

School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology



Program Description

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology degree program offers students unique academic and clinical opportunities for students who are preparing for careers in speech-language pathology. Housed at the University of Texas at Dallas Callier Center for Communication Disorders—known internationally for its clinical service and research programs—the master’s program is designed around a set of core critical competencies and introduces students to advanced knowledge in areas such as:



- Child language development and disorders
- Autism spectrum disorders
- Bilingualism
- Literacy
- Speech production
- Neurobiology of language

Students in the program benefit from a broad array of elective courses, a variety of experiences in medical and clinical settings, and on- and off-campus placements in practicums and internships. In addition to the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, students have opportunities to enrich their study by participating in faculty research at several other prominent UT Dallas centers: the Center for BrainHealth, the Center for Children and Families and the Center for Vital Longevity.

Ranked #10 in the country by U.S. News & World Report—and accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association—the program’s 100% employment rate attests to the cutting-edge training that students receive as well as the opportunities they have for research and clinical service throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and beyond.

Benefits

The Speech-Language Pathology master’s program ensures that students gain a broad understanding of their discipline, apply their knowledge and analytical skills to address practical problems and communicate and work effectively in collaborative environments.

Other benefits include:

- *World-Class Faculty:* One of the top-ranked master’s programs in the country according to U.S. News and World Report, the Speech-Language Pathology program is led by faculty of the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences who are internationally renowned experts in their respective fields.
- *Comprehensive Curriculum:* Courses in the Speech-Language Pathology program will introduce students to new ideas, technologies, and competencies while preparing them to succeed in hospital, clinical and educational settings.
- *Facilities:* The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is housed in the Erik Jonsson Academic Center and research is enhanced through faculty and student participation in six centers in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.
- *Labs and Internships:* Students have the opportunity to hands-on research at one of the more than 50 labs across campus and within the School’s centers and institutes.
- *Location:* Situated in the greater Dallas region—recently rated by Forbes magazine as the #1 “Best City for Jobs”—UT Dallas provides students with easy access to employers and internship opportunities, not to mention a large and supportive alumni population.

Contact Information

Office of Communication Disorders
Email: CommunicationDisorders@utdallas.edu
Phone: 214-905-3060

Callier Center Dallas
1966 Inwood Rd.
Dallas, TX 75235
Office: CD B.112

bbs.utdallas.edu

Career Opportunities

Employed in hospitals, clinics and schools, speech-language pathologists work to prevent, diagnose and treat communication and swallowing disorders, often doing so collaboratively with other health care providers and educators.

Graduates of the Speech-Language Pathology master's program are qualified to serve in speech-language pathologist positions in clinical, educational and medical settings and have also pursued careers as researchers, educators and administrators.

Marketable Skills

Graduates from the MS in Speech-Language Pathology program will be able to:

- Apply knowledge in communication and swallowing processes and disorders, including their biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental/lifespan, linguistic and cultural bases to clinical practice at a level commensurate with entry-level certification and licensure in speech-language pathology.
- Apply the principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for people with communication disorders including anatomical/physiological, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates of the disorders to clinical practice at a level commensurate with entry-level certification and licensure in speech-language pathology.
- Evaluate and treat individuals who exhibit disorders of articulation, fluency, voice/resonance, receptive/expressive language, hearing, swallowing, cognitive aspects of communication, social aspects of communication, and communication modalities and demonstrate critical thinking skills to clinical practice at a level commensurate with entry-level certification and licensure in speech-language pathology.

Application Deadlines and Requirements

Please take note of all application deadlines and visit the Apply Now webpage to begin the application process. See the Speech-Language Pathology website for additional information.

Applicants to the Speech-Language Pathology master's degree program should have:

- A bachelor's degree or its equivalent.
- A grade point average (GPA) in undergraduate-level coursework of 3.0 or better on a 4.0-point scale.
- Test Scores: Both GRE math and verbal scores are required to be considered for admission.
- Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation from individuals able to judge the candidate's potential for success in the master's degree program.
- Admissions Essay: Applicants must submit a "statement of purpose" essay outlining their academic interests and career goals.
- International applicants must submit a TOEFL score of at least 80 on the internet-based test. Scores must be less than two years old. See the Graduate Catalog for additional information regarding English proficiency requirements for international applicants.

To be accepted for the fall semester, applicants must submit completed applications by February 15. Applications for acceptance in the spring semester are due September 15, and applications for acceptance in the summer semester are due by February 15.

One semester of Internship is required. In general, a maximum of 9 semester credit hours of Practicum/Internship may be counted toward the minimum 48 semester credit hours required for the degree. However, to meet eligibility requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence offered by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Texas State licensure, students may need to enroll in additional semester credit hours of Practicum/Internship beyond the 9-semester credit hour minimum. Exceptions to the above requirements must be approved by the graduate program head.

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utdallas.edu

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About the School



The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is focused on the intersection of mind, brain and behavior. Through the school's research-intensive culture, our professors and students work together to unravel mysteries that will improve human lives. They accomplish this by engaging in novel scientific discovery, translating the latest research into treatments, and sharing this knowledge through professional and community outreach. The School provides innovative training and research, offering an array of programs to develop creative thinkers. Graduate training in BBS prepares students to become scientists, educators, clinicians, social service professionals, innovators, and corporate leaders.

Graduate Research

The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is committed to translating the latest research into interventions that add depth to education and provide valuable contributions to the health and well-being of humans. BBS researchers in neuroscience, psychology, and speech, language, and hearing sciences have many research grants from the most prestigious national funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Departments

Neuroscience. Research in the Department of Neuroscience focuses primarily on cell and circuit plasticity in the nervous system and how this influences behavior. Major research strengths are in learning and memory; targeted plasticity for therapeutic intervention; and the neurobiology of pain.

Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. Research in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, based at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, this program emphasizes clinical and translational research in basic scientific understanding of brain and behavioral mechanisms of speech, language, and hearing, as well as on disorders that affect the ability of children and adults to communicate. Research strengths broadly encompass basic science, applied (translational) applications, prevention, and remediation.

Psychology. Research in the Department of Psychology focuses on all aspects of cognitive, developmental, and social psychology, and cognitive neuroscience. Areas of expertise include learning and memory; reasoning; perception; modeling; lifespan development (from early childhood through the oldest old); and brain disease (e.g., autism, schizophrenia, traumatic injury, neurodegeneration, addiction).

BBS Graduate Programs

Applied Cognition and Neuroscience	MS
Audiology	AUD
Cognition and Neuroscience	PHD
Speech-Language Pathology	MS
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences	PHD
Human Development and Early Childhood Disorders	MS
Psychology	MS PHD

Contact Information

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About the School



Research Centers

Many of the school's activities are shaped significantly by faculty and student involvement in five centers listed below.

Callier Center for Communication Disorders: The Center is a national leader in providing care for children and adults with speech, language, and hearing disorders. Supporting this clinical mission, faculty members research the causes, treatments and prevention of communication disorders.

Center for Advanced Pain Studies: This Center's mission is to elucidate fundamental mechanisms underlying chronic pain, and to discover novel therapeutics for the treatment of chronic pain through academic, public and private partnerships.

Center for BrainHealth: This Center focuses its research on understanding the brain's ability to restore or protect healthy function, to protect the brain from unnecessary mental decline and to heal the brain through treatments that regenerate function.

Center for Children and Families: Center research emphasizes parenting and healthy families, strengthening interpersonal relationships, and enhancing thinking and learning.

Center for Vital Longevity: This Center focuses on understanding and expanding the capacity of the aging mind, aiming to understand how the brain changes over the lifespan, the consequences of neural aging on everyday function, and interventions that show promise for slowing cognitive aging.

Texas Biomedical Device Center: The Center consists of scientists, engineers, medical doctors, regulatory specialists, and clinicians committed to the development of affordable and innovative therapies and technologies to improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from neurological disorders.

Additional Facts about BBS

- Our Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology programs are ranked #2 and #10 in the nation respectively, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.
- The School is home to leading experts in Psychology, Neuroscience and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences.
- In fiscal year 2019, BBS faculty members were responsible for nearly \$13 million in total research funding, including roughly \$12 million from National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Department of Defense.
- BBS has more than 2,300 undergraduate students and nearly 600 graduate students, including two of the top 10 undergraduate majors at UTD (Neuroscience, Psychology).

Contact Information

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