

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

Muncie, Indiana 47306 Phone: 765-285-8161

Dear Prospective Graduate Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Ball State University graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology. On the enclosed weblinks you will find information about our program as well as the materials necessary for application. You will also find helpful information by surfing our departmental website: www.bsu.edu/spaa

As you may already know, our speech-language pathology program has a strong clinical focus. Our program has been accredited by CAA since 1974. Our students complete 2 semesters of clinical practicum at the undergraduate level and another three semesters at the graduate level. All of these practicum experiences are completed in our large university based clinic. Each semester our clinic provides diagnostic and intervention services to more than 200 clients from the surrounding communities. Our client population is diverse and provides our students with a variety of experiences in both individual and group therapy. In addition graduate students also complete two off-campus internships. Typically these off-campus experiences are in a school setting and a medical setting.

For incoming students with a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology, our graduate program takes six semesters to complete (two calendar years). For incoming students with degrees in other disciplines the length of the program varies with an average length of nine semesters (three calendar years).

I am very proud of our strong clinical graduate program and even prouder of our dedicated hardworking students and faculty.

Again, thank you for your interest. After looking over the materials if you would like to schedule a campus visit, contact the department at 765-285-8161 or mgermani@bsu.edu

Best wishes in your pursuit of your graduate degree.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Germani, Ph.D. Department Chairperson



Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology Application & Admission Information

Thank you for your interest in Ball State University's Speech-Language Pathology Master's degree program. In this handout you will find information about:

- Admission Standards
- Application Deadline
- Application Procedures Overview
- Application Procedures in Detail
- Financial Assistance
- Addresses and Contact Numbers

For more information on Ball State University and the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, visit the department's web page at www.bsu.edu/spaa/ or on the graduate school web page www.bsu.edu/gradschool/ For assistance with questions, contact:

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Introduction

Ball State University's Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology is typically a 24 month program for persons who have an undergraduate major in speech and hearing. The program includes all the necessary course work and clinical practicum experience to meet the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) certification requirements. In the typical program, four semesters are spent at Ball State taking classes and clinical practicum. The last two semesters consist of two full-time internships. Typically, one internship is done in a school setting and the other in a medical setting (hospital, clinic, private practice, etc.).

Persons who have an undergraduate major other than speech and hearing can also apply to the program. For such persons, the length of the program is greater as the program consists of the typical graduate courses listed on the blue enclosure, as well as any undergraduate speech pathology classes required for ASHA certification.

At this time, we do not offer the Speech-Language Pathology Master's degree via distance learning.

Admission Standards

- Admission to the Ball State University's Speech-Language Pathology graduate program is limited and on a competitive basis.
- Students must be admitted to **both** the department and to the Graduate School to enroll as a degree-seeking student.
- A minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.25 overall and in the major is desired. We receive more qualified applicants than we can accept; meeting or exceeding this average does not guarantee admission.
- A combined GRE score (verbal & analytical) of 900 is desired with a verbal score of 400 or better.
- Three letters of reference (forms provided) preferably from faculty and supervisors who have direct knowledge of your abilities and potential to succeed in graduate school.
- Acceptable letter of application.
- Transcripts of all previous graduate and undergraduate coursework.
- Completed graduate school application and departmental supplemental information form.

Application Deadline

Completed applications must be received by **February 1** to ensure consideration for Summer and Fall semester admission. Our program only admits students for the Summer and Fall and not the Spring semester.

Notification of admission decisions is mailed by late March/early April to the address indicated on the completed Graduate Application form.

Application Procedures - Overview (Detailed Instructions Follow This Section)

To begin the application process, you must provide Ball State University with a completed application form, the application fee, transcripts, GRE scores and three recommendations, as follows:

Materials to be sent directly to the Ball State University <u>Graduate School</u>:

- Completed Graduate Application Form enclosed, or online at https://www.bsu.edu/gradschool/admissions/
- Application fee
- Original transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work, (the Graduate School will obtain BSU transcripts for current BSU students) and
- GRE scores for all three subtests: verbal, quantitative, analytical

The following materials must be sent directly to the departmental Admissions Committee. All materials must be sent together in one package/mailing.

Materials to be sent directly to the Ball State University, <u>Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology</u>, Admissions Committee:

- Completed Speech-Language Pathology Program Supplemental Information Form (enclosed)
- Three recommendations (forms enclosed)
- Verified copy of undergraduate clinical hours (including observation hours)
- Letter of Application

Remember!

All materials sent to the Admissions Committee of the department must be sent together in one mailing!

Application Procedures - In Detail

- Application Form and Application Fee: Complete the enclosed Graduate School Graduate Application form, or complete one online at: https://www.bsu.edu/gradschool/admissions/ Mail the or completed application and the application fee to the Graduate School. The fee amount is listed on the application form and is subject to change. You may also contact the Graduate School (765-285-1285) to verify the application fee amount at the time of your application. NOTE: If you have applied to the BSU Graduate School in the past two years a new application form is NOT required! Contact the Graduate School if you are concerned whether your application is still active before submitting another one.
- <u>Transcripts</u>: Request one official transcript of all college and/or university course work, including any graduate work from all colleges or universities you have attended. This transcript(s) must be sent from the granting institution to the Graduate School. (If you are a current BSU student the department will obtain a copy of your transcript for you.) NOTE: Transcripts must arrive in a university-sealed envelope to be considered official.

Many of you will be providing transcripts which do not show the awarded bachelor's degree because you are still completing undergraduate work at the time of your application. If admitted, you must provide another official transcript showing the awarded bachelor's degree as soon after completion as possible and request that it be forwarded directly to the Graduate School.

- <u>GRE Scores:</u> Request that your GRE scores be sent directly to Ball State University. When you do so, the GRE reporting office sends your scores to the Graduate School. There are numerous study guides available for the GRE. We strongly encourage you to study for this examination.
- <u>Speech-Language Pathology Program Supplemental Information Form:</u> Complete the enclosed Supplemental Information Form and send it with the departmental materials listed below.
- **Recommendations**: Select three references and ask them to complete a recommendation form (enclosed). Your references should be persons familiar with your academic work and your potential for success in a graduate program and at least one letter should come from someone who has observed your clinical work. A family member or friend is not considered appropriate choices for references. The completed forms should be given to you and included with the application materials sent to the departmental Admissions Committee. Some of your references may wish for the recommendation to remain confidential. If so, he/she may provide you with the completed recommendation form in a sealed envelope. You may then include the envelope with the application materials sent to the departmental Admissions Committee.
- <u>Undergraduate Clinical Hours</u>: Send a verified copy of your <u>undergraduate clinical hours</u> (including <u>observation hours</u>) to the departmental Admissions Committee. The Committee is aware that your hours may not be complete until after graduation. A final copy will be required before the end of your first semester of graduate work at the university. Verification of your

observation hours is required before you begin your first semester of clinical practicum.

• <u>Letter of Application</u>: Write a short letter describing your interest in our program as well as the field of speech-language pathology. This letter may also include information about your abilities that you feel is important in the decision process of the admissions committee. The letter should be no longer than 3 pages in length.

Financial Assistance

- Assistantships: A limited number of Graduate Assistantships are available on a competitive basis. Generally only the top applicants qualify for assistantships. Some assistantships are available in the department and others are available in various campus offices. Assistantships require a work commitment to the university of 10-20 hours per week during fall and spring semesters. Assistantships provide a variable stipend which ranges from \$2000 to \$8000 per year and a waiver of half to most tuition costs. To indicate your interest in being considered for a Graduate Assistantship within the department, check "yes" on the Graduate Application form where indicated in the lower left corner, and also check "yes" on the department's Supplemental Information Form.
- *Fellowships*: A limited number of University Fellowships are available to outstanding applicants. Minimum requirements include a GPA of 3.8 or higher and GRE scores above the 95th percentile. Like assistantships, fellowships provide a variable stipend which ranges from \$2000 to \$8000 per year and include a waiver of most tuition costs. Fellowships, however, do not require a work commitment to the university. Contact the Graduate School for additional information on University Fellowships.
- *Loans*: Traditional student loans are administered through Ball State University's Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.
- <u>Scholarships</u>: Some scholarships are administered through Ball State University's Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. You can contact that office at 765-285-5600 or visit their web page at: www.bsu.edu/finaid to find additional assistance. Another source of financial aid information is a booklet, *Funding Sources: A Guide for Future Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Speech, Language and Hearing Scientists*, available from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Frequently Asked Questions Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program

→ How long is the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology?

For a student with a bachelor degree in Speech Pathology the program will take 6 semesters to complete. For a student with a degree in another discipline the program typically takes 8 to 9 semesters to complete (this will vary based on the undergraduate background).

→ How many students do you accept into the Speech-Language Pathology program each year?

We typically admit 35 to 40 students each academic year.

→ How many students apply for your graduate program each year?

Approximately 110

→ Is the Graduate Records Exam (GRE) required for admission to the graduate program? If yes, does the department have a minimum score requirement?

The GRE is required as part of the department's admission process. There is currently no stated minimum GRE score required. The department's admissions standards are made of several factors (GRE, GPA, recommendations, letter of application). Poor performance in one area does not necessarily constitute a basis for non-admittance, but is viewed as part of the composite of measures being reviewed. Admission to our program is a competitive process.

→ Is there a cutoff GPA for acceptance into the graduate program?

While the department does not have a cutoff GPA, you should be aware that the graduate program is highly competitive. The Graduate School at Ball State University does require a 2.7 overall GPA to be admitted into the Graduate School. The average cumulative GPA of the students admitted into our graduate program over the past several years has been 3.4 (on a 4 pt scale).

→ Can I schedule a visit to the Department?

Yes, we strongly encourage you to call and set up a time to tour the facilities as well as meet the faculty and students. Call 765-285-8160 and request to meet with the department chairperson.

→ Can I complete the degree requirements attending part-time?

Most likely no. Our program is structured for students who are admitted full time. Students are expected to be available for courses and clients during the day every day of the work week.

\rightarrow Is the program accredited?

Yes, our program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

→ Is there a speech clinic on campus?

Yes, the BSU Speech-Language Pathology clinic is a very active and diverse clinic. On average our students are provided with opportunities to work with both individual clients as well as group situations. We also have a client base that is diverse and provides our students with a very broad clinical experience. On average we provide services to 120 clients a year.

→ Where can I do my off-campus clinical internships?

We prefer that you complete your student teaching experience in Indiana. You are able to complete your medical internship anywhere in the U.S. that we can find a qualified supervisor who will enter into a supervisory contract with the department. Both of these off-campus experiences are done during the last two semesters of your program of study.

\rightarrow Do you have comps?

Yes, students are required to pass a comprehensive examination in order to meet graduation requirements. This exam is typically completed during the 5th semester of your program of study.

→ Do I need to complete a thesis in order to graduate?

No, the SLP graduate program does not require the completion of a thesis. Completing a thesis is an option for our students which is encouraged by the faculty. Students taking the option of completing a thesis will typically still be able to complete the program in 6 semesters.

→ If admitted, when can I start the program?

Students admitted are given the choice of beginning in either the summer or fall semester.

→ Will I have to attend class during the summer?

Yes, students are required to take courses during the summer semester.

→ How big is your department?

We currently have 18 faculty members and two office personnel. In our undergraduate program we typically have 80 to 100 students, 70 to 80 students in our SLP grad program, and approximately 30 in our Au.D. program.

→ Do I need to have an undergraduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology to attend BSU?

No, we do accept a small number of students who have undergraduate degrees in unrelated areas of study. These students will need to meet with the graduate advisor to determine which undergraduate courses they will need to complete prior to registering for graduate courses. These students will most likely take an additional year to complete the program.

→ Do you have any graduate assistantships within the department?

Yes, we have 5 assistantships in the SLP program. These are awarded to students based on academic performance as well as letters of recommendations. Many of our students have been awarded assistantships elsewhere on campus. Be sure to mark on the graduate application that you are interested in an assistantship. Once admitted you will want to check with the Graduate School to find out about assistantships across campus.

→ When will I find out if I have been admitted?

Students are typically notified of the committee's decision in late March/early April. Applicants will receive one of three types of letters: letter of admission, letter placing you on a waiting list, or a letter of denial of admission into the SLP program.

→ When should I apply to the graduate program?

Graduate applications are reviewed each Spring for summer or fall admissions. There are no Spring admissions. The application deadline is $\underline{\text{February }1^{\text{st}}}$. All required materials must be received by this deadline in order to have your application reviewed by the committee.

→ Are there pre-requisites for the SLP graduate program?

Yes, undergraduate coursework in SLP must be completed, and at least 30 hours of clinical practicum. Students not meeting these requirements will be required to take these courses and clinical practicum at the graduate level (which may extend the length of their program of study).

\rightarrow How well do your graduates do on the Praxis II, graduating on time, and finding employment?

Master of Arts – Speech-Language Pathology (reflects data averaged over the previous three full academic years):

Graduation Rate	100%
Students completing program within	
the program's published time frame	99%
Pass rate on National Exam in SLP (Praxis II)	94%
Employment Rate (within 1 year of graduation)	100%

Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Ball State University

Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology

Admissions Committee
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
765-285-8161
765-285-5623 (fax)
sppathaud@bsu.edu (e-mail)
www.bsu.edu/spaa/

Graduate School

Ball State University Muncie, IN 47306 765-285-1285 765-285-1328 (fax) www.bsu.edu/gradschool/

Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

Ball State University Muncie, IN 47306 765-285-CASH or 1-800-227-4017 www.bsu.edu/finaid/

Other Agencies

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

10801 Rockville Pike Rockville, MD 20852 301-897-5700; ext 218 301-897-7358 (fax) www.asha.org

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

Contact your university advising office for registration information. Most schools offer this test only once per quarter or semester. Several weeks usually elapse before the test results are mailed so this should be completed as early as possible. Website: www.gre.org



SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PROGRAM

Supplemental Information Form

Name:	Date	e form completed:
Preferred Contact Information	on – How we may reach you duri	ng the application process
Mailing address:	E-mail:	Phone:
-		
	Please notify the Dept of S	Speech-Language Pathology (sppathaud@bsu.edu) if your contact information changes.
Education Information		
Undergraduate major:		
Date bachelor's degree awa	arded or anticipated:	
Bachelor's degree institution	on:	<u> </u>
C 1 I D 1 1	0 A 1' 1 TI OI . '	14 16
·	& Audiology Hours Obtained	
Observation hours:	Practicum hours: (auc	liology) (speech-language pathology)
References (list names of indi	viduals who will be completing th	ne Recommendation Forms)
1	3	
2		
Program Plan		
When do you plan to begin adv	vanced study at Ball State?	
Term:	(Summer or Autumn) Year	:
Assistantship Request		
Do you wish to be consideredYesNo	for a graduate assistantship in the	Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology?
(This form should be submitte	d with the application materials to	o the Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology,

(This form should be submitted with the application materials to the Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306)



Department of Speech-Language Pathology Recommendation Form

Name of Applicant				Date		
By signing this form, I waive my rig	ght to review	this docum	ent:			
Applicant Sig	gnature					
	Exceptional Top 1%	Outstanding Top 5%	Very Good Top 25%	Above Average Top 50%	Below Average Lower 50%	Inadequate Opportunity to Observe
Breadth of knowledge in Speech-Language						
Pathology						
Interpersonal skills						
Written Communication skills	1					
Oral Communication skills						
Dependability						
Ability to work with others	1					
Ability to analyze a problem and formulate a solution						
Potential as a professional						
Acceptance of constructive criticism						
Potential to complete tasks related to an assistantship						
Practical judgment						
Emotional maturity	1					
Self-Confidence	1					
Sensitivity to others						
Motivation to excel						
How long have you known the applicant? <pre>2-4 yrs</pre> 2. In what capacity have you known the applicant?	>4yrs ant? (Circle all th	nat apply)				
Instructor supervisor	othe	r:				

Grade over	Grades are a	Grades under	[] No basis for judgment
estimate potential	good estimate	estimate potential	
*If grades DO NOT	reflect the applicant's true potential, please p	ovide a brief explanation:	
4. Please estimate the applican	nt's potential to become a highly competent c	inician	
			[] No basis for judgment
Will be an ineffective clinician	Will be an average clinician	Will be an effective clinician	
menecuve chincian	average chinician	effective chinician	
5. Please indicate the strength	of your overall recommendation:		
not recommended	drecommend with reservations	recommend	highly recommend
program?yes,	in graduate SLP/Communication Disorders position with no reservations	orogram would you accept th	is student into your graduate
program?yes,	•	orogram would you accept th	is student into your graduate
program?yes,	with no reservations	orogram would you accept th	iis student into your graduate
program?yes,	with no reservations		iis student into your graduate
program?yes,no Name of person completing thi	with no reservations with reservations		is student into your graduate

Please feel free to attach any additional comments

Notice to person completing this form: The completed recommendation form must be given to the applicant. Do <u>NOT</u> mail the completed form directly to the Speech Pathology & Audiology Admissions Committee. The applicant must send all application materials to the Admissions Committee in one mailing.

If you wish the recommendation form to remain confidential, place the completed form in an envelope and give the sealed envelope (signed across the seal, if desired) to the applicant for inclusion with his/her other application materials.

Admissions Committee Speech Pathology & Audiology Ball State University Muncie, IN 47306