SLHS Prerequisites for the MA-SLP Program

Thank you for your interest in our graduate program. This document includes information for prospective students who do not have an undergraduate degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, including descriptions of prerequisite class requirements and options for obtaining them.

SLHS Prerequisites

All courses are 3 credit hours

**SLHS 3006: Phonetics or LING 3100: Sound Structures of Language**
Focuses on production of speech sounds, transcribing speech using the International Phonetic Alphabet, analyzing the acoustic properties of speech sounds, and understanding how speech sounds vary depending on the context. Provides a foundation for understanding normal and atypical speech development, atypical speech problems and patterns, regional and foreign accents, and speech recognition by computers.

**SLHS 3116: Speech Science**
Provides a basic understanding of the structural organization (anatomy), function (physiology), and neural controls of the structures used to produce speech, swallowing, respiration, and related behaviors in humans.

**SLHS 3106: Hearing Science**
Focuses on the three main aspects of the hearing process: sounds in the environment (physical acoustics), sounds encoded within the auditory system (physiological acoustics), and perception of sound (psychological acoustics.).

**SLHS 4560: Language Development**
Covers the development of language in childhood and into adult life, emphasizing the role of environment and biological endowment in learning to communicate with words, sentences, and narratives.

**SLHS 4704: Audiological Evaluation**
Studies basic principles and techniques of hearing evaluation, including pure-tone, speech, immittance, and advanced audiology; hearing conservation in hospital, school, and industrial settings; and identification and evaluation of auditory pathologies. Required projects in screening and pure-tone audiology.

**SLHS 4714: Audiological Rehabilitation**
Covers basic principles and techniques related to the habilitation and rehabilitation of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing: amplification, speech, language, auditory, speech reading, and educational issues. NOTE: The graduate level course SLHS 6670: Audiological Rehabilitation may be taken in lieu of this course.
In addition to the SLHS prerequisite courses listed above, students must complete the following ASHA requirements for certification. Although CU Boulder does not require these courses for entry into the MA-SLP program, they must be taken prior to graduation.


ASHA Requirements

Student must take at least one undergraduate course in each of the following domains. All four courses must be taken outside of an SLHS/CSD department

*Biological Sciences*
Content must be related to human or animal biology, genetics or general anatomy/physiology.

*Physical Sciences*
Any Physics or Chemistry course

*Social/ Behavioral Sciences*
Any Psychology or Sociology course

*Statistics*
Any statistics course
Options for students who do not have an undergraduate degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing sciences:

1. **Apply to the graduate program.** If accepted, your program will take 3 years to complete. The first year will consist primarily of undergraduate prerequisite coursework. This is a good option if you feel you are likely to be admitted based on your GRE scores and your undergraduate GPA(s). Typically, the lowest GPA considered is approximately 3.3, with the average GPA of admitted students being above 3.7. The average quantitative score of accepted students is 154 or 55th percentile, while the average verbal score of accepted students is 157 or 75th percentile with a combined average of 311 or 65th percentile. Percentiles are typically used to determine acceptance, and students with GRE scores below 300 on the Revised GRE score scale are rarely accepted.

2. **Take the six prerequisite classes** prior to applying to our graduate program. There are many universities that offer these prerequisite classes. Students can take these classes online or in person. This is a good option if you are in the borderline range for acceptance (GPA of 3.1-3.4 and moderately strong GRE scores). These courses will be reviewed for equivalency upon acceptance into the graduate program.

Some options in Colorado:

- Take the courses through the University of Colorado Boulder’s online prerequisite program (SLPP). [http://www.colorado.edu/slhs/online/speech-language-pathology-prerequisites-slpp-program](http://www.colorado.edu/slhs/online/speech-language-pathology-prerequisites-slpp-program). This option is highly recommended, as the instructors and the content of the classes are approved by CU Boulder.
- Take the courses through the University of Colorado Boulder Division of Continuing Education as an “ACCESS” student (non-degree). One downside of this option is that you will not be able to register for classes until several days before classes start, and some of our classes can fill up. Contact Continuing Education for more information about costs and logistics. [https://ce.colorado.edu/programs/access/](https://ce.colorado.edu/programs/access/)
- Take the courses at Metro State University in Denver or the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Please note that their prerequisite programs include additional courses that are not required for the CU MA-SLP program.

3. **Complete a second undergraduate degree in SLHS.**
   - This option would require taking a minimum of 3 semesters and more likely 4 to 5 semesters. This is a good option if your undergraduate GPA is below a 3.1. Please note doing this is not a guarantee of admission into the graduate program.