and Methods of Graduate Study and Research (3 cr.)	DDN	Fall 2011
DCOM 733	Neuromotor (3 cr.)	DDN	Spring 2012
DCOM 730	CAPD (3 cr.)	DDN	June 2012
DCOM 724	Advanced Communication Science (3 cr.)	DDN	July 2012
DCOM 595	Clinic (3 cr.) ** (6 total cr.)		Summer 2012
DCOM 533*	Voice (3 cr.)	DDN	Fall 2012
DCOM 537*	Advanced Language Disorders (3 cr.)	DDN	Spring 2013
DCOM 737	Dysphagia (3 cr.)	DDN	June 2013
DCOM 732	Craniofacial (3 cr.)	DDN	July 2013
DCOM 595	Clinic**		Summer 2013
DCOM 734	Acquired Language Disorders (3 cr.)	DDN	Fall 2013
DCOM 794	Internship** (20 total cr.)		Fall 2013
DCOM 534*	Alternative and Augmentative Communication (3 cr.)	DDN	Spring 2014
DCOM 794	Internship**		Spring 2014
DCOM 794	Internship**		Summer 2014

* unless completed at undergraduate level

** see below for specific requirements relative to clinical practice and internships

Total Credit Hours Required: 62 Credit Hours

UNDERGRADUATE PREREQUISITES

The program is intended for those who have completed either a baccalaureate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders or a set of undergraduate prerequisites. At present, there is no plan to offer a BA/BS via distance at USD. Distance “leveling” programs designed to provide undergraduate prerequisites are available throughout the country for interested students with baccalaureates other than Communication Sciences and Disorders. We also offer a one-year, residential preparatory program on the Vermillion campus.

Undergraduate prerequisites for students with undergraduate degrees in a discipline other than Communication Sciences and Disorders:

DCOM 131	Introduction to Communication Sciences & Disorders
DCOM 211	Phonetics
DCOM 212	Language Development
DCOM 221	Audiology
DCOM 224	Speech Science
DCOM 421	Hearing Science
	Biological Science and Physical Science

In addition to the courses listed above, it is expected that, as part of their undergraduate preparation, students in the Distance SLP MA program at USD will have completed the following required courses (or their equivalent) prior to admission to the program. These courses will be offered via Independent Study in the semesters in which are regularly scheduled for those students who have not completed them. Further, ASHA certification requirements mandate that candidates for certification have both biological and a physical science, as well as other foundation knowledge and skills.

DCOM 423/523	Aural Rehabilitation (3 cr.)
DCOM 432/532	Disorders of Phonology and Articulation (3 cr.)
DCOM 435/535	Language Disorders in Children (3 cr.)

Information typically covered in DCOM 710 Professional Issues I and DCOM 711 Professional Issue II will be presented in a three-day orientation at the beginning of the first summer of the program. This orientation will be on the Vermillion campus.

PROGRAM SEQUENCES:

Courses have been scheduled to preserve program sequences while, at the same time, accommodating professionals working in the public schools. All students are expected to take courses in the semesters and at the days/times in which they are offered. Courses during the academic year will be offered Wednesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. CST. Summer courses will be offered M-Th afternoons (3:00 - 5:00 p.m. CST) in sessions 2 and 3. Independent studies or other individual alterations to the schedule will not be made for purposes of convenience or speeding program completion.

CLINICAL PRACTICUM AND INTERNSHIP POLICIES

ASHA certification requirements mandate 400 supervised clock hours, including 25 supervised observation hours and 375 supervised client hours. Hours must be obtained across the life-span, across the range of disorders, and across at least three settings. Up to 50 client hours obtained at the undergraduate level may apply toward the 375 total, if documented and appropriately supervised. Students must only evaluate/treat clients with disorders for which the didactic preparation has been completed or in which the student is concurrently enrolled. Prior to beginning any clinical practicum, students must provide evidence of the 25 documented, supervised observation hours. **PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD THE 400 TOTAL CLOCK HOURS REQUIRED FOR PROGRAM COMPLETION AND ASHA CERTIFICATION.** All hours must be supervised by a speech-language pathologist who hold a current Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

All clinical practica and internship placements must be arranged and approved by the appropriate DCOM faculty member (i.e., distance liaison, internship coordinator). As with current policy, all clinical practicum sites will enter into contractual agreements with the USD Department of Communication Disorders to ensure adherence to all supervisory procedures and policies. Clinical practicum and internship supervisors cannot be remunerated individually for their contributions. While all attempts will be made to locate practicum and internship sites in or near the student's geographic location, this cannot be guaranteed as all sites must meet ASHA and departmental supervisory regulations and guidelines.