Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Clinical Program in Communication Disorders
Information for Prospective Students

Purpose and Description of the Program

The Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Clinical Program is designed for students who have a Bachelor's degree in a field other than Communication Disorders, but who would like to pursue a graduate degree either in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology. Most graduate programs in these two fields (including our UMass program) require students without an undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders to take a series of prerequisite courses prior to applying for admission. The Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Clinical Program at UMass is designed to provide students with flexible options: students may take courses online or in-person (in person), students may take courses à la carte or as part of a structured sequence.

Between the two programs, we offer eleven courses that students might want to take before applying to a graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology:

- Comm-Dis 100: Introduction to Communication Disorders (offered online only)
- Comm-Dis 211: Anatomy & Physiology I: The Speech and Hearing Mechanisms (in-person fall Semesters, online spring semesters)
- Comm-Dis 212: Anatomy & Physiology II: Neurological Bases of Speech, Language, and Hearing (in-person only, spring semesters)
- Comm-Dis 213: Phonetic Processing (in-person spring semesters, online fall semesters)
- Comm-Dis 214: Introduction to Hearing Science (in-person only, spring semesters)
- Comm-Dis 301: Speech and Language Development (in-person class with online option, fall semesters)
- Comm-Dis 312: Introduction to Speech Science (in-person spring semesters, online fall semesters)
- Comm-Dis 313: Introduction to Audiology (in-person fall semesters, online spring semesters)
- Comm-Dis 316: Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation (in-person spring semesters, online summer semesters)
- Comm-Dis 415: Speech and Language Disorders (in-person spring semesters, online fall semesters)
- Comm-Dis 496K: Clinical Observations (online fall and spring semesters)

Students are encouraged to consult with programs where they intend to apply for graduate study to confirm which courses are necessary for them.
Please note: some courses list prerequisites. These prerequisites are waived for Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Clinical students with the understanding that you are responsible for whatever content is assumed by that prerequisite.

The Online Program
In the online program, students complete prerequisite courses either à la carte or in the recommended sequence. All courses are asynchronous, enabling students to take courses on their own timeframe. For information on how to enroll, please visit https://www.umass.edu/sphhs-online/ or contact Lori Peterson at phonline@schoolph.umass.edu.

There is no application to the online program. Students can enroll in any online class on a space-available basis. Students are encouraged to consult department information on academic advising at https://www.umass.edu/sphhs/communication-disorders/pre-clinical-program/pre-clinical-advising before enrolling.

If you have any questions about our online Post-Baccalaureate Program, please do not hesitate to contact Gwyneth Rost at grost@umass.edu or (413) 545-3636.

The In-person Program
The in-person program is designed to be a structured experience for students who want to fulfill the prerequisite requirements for applying to a graduate program. The courses and sequencing that we recommend will prepare students for application to the University of Massachusetts and other similar programs. However, students are encouraged to consult all graduate programs they are interested in to ensure that they are completing all required prerequisites for those programs.

Students Interested in Speech-Language Pathology
For individuals without an undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders, the M.A. program in Speech-Language Pathology at UMass requires seven prerequisite courses that will comprise the academic portion of the Post-Baccalaureate Program (see course listing below). A separate document containing the catalog descriptions of these courses is attached. The prerequisite requirements of other programs are typically very similar to those listed below, although they are not necessarily identical. So it is possible that you may need to complete additional and/or different prerequisite courses if you apply to a program other than the M.A. program at UMass.

Courses in Normative Processes of Speech, Language, and Hearing:

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Courses in Clinical Processes of Speech, Language & Hearing

Comm-Dis 100  
Introduction to Communication Disorders (offered online only; recommended but not required)

Comm-Dis 313  
Introduction to Audiology (in-person fall semesters, online spring semesters)

Comm-Dis 316  
Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation (in-person spring semesters, online summer semesters)

Comm-Dis 415  
Speech and Language Disorders (online fall semesters, in-person spring semesters)

Comm-Dis 496K  
Clinical Observations (online fall and spring semesters)

In addition to these prerequisite courses, individuals applying to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for clinical certification in Speech-Language Pathology must demonstrate transcript evidence of course credit in physical sciences, biological sciences, statistics, and social/behavioral sciences. Additional information about the certification requirements can be found at https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-SLP-Certification-Standards/.

Students Interested in Audiology

For individuals without an undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders, the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D) program at UMass requires eight prerequisite courses that will comprise the academic portion of the Post-Baccalaureate Program (see course listing below). Descriptions of these courses can be found in the document that is attached. The prerequisite requirements of other programs are typically very similar to those listed below, although they are not necessarily identical. So it is possible that you may need to complete additional and/or different prerequisite courses if you apply to a program other than the Au.D. program at UMass.

Courses in Normative Processes of Speech, Language, and Hearing:

Comm-Dis 211  Anatomy & Physiology I: The Speech and Hearing Mechanisms (in-person fall Semesters, online spring semesters)

Comm-Dis 213  Phonetic Processing (in-person spring semesters, online fall semesters)

Comm-Dis 214  Introduction to Hearing Science (in-person only, spring semesters)

Comm-Dis 301  Speech and Language Development (in-person class with online option, fall semesters)

Comm-Dis 312  Introduction to Speech Science (in-person spring semesters, online fall semesters)

Courses in Clinical Processes of Speech, Language & Hearing

Comm-Dis 100  
Introduction to Communication Disorders (offered online only, spring and summer semesters; recommended but not required)
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Information about the ASHA certification requirements for audiologists can be found at [https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-Audiology-Certification-Standards/](https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-Audiology-Certification-Standards/).

It is recommended that students who are undecided as to which graduate degree (Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology) they would like to pursue complete the prerequisite requirements for the M.A. program.

It is important to note that completion of the prerequisite courses does not guarantee admission to a graduate program, either at UMass or at any other school. There is currently considerable competition for admission to graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology nationwide. In our program here at UMass, we receive approximately 4-5 applications for every student we can admit to our graduate programs.

The prerequisite courses listed above are offered as a part of the Department's regular undergraduate course offerings and represent required courses for our undergraduate majors as well as our Post-Baccalaureate students. An attempt is made each semester to schedule the prerequisite courses so that Post-Baccalaureate students are able to take four courses per semester while having to come to campus only two days per week.

Students in the Post-Baccalaureate Program may qualify for financial aid. If you are interested in determining your eligibility for financial assistance or would like to find out more information about the financial aid opportunities that currently exist, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (413) 545-0801 or visit their website at [http://www.umass.edu/umfa/](http://www.umass.edu/umfa/).

If you have questions or are interested in enrolling in the in-person Post-Baccalaureate Program, please contact our office manager (Joy Holhut; jholhut@comdis.umass.edu, 413-545-0131), who will send you a data form to complete. When she has received your data form, she will contact you with additional information about enrollment procedures. Once you have been notified that you have been cleared to register in the Post-Baccalaureate Program, you will be able to register for the courses through the University Without Walls ([https://www.umass.edu/uww/](https://www.umass.edu/uww/)).