The Clinical Speech-Language Pathology (SLPA) minor seeks to prepare students for admission into graduate programs in speech-language pathology or audiology. Speech-language pathology and audiology courses are designed to help students develop entry-level competencies that will enable them to function in a preprofessional capacity in educational settings, medical and rehabilitation centers, and private-practice clinics.

The minor in clinical speech-language pathology and audiology (SLPA) seeks to prepare students for admission into a graduate program in speech-language pathology or audiology. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists (which requires graduate education to practice) are involved with the evaluation and treatment of, and counseling and research in, human communication and its disorders. They provide clinical services to a full range of communicatively impaired individuals, from infants through geriatrics. Speech-language pathologists treat disorders such as developmental language and articulation disorders; voice and resonance problems; stuttering; pediatric and adult swallowing disorders; and language and cognitive impairments due to stroke, head injury, and progressive neurological diseases. Audiologists specialize in the prevention, identification, assessment, and rehabilitation of hearing disorders. Individuals with congenital and acquired hearing impairments are seen for services by audiologists. They prescribe and dispense hearing aids and instruct individuals in the use of amplification.

Communication Sciences and Disorders Minor

The CSD minor consists of one required foundation course taken prior to any core or elective courses, then two core courses and one elective from either the remaining core courses in the list or from a specified set of elective courses that are taught by units other than the Department of CSD. Students may consult with an advisor in the CSD department concerning the current listing of eligible elective courses for the CSD minor.

Clinical Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Minor

The clinical SLPA minor seeks to prepare students for admission into a graduate program in speech-language pathology or audiology. In particular, students in this minor are on a track that, if supplemented with certain elective choices within their major, would meet all admissions requirements for our department’s own MS/SLP program. Students pursuing this minor are advised to consult early and regularly with their academic advisors in order to ensure a timely completion of the combination of their major and the clinical SLPA minor requirements.

Students pursuing this minor who wish to go to graduate school at institutions other than Northeastern are advised to carefully check admissions requirements for those programs.

Courses

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Courses

SLPA 1101. Introduction to Communication Disorders. 4 Hours. Offers an overview of disorders of speech and hearing and their treatment, and a review of normal speech and hearing development. Requires clinical observations of persons with speech, language, and hearing disorders.

SLPA 1102. Language Development. 3-4 Hours. Provides an overview of the development of the language system from birth to adolescence. Students compare different theories of language acquisition and understand their implications for intervention approaches; become familiar with broad developmental stages in infancy and childhood in the domains of motor skills, cognition, social skills, and speech and language, and the connections among these domains; understand the social dynamics between parents and children from which early gestures and prespeech vocalizations emerge; utilize some informal measures of language development covering form, content, and use; and understand broad differences in development in multicultural populations including Asian, Hispanic, and African-American children.

SLPA 1103. Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Hearing Mechanism. 3-4 Hours. Offers an in-depth study of the static structure, musculature, and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism. Emphasizes current research in speech and hearing physiology.

SLPA 1200. Phonetics. 3-4 Hours. Introduces students to articulatory, perceptual, and linguistic aspects of speech sounds, and phonetic transcription of normal and disordered speech using the International Phonetic Alphabet. Utilizes lectures, discussions, laboratory exercises, demonstrations, readings, audiotape exercises, problem sets, quizzes, and examinations.
SLPA 1203. Introduction to Audiology. 3-4 Hours.
Offers the opportunity to gain knowledge of the physics of sound and the anatomy/physiology of the human hearing mechanism, and how these two areas are interrelated. Familiarizes students with some of the diagnostic tests performed by the audiologist in order to assess the integrity of the hearing mechanism. Concludes with a brief overview of amplification and the rehabilitation process for hearing-impaired individuals.

SLPA 1205. Speech and Hearing Science. 3-4 Hours.
Introduces facts and theories related to the physical bases of sound as relevant to speech acoustics; anatomy of the hearing mechanisms; psychoacoustics; and speech perception. While primarily concerned with normal communication, the course also includes discussion of communication disorders. Lab demonstrations and problem sets augment lectures and discussions.

SLPA 1555. Communication Disorders in Movies. 4 Hours.
Seeks to increase student understanding of communication disorders through film. By watching Oscar-awarded, Oscar-nominated, and other Hollywood movies, students are offered an opportunity to develop a heightened sensitivity for how society views specific communication disorders. Through related lectures, discussion, structured activities, and assignments, studies the etiology and diagnosis of a variety of communication disorders and how individuals with these disorders may be helped.

SLPA 1990. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

SLPA 2000. Introduction to Co-op. 1 Hour.
Prepares students for all aspects of the cooperative education component of their curriculum by comparing the goals and expectations of co-op employer, co-op faculty, and students themselves. Through professional goal exploration, students gain an understanding of the policies and procedures of the Department of Cooperative Education. The spectrum of clinical settings for speech, language, and hearing professionals is examined as well as current trends in the job market. Effective job search strategies through developing résumés, preparing for interviews, and making informed choices are targeted. Also examines on-the-job scenarios involving problem solving, ethical issues, and confidentiality, and discusses appropriate ways to handle difficult workplace situations.

SLPA 2990. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

SLPA 3990. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

SLPA 4651. Speech Disorders across the Life Span. 4 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to obtain the foundation needed to work with adults and children who demonstrate delays and disorders of speech production across the life span. Discusses articulation and phonological development and disorders, phonological differences, disorders of fluency of speech, and disorders of resonance and voice. Presents formal and informal diagnostic and therapeutic intervention for each disorder/difference and discusses the impact of these communication problems in relation to the individual and family.

SLPA 4652. Seminar in SLP and Audiology Abroad: Achieving Cultural Competency. 4 Hours.
Offers students opportunities to improve their cultural awareness; to develop their knowledge of different cultures; to increase their appreciation of—and sensitivity to—cultural differences (e.g., healthcare, legal/political, musical, religious); and to experience rehabilitation-related, culturally diverse experiences while abroad. Rehabilitation services are provided in a variety of educational, medical, and community settings. Effectiveness of rehabilitation across these settings is impacted by many factors, including interactions between cultural influences of the healthcare and legal/political systems and of the clinician and the clients/patients with whom he or she is working.

SLPA 4891. Research Abroad. 4 Hours.
Offers an opportunity to conduct research under faculty supervision as part of an international study experience.

SLPA 4990. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

SLPA 4991. Research. 4 Hours.
Offers an opportunity to conduct research under faculty supervision.

SLPA 4992. Directed Study. 1-4 Hours.
Offers independent work under the direction of members of the department on a chosen topic. Course content depends on instructor. May be repeated without limit.

SLPA 5100. Diagnostic Audiometry. 3 Hours.
Provides an overview of temporal bone and eighth nerve anatomy. Discusses physiology of the auditory system. Covers the more frequently encountered pathologies affecting the auditory system as well as medical/surgical treatment of those disorders.

SLPA 5104. Differential Diagnosis in Audiology. 3 Hours.
Examines in detail the site of lesion test battery approach to differential diagnosis in audiology. Includes consideration of Bekesy, ENG, SISI, tone decay tests, ABLB, acoustic reflex, and auditory evoked potentials (ABR).

SLPA 5105. Auditory Pathologies. 3 Hours.
Provides an overview of temporal bone and eighth nerve anatomy. Discusses physiology of the auditory system. Covers the more frequently encountered pathologies affecting the auditory system as well as medical/surgical treatment of those disorders.

SLPA 5107. Clinical Procedures. 3-4 Hours.
Reviews principles and procedures of the functional analysis of behavior and focuses on the application of behavioral theory and research to speech, language, and hearing training. Emphasizes clinical investigation in the experimental analysis of the behavior of communication disorders and experiences in the application of experimental procedures in assessment and treatment programs.

SLPA 5108. Rehabilitation Audiology. 3 Hours.
Provides information about the effects of hearing loss on communication, the role of the audiologist in the rehabilitation process, approaches to counseling, uses of amplification, and issues in industrial and educational hearing conservation.

SLPA 5109. Neurology of Communication. 3 Hours.
Provides students with the opportunity to acquire a basic understanding of human neuroanatomy and neurophysiology as related to normal aspects of speech, hearing, and language. Reviews central and peripheral nervous system anatomy and physiology developmentally from embryologic through the life span perspectives. Neurology of common speech-language pathologies are similarly addressed.
SLPA 5110. Language Disorders across the Life Span. 3-4 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to obtain the foundation needed to work with children and adults with frequently referred language disorders that are typical consequences of congenital and acquired central and peripheral nervous-system impairments. Emphasizes the anatomy/etiology/neurology/physiology of common disorders, characteristics of these disorders, and intervention approaches (diagnostic and therapeutic). Addresses prevention, outcome, efficacy, and service-delivery considerations.

SLPA 5111. Anatomy and Physiology of the Auditory System. 3 Hours.
Details the anatomy, physiology, and neurology of the outer, middle, and inner ear, as well as providing basic coverage of the higher peripheral and central auditory mechanisms.

SLPA 5201. Diagnostic Testing in Speech-Language Pathology. 1 Hour.
Offers students an opportunity to review diagnostic tests and test manuals in the field of speech-language pathology and to practice their administration. Discusses information about test content, reliability, and validity. Principles of standardized testing, norm referencing, and test scoring are reviewed and practiced.

SLPA 5976. Directed Study. 1-4 Hours.
Allows students to pursue topics of individual interest beyond the scope of formal course work under the direction of faculty. May be repeated without limit.