



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
UNIVERSITY of
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology

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Program Description

The vision of Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions (RMUoHP) is to advance the quality, delivery and efficacy of healthcare. The Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology (SLPD) develops evidence-based clinician with advanced clinical skills who can critically evaluate the literature and participate in the research process through identification of best practice and apply that to independent clinical research.

The core and concentration courses are designed to enhance clinical, research, teaching, and leadership skills. The SLPD program with its limited-residency and online-only models will provide the flexibility for the practitioner to continue professional work obligations during the seven-semester, 40-credit program. The capstone emphasizes application of scientific principles related to the clinical problems seen in the discipline.

The purpose of the SLPD program is to prepare professionals focused on developing scientifically-trained and clinically-experienced master speech pathologists as leaders and change agents by providing broad knowledge of social, political, and economic forces at work in society. Graduates of this program will increase their contribution to healthcare through the knowledge and skills developed through active use and integration of research and concepts of evidenced-based practice, clinical quality improvement, organizational development, leadership and advocacy. The program prepares and supports students in completing a clinical doctoral degree that can provide opportunities

for employment in healthcare agencies, schools, and as academic faculty in institutions of higher education.

Degree Objectives

The Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology program is committed to the development of the healthcare professional who can:

- Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence.
- Initiate evidence-based practice and policy strategies that optimize access to care and clinical outcomes
- Develop knowledge expertise in an area of clinical research;
- Influence ethical and legal management of healthcare through education of providers, consumers, and society at large;
- Collaborate with interprofessional teams necessary to improve clinical care for populations of clients;
- Integrate leadership expertise with clinical perspective and sound business practices to help transform the evolving healthcare system at local, regional, national, and international levels.

Curriculum

Core Courses: All students are required to complete research methods/biostatistics courses as well as required leadership courses. These courses provide the foundation for the concentration courses and the ability to participate in and critique research.

Concentration Courses: These courses focus specifically on the discipline of speech-language pathology, emphasizing ethics, supervision, and evidence-based SLP practice.

Admission Requirements

1. A master's degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Have a minimum grade point average of 3.2 (on a 4.0 scale) on all work completed during the master's degree.
3. Possess writing and oral communication skills sufficient to conduct and deliver the results of meaningful research. Must submit an essay that includes current personal, intellectual and professional interests and why the student is applying to the degree program.
4. Submit a current curriculum vita and submitted other application requirements.
5. Possess information technology skills sufficient to participate effectively in the RMUoHP SLPD program.

Program Outline

	Course Code & Title	Credits
Health Sciences Core Courses (5 courses, 13 credits required):		
<i>All courses listed are required:</i>		
	HLA 620 Healthcare Leadership	3
	HS 710 Evidence-based Practice	3
	HS 712 Research Methods: A Quantitative Approach	3
	HS 714 Scientific/Professional Writing	1
	HS 720 Survey of Qualitative Research	3
Health Sciences Core Required Credits:		13
Concentration Courses (10 courses, 27 credits required):		
<i>All courses listed are required:</i>		
	SLP 601 Evidence-based Practice in Speech-Language Pathology	2
	SLP 602 Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Supervision I	3
	SLP 603 Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Supervision II	3
	SLP 605 Ethics in Speech-Language Pathology	2
	SLP 606 Capstone I: Speech-Language Pathology	3
	SLP 607 Capstone II: Speech-Language Pathology	3
	SLP 609 Capstone III: Speech-Language Pathology	3
	SLP 610 Single Subject Research in Speech-Language Pathology	3
	SLP 721 Biostatistics Interpretation	3
	SLP 727 Speech-Language Pathology Practice: Organization & Management	2
Concentration Courses Required Credits:		27
Optional Course (not required):		
	HS 770 Research Practicum <i>Optional course, may be taken in substitution for another course, with Program Director approval. May be repeated up to 6 credits.</i>	(1-2)
Total Program Required Credits:		40
Capstone Residency:		
<i>Enrollment in SLP 711A, SLP 711B, etc. required until program completion:</i>		
Capstone Residency—SLP 711A, SLP 711B, etc. as needed (3 credits per course/semester, all online). <i>Continue with 3 credits per semester until degree completion. Not included in program tuition.</i>		

Program Calendar

Semester	Course	Credits	On-site Dates
Semester 1 Summer 2021 <i>May 3-Aug. 20</i>	HS 710 Evidence-based Practice	3	May 29-30
	HS 712 Research Methods: A Quantitative Approach	3	May 31-Jun. 1
	HS 714 Scientific/Professional Writing	1	Online
	Semester Total:		7
Semester 2 Fall 2021 <i>Aug.30-Dec.17</i>	SLP 601 Evidence-based Practice in Speech-Language Pathology	2	Online
	SLP 602 Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Supervision I	3	Online
	Semester Total:		5
Semester 3 Winter 2022 <i>Jan. 4-Apr. 22</i>	HS 720 Survey of Qualitative Research	3	1.5 days
	SLP 721 Biostatistics Interpretation	3	1 day
	SLP 603 Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Supervision II	3	1 day
	Semester Total:		9
Semester 4 Summer 2022 <i>May 2-Aug. 19</i>	HLA 620 Healthcare Leadership	3	Online
	SLP 610 Single Subject Research in Speech-Language Pathology	3	Online
	SLP 727 Speech-Language Pathology Practice: Organization & Management	2	Online
	Semester Total:		8
Semester 5 Fall 2022 <i>Aug.29-Dec.16</i>	SLP 605 Ethics in Speech-Language Pathology	2	Oct 21
	SLP 606 Capstone I: Speech-Language Pathology	3	Oct 22-23
	Semester Total:		5
Semester 6 Winter 2023 <i>Jan. 9-Apr. 28</i>	SLP 607 Capstone II: Speech-Language Pathology	3	Online
	Semester Total:		3
Semester 7 Summer 2023 <i>May 8-Aug. 25</i>	SLP 609 Capstone III: Speech-Language Pathology	3	Online
	Semester Total:		3
Optional course, taken in any semester	HS 770 Research Practicum (<i>optional course</i>)‡	(1-2)	Online
	Optional Course Total:		(6)
Semester 8 to Program Completion	Capstone Residency—SLP 711A, SLP 711B, etc. as needed (3 credits per course/semester, all online). <i>Continue with 3 credits per semester until degree completion.</i> <i>Not included in program tuition.</i>		
Total Program Required Credits: 40			
<i>Five-year deadline for program completion from start of program is May 3, 2026</i>			

‡Research Practicum course credits may be substituted for another course, with Program Director approval. May be repeated up to 6 credits.

Course Descriptions

Health Science Core Courses:

HLA 620 Healthcare Leadership (3 credits)

Concepts of leadership related to current healthcare organizations are examined. Specific concepts including communications, public relations, team building, negotiation, and conflict resolution are explored. Strategic aspects such as vision, viewpoint and admission are included. Managing uncertainty is discussed in relation to healthcare organizations. Contemporary leadership challenges, communication strategies and crisis communication are explored. Leadership functions and decision-making are analyzed.

HS 770 Research Practicum (1-2 credits)

Faculty-directed clinical, basic, or applied research practicum, which may include but not limited to review of literature preparation, human subjects committee proposal development, data collection, and presentation/manuscript preparation. Graded Pass/Fail. *(Optional course. May be taken in substitution for another course, with Program Director approval. May be repeated up to 6 credits.)*

HS 710 Evidence-based Practice (3 credits)

This course is designed to prepare healthcare professionals with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to make independent judgments about the validity of clinical research and to implement evidence-based clinical practice in their careers. This course will focus on the concepts of evidence-based practice with emphasis on forming answerable clinical questions and effective literature search strategies. The evaluative approach to appraising the research literature will prepare the students to judge the evidence on: 1) the accuracy and validity of diagnostic tests and the application of important diagnostic tests in the care of a specific patient; 2) the effectiveness of clinical interventions; 3) the natural history of health-related conditions; 4) risk of harm from select preventative and therapeutic interventions. Based on presentation of case scenarios, students will be required to formulate the key question(s), rapidly search medical and health-related databases, appraise the evidence with a critical analysis and describe application of the evidence in a clinical context.

HS 712 Research Methods: A Quantitative Approach (3 credits)

This course provides an introduction to general research principles and research ethics. The student will be introduced to the following topics in the research process: question formulation, principles of measurement, basic design and methodological features, issues of reliability and validity, and fundamentals of conducting a literature review. A quantitative article critique will be conducted in class and outside of class. The class format will include lecture, small group discussion, and practice.

HS 714 Scientific/Professional Writing (1 credit)

This pass/fail course reviews PubMed, Index Medicus, other search methodologies, American Psychological Association editorial format, the composition of a scientific/professional manuscript, and the style of scientific/professional writing, its construction and formats.

HS 720 Survey of Qualitative Research (3 credits)

This course introduces the student to qualitative research methods and their applications to problems and phenomena in healthcare. Emphasis is placed on the appropriate use and differences of qualitative methods, their philosophical underpinnings, and application to clinical issues.

Concentration Courses:

SLP 601 Evidence-Based Practice in Speech-Language Pathology (2 credits)

This course is designed to prepare speech-language pathology students with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to make independent judgments about the validity of clinical research and to implement evidence-based clinical practice in clinical environments. This course focuses on the concepts of evidence-based practice, with emphasis on forming answerable clinical questions and effective literature search strategies. The EBP approach prepares students to find, appraise, and integrate evidence for clinical decision-making, with particular emphasis in this course on (a) prognosis for a given client, and (b) effectiveness of clinical interventions. Based on presentation of case scenarios, students will formulate the key question(s), rapidly search medical and health-related databases, select best available evidence, appraise the evidence using the EBP approach, and describe application of the evidence in a clinical context.

SLP 602 Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Supervision 1 (3 credits)

This course is designed to prepare the student with knowledge to assume the role of a speech-language pathology clinical supervisor. Topics related to supervision include its definition, history, theories, resources, major roles/responsibilities/styles of clinical supervisors, diversity, and expectations/needs of supervisees; the supervision of graduate students, speech-language pathology assistants, Clinical Fellows, and other rehabilitation professionals will be discussed.

SLP 603 Speech-Language Pathology Clinical Supervision 2 (3 credits)

This course builds on the knowledge derived from SLP 602 by introducing students to advanced clinical teaching skills requiring critical thinking and clinical problem solving and ethical decision-making. Students will also demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills, including accommodations appropriate for personal/cultural/linguistic factors and conflict resolution. Students will examine the research questions and methodology in the supervision literature. Students will identify supervision needs, develop a plan of action, demonstrate supervisory competence, and engage in effective supervisory behavior that includes advocacy, and recognition of the critical role of inter-professional practice. Prerequisite: SLP 602

SLP 605 Ethics in Speech-Language Pathology (2 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive overview of ethics in the clinical practice of speech-language pathology (SLP). Students define and distinguish moral, ethical and legal foundations in clinical practice, analyze the cardinal documents of the profession, and compare and contrast national and state ethical standards. Additional topics include

theories of ethics, professional malpractice, ethical principles of research, ethical decision-making, and how ethics can impact the various environments in which SLP practice occurs.

SLP 606 Capstone 1: Speech-Language Pathology (3 credits)

This course is designed to provide students with the foundation for successful completion of an evidence-based practice (EBP) project. This course emphasizes knowledge of current expectations for speech-language pathologists engaging in EBP in clinical practice, familiarizing students with capstone progression, project quality and scope, and doctoral-level communication requirements. Each student is expected to develop the introduction, literature review, and method for the capstone project, and, if appropriate, submit the project to the Institutional Review Board.

SLP 607 Capstone 2: Speech-Language Pathology (3 credits)

This course is the second of three that are specifically designed to provide students with the foundation for successful completion of an evidence-based practice (EBP) project. This course emphasizes knowledge of current expectations for speech-language pathologists engaging in EBP in clinical practice, and familiarizing students with capstone progression, project quality and scope, and doctoral-level communication requirements. Prerequisite: SLP 606.

SLP 609 Capstone 3: Speech-Language Pathology (3 credits)

This course is designed as a culmination of the student's learning experiences, with an emphasis on the implementation and presentation of a complete evidence-based practice (EBP) project. Students are expected to demonstrate depth of knowledge in select areas of clinical practice through the advanced synthesis of information and expertise in interpreting and applying clinical research. The ultimate goal of the capstone project is that students will demonstrate the ability to function as independent clinician researchers and to use their knowledge and skills in order to effect systems change in professional environments. Prerequisite: SLP 607.

**SLP 610 Single Subject Research in
Speech-Language Pathology (3 credits)**

This course explores the general research principles of single subject (small N) research across the lifespan (children and adults), with an emphasis on the discipline of speech-language pathology. Application of this method of research is explored through the primary designs that constitute this type of research: withdrawal/reversal, multiple baseline, alternating treatment, and changing criterion.

SLP 721 Biostatistics Interpretation (3 credits)

The purpose of this course is to learn basic interpreting biostatistics reported in peer-reviewed journal articles. Topics will include ways of describing data, how to graphically display data, and looking for and testing relationships or differences in data.

SLP 727 Speech-Language Pathology Practice: (2 credit)
Organization & Management

The primary professional focus for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) typically involves clinical practice; that practice can occur in a wide variety of settings, each with its own unique challenges and opportunities. This course explores current issues of organization and ongoing management of SLP clinical practice, with an emphasis on administration/organization/management of healthcare, school, and private practice settings.

Faculty

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