Application/Admissions Process:

What are the admission requirements for the master's program in SLP?
Class enrollment is limited each year. Minimum admission requirements include:
- an earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent in the area of speech, language, and hearing sciences from an accredited institution
- a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in undergraduate audiology and speech-language pathology courses
- above-average scores on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing subtests of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test
- demonstration of superior oral and written communication skills
- completion of the online application
- completion of an interview with the Admissions Committee (if eligible)
- proof of appropriate immunizations against infectious diseases
- TOEFL or IELTS scores, if English is the second language

Where can I find application materials?
Application materials can be found at http://www.ttuhsc.edu/sah/admissions/application.aspx. Indicate that you are applying for a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology. The TTUHSC SLP program does not accept applications through ApplyTexas or the Communication Science and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS).

When are the deadlines for applying to the TTUHSC Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Graduate Program?
All application materials must be received by January 15 of each year for the following fall class. Admission decisions will be made in February and March. All applicants will be notified no later than April 1.

I know letters of recommendation are not required, but are they recommended?
No. We have found that all students obtain outstanding letters of recommendation, and we have not identified a fair way for considering those letters in the admissions process.

Do I need to write a personal statement or turn in a resume?
No. Your written communication abilities will be evaluated via your GRE Analytical-Writing section score.

What documents are required to apply to the SLP program?
You will need to submit official transcripts from all colleges or universities you have attended, your transcript showing current (fall) grades, and your GRE scores.

Where should transcripts be sent?
The address for sending transcripts is TTUHSC School of Allied Health Sciences, Office of the Registrar, 3601 4th ST. STOP 8310, Lubbock, TX 79430.

Is a bachelor’s degree in speech, language, and hearing sciences (SLHS) absolutely required for admission?
A bachelor’s degree in speech, language and hearing sciences is not required. Applicants who have earned undergraduate degrees in fields other than speech, language, and hearing sciences must take 1 year (2 semesters) of leveling course work. A minimum of 24 hours of undergraduate course work in speech, language, and hearing sciences must be completed. Mandatory courses are listed below.
- Clinical Audiology
- Clinical Methods
- Language Development
- Language Disorders
- Phonetics
- Speech & Hearing Anatomy & Physiology
- Speech Science
- Supervised Observation Lab: Speech-Language Pathology*
(*Official documentation/proof of ≥25 clinical observation hours)

For additional information on application options for out-of-field students, please go to http://www.ttuhsc.edu/sah/slp/ and click the Out-of-Field Option links.

In addition to the courses in speech, language, and hearing sciences, are there any other courses required for admission?
Yes, because it is required for ASHA certification, you will need at least 1 course with a grade of C or better in each of these 4 areas: physical science (physics OR chemistry), life science (biology OR anatomy and physiology), behavioral/social science (e.g., psychology, sociology, anthropology), and statistics.
Does observation or work experience increase my chances of admission?
The TTUHSC Department of SLHS does not endorse or require student volunteer hours at particular facilities prior to admission into graduate school. Thus, no paperwork/formal documentation is required. However, we strongly encourage students to independently seek volunteer opportunities that will expose them to the professions of speech-language pathology, audiology, and related health care or educational disciplines.

Is every applicant required to have an interview?
All applicants who are ultimately admitted into the program will have an interview. Some applicants do not have GPA and/or GRE scores that are sufficiently competitive with the applicant pool to qualify for an interview. Applicants who do qualify will be notified via email or telephone to schedule their interview. Interviews can be in-person or via video conferencing for students who do not wish to travel to Lubbock.

When should I take the GRE?
Your GRE scores must be reported to the department no later than January 15. Generally, it is best to take the GRE in the summer before you apply. This schedule allows you to retake the test and still meet the deadline (if necessary). Be sure to use the correct institution code (6851), so your scores will be sent to TTUHSC.

What GRE scores and GPA are expected in order to be competitive for admission to the TTUHSC Graduate Program?
For competitive admission, GRE scores should be above average. The chart below shows the average and range of scores of students recently admitted into the program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Reasoning</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>141-162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>143-158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical Writing</td>
<td>3.83</td>
<td>3.0-5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you take the GRE more than once, the SLP Admissions Committee will consider your highest score for each subtest.

For competitive admission, GPA should be above average. The chart below shows the average and range of GPAs of recent students recently admitted into the program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative GPA</td>
<td>3.680</td>
<td>3.24-4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major GPA*</td>
<td>3.862</td>
<td>3.46-4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Major GPA refers to grades in speech, language, and hearing classes only.

If offered admission to the TTUHSC Graduate SLP Program, can I defer my acceptance to the next year?
No, the offer of admission is only good for the year in which you applied. If you are unable to attend that year, you must repeat the application process and be considered with another year’s applicant pool.

About the Program:

What size is the TTUHSC SLP Graduate Program?
We admit approximately 40 students per year.

Do you offer a part-time or distance learning graduate program?
No. Our program is lock-step, meaning you are required to take a predetermined set of courses each semester as a full-time student.

Is the SLP Graduate Program offered on all TTUHSC campuses?
The SLP graduate program is only offered on the Lubbock campus.

How long is the TTUHSC SLP Graduate Program?
The graduate program is 2 years, which includes 5 or 6 semesters. You have the option of beginning clinical practicum in the summer or waiting until the fall semester to begin. Regardless of which start time you choose, you will graduate at the end of the second spring semester if all requirements are met.

What is the cost of tuition for the TTUHSC SLP Graduate Program?
For graduate school, Texas residents typically pay ~$4000 for each fall and spring semester enrolled, and $1600 for summer school. Nonresidents typically pay ~$9300 for each fall and spring semester enrolled and $4000 for summer school. For current tuition rates, please visit http://www.ttuhsc.edu/sah/prospective/tuition.aspx.

Are graduate assistantships available in the SLHS department?
Once accepted to the program, graduate students are given the opportunity to apply for a graduate assistantship. A limited number of assistantships are available. Graduate assistants work approximately 10 hours per week in the SLHS Department. Additional information about financial aid can be found at: http://www.ttuhsc.edu/financialaid/

When do I need to be in compliance with all of my immunizations?
Your immunization records must be in compliance 10 days prior to the first day of class each semester. Information regarding immunization requirements can be found at http://www.ttuhsc.edu/sah/orientation/slp.aspx. If you have any questions about immunization requirements or the status of your immunizations, please contact the Office of Institutional Health at 806-743-3019.
What are the benefits of beginning the TTUHSC SLP Graduate Program in the summer rather than the fall?

Beginning the TTUHSC SLP Graduate Program in the summer allows you to acclimate to the clinic, procedures, paperwork, and city of Lubbock without having to manage graduate level coursework at the same time! In addition, clinicians must earn at least 50 direct contact hours before their first externship placement; these hours are easily accrued during the summer but are more difficult to get during a typical fall or spring semester. Clinicians are able to take their first externship placement during their first spring semester. Although it is challenging to balance coursework with an externship, this allows you to work as a SLP-A, gain additional experience at a third externship, or focus on class during your second year in graduate school.

What does an average day in the program look like?

The schedule varies slightly each semester. Graduate students initially attend classes 4 days per week and attend clinic 4 to 5 days per week. As students progress through the program, classes are condensed into 2 days per week, and students attend clinic every day. In addition, students are expected to begin externship experience in the second or third semester in graduate school. During your first externship, you will be expected to work 1.5 to 2 days per week. Externships during fall and spring semesters require 12-15 hours per week. Summer externships are full time, 5 days per week.

Are all courses offered during the normal workday, or are some scheduled in the evening?

Classes typically are scheduled between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, although evening classes may be scheduled some semesters. We offer one online class, which is taught during your summer semester after your first year.

Are course electives available? Is the curriculum organized into different “tracks”?

There are no course electives available to specialize in a particular area or track. Our program is lock-step, meaning that you are required to take a predetermined set of courses each semester. The opportunity to pursue a particular area of interest comes with a choice of placement for clinical practicum experiences.

Is it possible to be involved in an extracurricular activity (e.g., track, band) or work while I am enrolled in the TTUHSC SLP Graduate Program?

The workload of classes and clinical practicum is comparable to a full-time job. Based on graduate student experience, 10-15 hours a week of work and/or extracurricular activities is all that can be handled. Although it will depend on the requirements of the job or activity, it is possible to be involved in extracurricular activities if you are a good time manager.

What are the opportunities for on-campus and off-campus clinical practicum experiences?

In-house clinic is offered during all semesters of your graduate education. Off-campus practicum is offered after certain requirements have been met (e.g., GPA requirement and in-house clinical hours requirement). Requests based on your clinical interests are taken into consideration when the clinical coordinator is assigning externships. You will have 2-3 off-campus placements during graduate school. We offer a variety of placement locations that accept our students including public and private schools, skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, outpatient rehabilitation centers, and private practices.

May I tour the TTUHSC to see where the department and clinic are and where my classes will be held?

On mandatory orientation day (typically held the day before class begins), you will receive a tour of the entire TTUHSC building. You will be assigned to a second-year graduate student ambassador from the SLP Program who will serve as a mentor and answer any questions you may have. Appointments may also be set up through the School of Allied Health Sciences Office of Admissions if you would like to tour the campus prior to August.

How does clinical practicum work in your graduate program?

All students will complete their first 50 to 100 clinical clock hours with supervisors from the TTUHSC Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. Students then will be assigned one educational and one medical placement at an externship site. Students have the option of traveling to an externship site in a different city during the summer between the first and second year in graduate school. We have externship sites established with over 200 facilities across the United States. Students should meet with the clinical coordinator during the first fall semester in graduate school to begin making arrangements for a summer externship in a city other than Lubbock. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation and housing during the 8-to-10 week summer externship.

What kind of dress is expected?

You may wear casual clothes to class; the classrooms are in a different area of the TTUHSC building than the clinic. The clinic, student workroom, and faculty offices share space in the department; therefore, if you are checking your mailbox or meeting with a professor, you should wear business casual attire because clients and their family members will see you in the clinic. When you observe or participate in clinic, you are expected to wear business casual attire that is both comfortable and
modest such as slacks or skirts and blouses or shirts. Jeans, shorts, and t-shirts are not permitted.

Is a thesis required?
No, you have the choice of taking written comprehensive exams or completing a thesis. Options will be discussed during the first fall semester.

Are comprehensive exams required at the end of graduate school, and what form do they take?
No, you have the choice of taking written comprehensive exams or completing a thesis. If you choose the comprehensive exam option, you will take a comprehensive exam for each graduate level course as well as three cross-course exams. Comprehensive exams are usually in January of your second year in graduate school and involve 3 consecutive days of testing.

Are faculty members actively engaged in research? Is it possible for a master’s level student to gain research experience, assist in a lab, etc.?
Our department currently houses the following research labs: Adult Neurogenic Language Disorders, Auditory Electrophysiology, Auditory Perception, Auditory Processes, Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Child Phonology, Selective Auditory Attention, Speech Science, and Pediatric Audiometric Science. Graduate students in good standing will have opportunities to volunteer in research labs, participate in active research, complete part-time paid employment in lab, and/or complete a master’s thesis research project. Students interested in participating in research should contact the program director.

How can I get involved in the field of speech and hearing during graduate school?
Upon entering graduate school, you will have the opportunity to join the TTUHSC chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). There are opportunities to volunteer and attend events hosted by the TTUHSC NSSLHA throughout the year, and members have the opportunity to run for officer positions. Membership in the national NSSLHA will reduce the cost of ASHA certification and membership upon graduation. Information about the national organization can be found at http://www.asha.org/nsslha.