Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

This major prepares you for a career in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology. General speech, psychology, education, sociology, and medicine are other areas one must be knowledgeable in to pursue a career in the Communications Disorders field.

A bachelor’s degree allows a student to be eligible to apply for a master’s degree in speech, language, pathology or a doctorate in audiology. The degree does NOT allow a student to be an independent practitioner. Some NMU graduates from this program find employment as speech-language pathology aides.

This degree prepares you for a variety of related occupations in the field. A conventional option would involve employment as a speech-language pathologist, treating individuals who have difficulty with articulation, voice, fluency, and language or an audiologist who rehabilitates persons with hearing loss.

Skills and Competencies

A person who majors in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences must pay attention to detail. Excellent speaking and writing skills are required in the profession. One must be sensitive, patient, empathetic, and self-motivated. A speech-language pathologist helps those who stutter increase their fluency. They also help people who have had strokes regain language and speech skills. Answering questions and counseling families to understand and deal with speech and language disorders are also a component of a speech-language pathologist’s job. An audiologist evaluates hearing and balance as well as disperses hearing aids.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SL150</td>
<td>Intro to SLHS</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL160</td>
<td>Anatomy of the Speech &amp; Hearing</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL200</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL220</td>
<td>Speech and Voice Science</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL351</td>
<td>Introduction to Audiology</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL355</td>
<td>Language Development</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL356</td>
<td>Language Disorders</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL357</td>
<td>Fluency Disorders</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL370</td>
<td>Observations in SLHS</td>
<td>2 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL400</td>
<td>Speech Sound Disorders</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL451</td>
<td>Aural Rehabilitation</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL459</td>
<td>Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL460</td>
<td>Cognition, Communication, Aging</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL464</td>
<td>Methods of Diagnosis</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL465</td>
<td>Methods of Treatment</td>
<td>4 cr.</td>
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Other required courses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PY100</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PY305</td>
<td>Psychological Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA 171</td>
<td>Intro to Probability and Stats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics or Chemistry Elective</td>
<td>(3-4 cr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology Elective</td>
<td>(3-4 cr.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

These careers allow rewarding experiences by helping people lead better lives.

Government careers allow for occupational advancement as well as provide great benefits.

Finding an internship in this field will help you gain experience and become more marketable to potential employers.

For some job opportunities in these fields, one must be certified in the appropriate area. Completion of the Master’s degree is a standard credential in this line of work.

Job Outlook

Recent population trends of people living longer and general population expansion have opened many careers within this field. The diverse range of professions varies the average salary generally, anywhere from $20,000 to upwards of $70,000.
Potential Careers

NMU’s Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Department of Education
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Geriatric Facilities
- Government Health Facilities
- Health Maintenance Org.
- Hospital Assistant
- National Institute of Health
- Nursing Care Facilities
- Public Health Departments
- Rehabilitation Centers
- School Assistant

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

School of Clinical Sciences
1515 West Science
906-227-2125
www.nmu.edu/cls

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3502 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

National Student Speech, Language, Hearing Association

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.asha.org - Am. Ass. of Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA)
www.audiology.com - Am. Academy of Audiology
www.nsslha.org - National Student Speech, Language, Hearing Association (NSSLHA)