

Prerequisite Course Content Areas Related to SLP Certification Standards

The following list includes courses that are required for admission to the M.S. program in Speech and Hearing Sciences (Speech-Language Pathology) at UNC-CH. Students are required to complete all prerequisite coursework prior to beginning graduate coursework.

Required course content according to ASHA certification standards is explained below. Please be aware that course titles and requirements may vary at each academic institution.

- Biology or Genetics coursework (lab not required)
- Chemistry or Physics coursework (lab not required)
- Social/Behavioral Sciences coursework
- Statistics coursework - e.g., Introduction to Data Models and Inference (STOR 155)
- Anatomy & Physiology of the Speech, Language and Hearing Mechanisms (SPHS 570)
- Introduction to Phonetics (SPHS 530)
- Introductory Audiology (SPHS 582)
- Language Acquisition and Development (LING 203)
- Speech Science (SPHS 540)

UNC-CH offers the following undergraduate courses which introduce clinical content.

- Introduction to Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology (SPHS 583)
- Human Communication Across the Lifespan (SPHS 520/521)

2020 Standards and Implementation Procedures for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) (<https://www.asha.org/certification/2020-slp-certification-standards/>)

There are two sets of prerequisite coursework. Standard IV-A includes general education requirements. Standard IV-B includes content areas that are considered prerequisites for graduate level coursework in communication disorders.

Standard IV-A

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of statistics as well as the biological, physical, and social/behavioral sciences.

Implementation: Standalone coursework in (a) biological sciences, (b) chemistry or physics, (c) social/behavioral sciences, and (d) statistics that fulfill non-communication-sciences-and-disorders-specific university requirements. Refer to the [list of acceptable coursework](#) for further details and to the following for general guidance.

- (a) **Biological sciences** coursework provides knowledge in areas related to human or animal sciences

Examples: General biology, Cellular biology, Cybernetics biology, Bioscience, Ecology, Cytology, Embryology, Evolutionism, Genetic science, Microbiology, Molecular biology, Morphology, Neurobiology, Physiology, Radiobiology, Sociobiology

- (b) **Chemistry OR physics** coursework provides foundational knowledge in the areas below.

Chemistry: Substances and compounds composed of atoms and molecules, and their structure, properties, behavior, as well as the changes that occur during reactions with other compounds. This knowledge contributes to better acquisition and synthesis of the underlying processes of speech and hearing science, including acoustics, resonance, and neurophysiology.

Physics: Matter, energy, motion, and force. This knowledge contributes to better appreciation of the role of physics in everyday experiences and in today's society and technology.

- (c) **Social/behavioral sciences** coursework provides knowledge in the analysis and investigation of human and animal behavior through controlled and naturalistic observation and disciplined scientific experimentation.

Possible content areas for **social sciences**: Anthropology, Ethnic and cultural studies, Archaeology, Area studies, Economics, Gender and sexuality studies, Geography, Organization studies, Political science

Possible content areas for **behavioral sciences**: Cognitive science, Psychology, Psychobiology, Criminology

- (d) **Statistics** coursework focuses on learning from data and measuring, controlling, and communicating uncertainty. It provides the navigation essential for controlling the course of scientific and societal advances.

Examples: Introduction to Data Models and Inference (STOR 155); Statistical Principles of Psychological Research (PSYC 210)

Standard IV-B:

The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of basic human communication and swallowing processes, including the appropriate biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural bases. The applicant must have demonstrated the ability to integrate the information pertaining to normal and abnormal human development across the lifespan.

Biological and Neurological Bases:

Anatomy & Physiology of the Speech, Language and Hearing Mechanisms (SPHS 570)

Acoustic Bases:

Speech Science (SPHS 540); Introductory Audiology (SPHS 582)

Psychological/Developmental Bases:

Language Acquisition and Development (LING 203) (LING 101, Intro to Language, is a prerequisite for LING 203 and also addresses linguistic and cultural bases below.)

Linguistic/Cultural Bases:

Introduction to Phonetics (SPHS 530)

Introduction to Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (SPHS 583) also addresses cultural bases of communication. It is typically not viewed as a required prerequisite and is instead viewed as an overview of professional practice.