

# Audiology and Speech Pathology

Audiology is a branch of science and medicine concerned with the sense of hearing. Audiologists are health care professionals who identify, assess, and provide patient care through evidence based treatment of hearing, balance or other auditory disorders to children and adults across the entire age span. Audiologists select, fit, and dispense amplification systems such as hearing aid and related devices. Audiologists prevent hearing loss through the provision and fitting of hearing protective devices, consultation and the effect of noise on hearing, and consumer education.

Audiologists are involved in auditory and related research pertinent to the prevention, identification, and management of hearing loss, tinnitus, and balance system dysfunctions.

Speech-Language pathologists are professionals concerned with evaluation, treatment, prevention, and research in human communication and its disorders. They treat speech and language disorders and work with individuals of all ages, from infants to the elderly. They diagnose and evaluate speech problems, such as fluency, (e.g. stuttering) articulation, voice disorders, or language problems such as aphasia and delayed language and related disorders such as dysphagia (e.g. swallowing difficulties). Speech Pathologists design and carry out comprehensive treatment plans to achieve the following:

- Help individuals learn correct production of speech sounds
- Assist those that have suffered strokes with relearning language and speech skills
- Advise individuals on how to prevent speech and language disorders.

## Admission Requirements

- For Conditional Admission:
  - Completion of 60 credit hours
  - 3.0 cumulative GPA includes **all** coursework from **all** institutions.
- Students must be fully admitted to the UT Health Science Center to register and complete their Senior Audiology and Speech Pathology courses
- For full admission to the UT Health Science Center and Senior year:
  - Submit an application
  - Completion of 90 credit hours
  - 3.0 cumulative GPA, includes **all** coursework from **all** institutions.
  - A USP 300, Introduction to Communication Disorders, completed with a B or better.
- Admission to the senior year **does not** guarantee admission to the UT Health Science Center's Master's program.
- Professional Certification
  - Obtained through the American-Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), requires a minimum of a Master's degree in Speech-Pathology and a Doctoral Degree in Audiology to be a certified professional.
  - Please visit the ASHA.org website for additional information

For appointments: <https://cehsadvising.utk.edu/academic-advising/>

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# Audiology and Speech Pathology

Audiologists and Speech Pathologists can be found in a variety of work settings ranging from:

- Public and Private Schools
- Hospitals
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Long-term care facilities
- Nursing care facilities
- Private Practice offices
- State & Local health depts.
- Colleges & Universities
- Adult day care centers
- Home Health agencies
- Community clinics
- Research Laboratories

Undergraduate course work will include courses in:

- Anatomy/Physiology
- Chemistry/Physics
- Mathematics
- Phonetics
- Psychology
- Biology
- Special Education
- Human Development
- Speech and Hearing

## The Senior Year

The following conditions must be met to progress to the professional year:

- All AUSP courses must be completed with a C or better
- Must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 to graduate. Failure to maintain 3.0 GPA could result in a delayed graduation and/or removal from the program.

### Fall Only Courses

- AUSP 303**  
Introduction to Hearing Science
- AUSP 305**  
Phonetics
- AUSP 306**  
Anatomy & Physiology of Speech
- AUSP 320**  
Speech & Language Development
- AUSP 461**  
Intro to Language Pathology in Children

### Spring Only Courses

- AUSP 302**  
Acoustics and Perception
- AUSP 433**  
Observation of Clinical Practice
- AUSP 435**  
Intro to Speech and Sound Disorders
- AUSP 455**  
Intro to Adult Language Disorders
- AUSP 453**  
Diagnostics in Audiology and Speech-Language
- AUSP 494**  
Intro to Aural Habilitation/Rehabilitation

**Total: 30 hrs**

### Graduate School Recommendations

- Complete your Bachelor's degree with a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher to be a competitive applicant
- Pursue opportunities to work with faculty in research labs
- Complete the Graduate Record Exam early. Register online at GRE.org. Summer prior to senior year is recommended
- Select a graduate program early to familiarize yourself with the admission requirements
- Schedule a campus tour of the graduate program