



## **Pre-Speech-Language Pathology prep at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC)**

### **What is Pre-Speech-Language Pathology?**

The entry-level degree to become a Speech-Language Pathologist is a Master Degree. Most pre-speech-language pathology students are preparing to transfer into a Communication Sciences and Disorders Bachelor Degree (CSD) after one year at HACC or are science majors (biology or chemistry). A student planning a Bachelor Degree other than CSD may need to meet additional pre-Master Degree course requirements, making it an advantage to obtain a CSD Bachelor Degree. Some Master Degree programs limit applicants to students with CSD Bachelor Degrees. A student planning a Bachelor Degree other than CSD can major in almost any discipline provided the required science courses are completed when applying to professional schools. These professional schools expect non-science majors to perform very well in science courses.

### **What is the Pre-Speech-Language Pathology curriculum?**

Course requirements vary somewhat among the numerous professional programs. Typically CSD courses begin early in the CSD Bachelor Degree. Requirements for these programs typically include; 8 credits of biology (BIOL 101, 102, at HACC), Mathematics including Algebra and Statistics (MATH 103 and 202, at HACC), 3 credits of Physics, (PHYS 105, at HACC), and 3 credits in Psychology, (PSYC 101 at HACC). Students should refer to HACC transfer check sheets, if available, and work with their HACC advisor in preparation for transfer to the Bachelor Degree granting institution. Additionally, students planning a Bachelor Degree other than CSD are expected to complete all requirements for a Bachelor Degree.

### **What are the characteristics of a successful Pre-Speech-Language Pathology student?**

There are approximately 250 accredited Speech-Language Pathology programs in the United States and approximately 14 accredited schools Pennsylvania. All are highly competitive, have strict course prerequisites, and require students to plan a strategy early in their college career. If applying to Bachelor Degree CSD programs a student would need to have competitive high school history and at least a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in any college courses. To be competitive, when applying to Master Degree programs a student should accumulate a grade point average of at **least** 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) for their Bachelor Degree and perform above average on GRE's. It is also competitive that pre-speech-language pathology students participate in an internship experience in order to become acquainted with the field prior to making formal application to selected professional programs. Leadership, community/human service and a willingness to volunteer contribute to the "personal qualities" of successful pre-speech-language pathology students. All interested students should visit the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association website, [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org), for further information. Students who are planning a Bachelor other than CSD will be advantaged by transferring from HACC to a Bachelor Degree granting school with a pre-speech-language pathology advising option where students are advised in prerequisite courses, application procedures, and current trends in admission. It would be a further advantage to transfer to a Bachelor Degree granting school that has an affiliation with a school(s) that offers a Master Degree in Speech-Language Pathology.