

Common Pre-requisites for Speech Pathology Graduate Programs

Common Prerequisite Coursework for Admission to Speech Pathology Graduate Programs. Early in their academic career, students should research the specific admission requirements for the graduate programs to which they intend to apply. Students should schedule their undergraduate classes based on the requirements of the programs in which they are interested. Many programs also require **up to 25 hours in shadowing/observation** of speech pathologists. *Each student is ultimately responsible for knowing and fulfilling the admission requirements of the programs to which they intend to apply.*

Nearly all Speech Pathology graduate programs require the following classes:

- 1 course in human biology/anatomy
- 1 course in physics or chemistry (with lab)
- 1 course in social sciences/humanities, psychology often preferred
- 1 course in statistics

Many, but not all Speech Pathology graduate programs require the following classes:

- 1 course in development of speech/language (PSY 318)

Courses NOT offered at Mercer*:

- 1 course in the anatomy and physiology of speech language
- 1 course in phonetics
- 1 course in articulation/phonology disorders
- 1 course in language disorders
- 1 course in speech & hearing science
- 1 course in American Sign Language
- 1 course in aural rehabilitation
- 1 course in audiometry
- 1 course in audiology
- 1 course in communication disorders

*Students who need courses *not* offered at Mercer are advised to find an accredited institution who offers them online and/or in the summer. You may wish to look into designing your own major that would allow you to take these courses as a transient student online or over the summers at a different institution. Alternatively, many graduate programs offer “level up” programs that allow you to take these courses prior to enrolling in the graduate program (usually as a non-degree seeking student).

Because admission requirements may vary, students are urged to investigate the graduate programs available and identify their preferred programs early.

Suitable Majors and Minors for Pre-Speech Pathology Students. The most natural fit, a major in Communication Disorders/Speech Pathology, is not available at Mercer. As stated above, you may wish to build your own major, but would need to take several courses as a transient student. Of Mercer’s undergraduate majors, the Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies degree offered by the College of Liberal Arts fits well with this chosen field, but students are urged to investigate graduate schools to identify their targets to see what each prefers before choosing a major field of study. A major in Communications Studies is not required.

Students whose target schools do not prefer require the courses not offered at Mercer may major in any discipline they choose, but they must also complete the required courses for admission to their preferred graduate programs. Before officially declaring a major, therefore, a student should create a personalized 4-year plan (4YP) that includes all required coursework to ensure they will meet those course requirements. Students need to be aware that extra semesters might be required for degree programs that do not fit well with these prerequisite classes. Students will also want to plan to take the courses not available at Mercer.