State University College at Plattsburgh
FAQ's about the Graduate Program in
Speech-Language Pathology

1. What is the minimum GPA required to apply to your program?
   According to our admissions procedures (explained in the packet titled "Guidelines for Master of Arts (MA) in Speech-Language Pathology") applicants must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale to be considered as a candidate for our graduate program. This refers to either the cumulative undergraduate GPA or the candidate's GPA in major courses. If the applicant has earned a minimum GPA of at least 3.0 in major courses yet has earned less than a 3.0 cumulative GPA, s/he would still be considered as a candidate for our program.

2. How many graduate applicants do you get each year and how many do you admit?
   Over the past few years there has been an average of 50--80 applicants to our graduate program per year. Of those, approximately 15-20 of the qualified candidates are granted admission to the program.

3. What GRE scores are necessary for admission?
   It is required that all applicants take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). It is important that the applicant take this exam early enough that the scores can be sent to this college by the application due date. There is no cutoff score that is used to make decisions regarding candidacy for our graduate program.

4. On what criteria are admission decisions based?
   Our admissions procedures are explained in the packet titled "Guidelines for Master of Arts (MA) in Speech-Language Pathology." Admission decisions are based on five criteria: GPA, statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, personal interview, writing sample and basic knowledge proficiency.

   Initial review of the candidate's application package includes review of GPA, statement of purpose and letters of recommendation. Based on these criteria, a candidate's application will or will not continue in the admissions process. If the application continues, the candidate will be required to take part in a personal, on-campus interview that will take place in March. All candidates will be required to attend this interview day. On that day, each candidate will meet individually with two different faculty members, provide the committee with a writing sample (done on that day) and participate in a "proficiency" measure of knowledge of the "Normal Communication Processes" (as defined by ASHA). After the interview day, a profile of the candidate's performance on the five criteria will be developed. Decisions regarding admission will be based on each candidate's profile and will be made by the graduate committee as a whole.

5. How long will it take to complete the graduate program?
   The full-time student will be enrolled in graduate courses and on- and off-campus practica for 4 full semesters and one 5-week summer session (Fall, Spring, Summer, Fall, Spring). Academic courses will be taken during the first Fall, Spring, Summer and second Fall, along with on-campus practica experiences during all but the Summer session. During the second Fall semester, students will be participating in their off-campus internships.

6. What types of instructional means are used in graduate classes?
   Graduate courses are taught using a variety of teaching methods. Traditional lecture, group work, class discussions, and the use of multimedia technology including web-based materials are used in most classes.

7. What types of clients will I see during my on-campus practica?
   You will receive the opportunity to gain clinical experience with clients of all ages exhibiting all types of communication disorders including child and adult speech, language, voice and fluency. In addition, you will have the opportunity to work with clients exhibiting TBI, clients from the Alzheimer’s Disease Center, clients in area nursing homes and clients at the local hospital.

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8. What type of supervision will I receive during my on-campus practica?
Graduate students provide assessment and therapy services in our Speech and Hearing Center. Supervision of students is the major clinical priority. Graduate clinicians will be supervised by teaching faculty as well as supervisory staff. Most therapy rooms in the Speech and Hearing Center are directly observable through the use of one-way mirrors. In addition, each therapy room is equipped with a video camera and each supervisor’s office is equipped with a TV monitor and VCR. This allows for direct supervision at all times.

Supervisors directly supervise a minimum of 25% of therapy sessions and 50% of evaluation sessions as required by ASHA. Supervisors provide written or verbal feedback to the clinician after observed sessions.

The supervisory staff completes a midterm and final evaluation of the clinician’s performance so that the clinician is aware of his/her strengths and areas in need of focus. This feedback is beneficial to the clinician who can then work on improving specific clinical skills.

9. When and where may we go for our off-campus internships?
Graduate students earn some off-campus clinical hours throughout their program while concurrently taking coursework. While some students will satisfy all clinical requirements within those 4 semesters, some students may opt to acquire hours at sites beyond the college’s geographical area. These hours can be acquired during summer and winter sessions.

During the second fall semester, all graduate students are required to participate in 2 off-campus internships. Our department has contractual agreements with over 50 internship sites all over the United States and Canada which provide experiences with a variety of disorder categories in a variety of settings. If a student wishes to intern at a facility that we do not have a contract with, the student may, in conjunction with the Clinical Director, pursue a contractual agreement with that site.

10. How may I obtain experience in the audiology clinic?
Graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology may gain experience in our Audiology Clinic and will be supervised by a certified audiologist. The speech and hearing clinic provides hearing evaluations/screenings, auditory processing evaluations/screenings, hearing aid evaluations and fittings as well as fitting of FM assistive listening devices. Students will have access to state-of-the-art audiological equipment including the video otoscope, a programmable hearing aid system, and otoacoustic emission and auditory brainstem response technology. The clients served will range in age throughout the lifespan.

The Department of Communication Disorders & Sciences at SUNY Plattsburgh has developed a packet of information regarding its graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology that is available upon request. To request a copy of this packet or if you have any further questions about the Master’s program, please call the department at 518-564-2170 or write us at: Department of Communication Disorders & Sciences, State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, 101 Broad Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901. You may also visit our website at: http://www.plattsburgh.edu.

For further general information or for an application, please contact: Graduate Admissions Office, State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, 101 Broad Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901, or call 518-564-4723 or toll-free at 1-800-723-9515.

THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY PROGRAM IS REGISTERED BY THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION (CAA) OF THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION (ASHA) AND BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THE PROGRAM IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS.

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