

MA Program in Speech-Language Pathology Prerequisite Course Requirements

There are two levels of prerequisite courses for the MA SLP program at SDSU: Lower Division and Upper Division.

The **lower-division courses** are required by ASHA.

- They may be taken anywhere, including through a community college.
- They may also be covered by high school AP credits IF those credits are specifically listed on your college transcript (i.e., the specific course for which credit was granted is listed; just having "AP Credits" listed is not adequate).

Please note that each Master's program in speech-language pathology makes its own determination about what classes they will accept to meet these lower-division requirements. As such, if you have a class that does not clearly meet the definition, you should check with each program you may apply to so you can verify whether they will accept that class for that purpose.

Lower-Division Prerequisite Courses (Required by ASHA)	Completed?
Biological Sciences <i>Acceptable courses in biological sciences should emphasize a content area related to human or animal sciences (e.g., biology, human anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, human genetics, veterinary science). A lab component is not required.</i>	
Physical Sciences <i>Acceptable courses in physical sciences must be physics or chemistry. A lab component is not required.</i>	
Social/Behavioral Sciences <i>Acceptable courses in social/behavioral sciences may include psychology, sociology, anthropology, or public health.</i>	
Statistics <i>Please note that research methodology courses in communication sciences and disorders (CSD) may not be used to satisfy the statistics requirement.</i>	

Lower-division prerequisites may be completed anywhere, including through community colleges.

The **upper division courses** are specific to the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders. These classes assure that you have a broad introduction to a range of topics across the field that will be an important foundation for graduate study.

Every graduate program in SLP sets their own upper-division prerequisites, so you should check requirements for every program you may apply to. At SDSU, prerequisites DO NOT need to be completed before you *apply* to the program but, if you are admitted, they must be completed before you *begin* the program. If you have not completed any upper-division prerequisites, or if you only have 1-2 completed, we encourage you to wait another cycle before applying. Without these classes, the review committee may not have the ability to evaluate your potential within the field of speech-language pathology.

Note that the same class may have different names at different schools, and may be offered in non-CSD departments (e.g., Neuroanatomy taken from a Psychology department or Phonetics taken from a Linguistics department). This is fine as long as the appropriate material has been covered.

Upper-Division Prerequisite Courses	Completed?
Introduction to Communication Disorders OR Language Science OR Introductory Linguistics	
Introduction to Phonetics	
Anatomy of Speech and Hearing	
Neuroanatomy / Neurophysiology	
Audiology and Audiometry	
Aural (Re)habilitation	
Children's Language Development	
Children's Language Disorders	
Speech Sound Disorders (Articulation/Phonological Disorders)	

For the upper-division prerequisites, coursework from any accredited institution (including those taken entirely [online](#)) will count towards the prerequisites for any that you have not already fulfilled, as long as the relevant content is covered. We highly recommend that students interested in our program whose undergraduate degree was in another field consider completing post-baccalaureate programs in Communication Sciences/Disorders to fulfill the prerequisites for our 2-year MA program. Our online [SLP Essentials Program at SDSU](#) is one option that is designed to help students obtain their prerequisites. Please visit [ASHA's website](#) to find information about post-baccalaureate programs near you or programs that are conducted [online](#).