Kean University

School of Communication Disorders & Deafness

Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional Program

Student Handbook

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The Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional Program

is one of three programs offered in the

School of Communication Disorders and Deafness

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Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional Program

WELCOME to the Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional program, housed in the School of Communication Disorders and Deafness at Kean University!

The pre-professional program in speech-language pathology is designed to provide students with a sequence of foundation courses in communication sciences and disorders in anticipation of their applying to graduate programs in speech-language pathology, audiology, or speech and hearing sciences to help meet the need for more professionals in this dynamic and rapidly growing field. The goal of the program is to provide students who do not have an academic or professional background in speech, language and hearing an opportunity to explore the field and complete the foundational courses that are required prior to beginning graduate study.

The entry-level degree in this field is the master’s degree, which is required to work in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and private practice. The curriculum focuses on the processes that underlie the typical development of speech, language and hearing. It is only with a fundamental understanding of typical development that the knowledge and skills needed for identification, assessment and intervention for the atypical can arise.

This program is not affiliated in any way with the Master of Arts program in Speech-Language Pathology at Kean University. Successful completion of this sequence of courses does not in any way constitute or ensure acceptance into the MA-SLP program or any other graduate program. The Pre-Professional Speech-Language Pathology coursework is not intended for students seeking preparation to become speech-language pathology assistants.

As Program Coordinator, I will be available to you for advisement and problem solving. Please see me if you have questions or concerns as they arise to avoid problems later and to help you feel comfortable about your program choices. General information about Kean University’s attendance, grading, academic integrity, and dispute resolution policies can be found on the University’s website (www.kean.edu), and additional information about our undergraduate and graduate programs in Communication Disorders and Deafness and our faculty can be found on our School’s website (www.kean.edu/~cdd).

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with the information you will need throughout the program. Go through these pages carefully. Most of your questions will be answered and many of your anxieties eased if you digest this information. Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment, send an e-mail, or drop in during our office hours (posted on each faculty's office door, listed on all syllabi, and on KeanWISE).

I hope you find success during your time at Kean University.

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Mission Statement
The mission of the School of Communication Disorders and Deafness is to provide our students with the foundation and application of the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to prepare them for careers in the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. The program incorporates technology into courses and laboratories with the goal that such guided experiences will not only teach students to use current technology but also to identify, evaluate, appreciate and embrace new technology as it develops.

Goals of the Pre-Professional Program
The academic goals of the Speech-Language-Pathology Pre-Professional program are to offer academic courses that provide:

1. a fundamental knowledge base, both theoretical and practical, in the normal processes (neurological, physiological, acoustic, cognitive and linguistic) that underlie the acquisition and development of human communication: speech, language and hearing across the lifespan.
2. an appreciation and understanding (both traditional and contemporary) of theoretical models and issues related to the field of communication disorders.
3. exposure to the use of technology in laboratory and clinical settings.
4. knowledge of and sensitivities to cultural diversity as it impacts the development of human communication skills and the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology.
5. an understanding of the scope of practice within the professions of speech-language-hearing pathology and audiology.
6. a familiarity, understanding and appreciation of the nature and implications of such handicapping conditions as developmental and learning disabilities, speech and language disorders/delays, deafness, voice, fluency and neuromuscular disorders, environmental deprivation, as well as the impact of a multicultural background.
7. a fundamental knowledge, both theoretical and practical, of the anatomical and physiological bases of normal and deviant speech, language and hearing skills across the lifespan.
8. an understanding of speech production and perception, and speech disorders across the lifespan, including etiology, symptomatology, assessment procedures and treatment models.
9. an understanding of language development and language disorders across the lifespan, including etiology, symptomatology, assessment procedures and treatment models.
10. a fundamental knowledge, both theoretical and practical, of principles and methods in hearing assessment, diagnosis and rehabilitation.
11. skill in translating what is heard (including dialectic variations) using the International Phonetic Alphabet.
12. an understanding for implementing technology in educational, clinical, professional and research settings.
13. an appreciation of appropriate goals/objectives for clients, real or simulated while observing skills and charting behaviors.
14. the preparation necessary for an enhanced application for acceptance into a graduate program in speech-language pathology or audiology.
Coursework
The Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional Program offers a sequence of eight foundation courses:

**CDD 2251: Introduction to Speech-Language-Hearing Disorders**
Pre-requisites: NONE
Orientation to field of speech pathology, audiology and education of the hearing impaired; overview of communication and disorders of communication in individuals of all ages. Consideration of nature, etiology, symptoms, remediation of both organic and non-organic disorders of speech, language and hearing.

**CDD 2260: Anatomy & Physiology of the Ear and Speech Mechanism**
Pre- or Co-requisites: CDD 2251
An introductory study of the basic structures and functions of the speech and auditory mechanisms.

**CDD 2254: Phonetics**
Pre- or Co-requisites: CDD 2251
Study of the sound patterns of languages: phonetic transcription: acoustic and anatomic aspects: application to disorders of articulation and dialects.

**CDD 2255: Language Development**
Pre- or Co-requisites: CDD 2251
This developmental language course covers pragmatics, semantics, syntax and phonology with an emphasis on cognition and communication as well as individual and cultural differences in children and adults.

**CDD 3258: Disorders of Speech Production and Voice**
Pre-requisites: CDD 2251, CDD 2254
Study of the nature, etiology, diagnosis and re-mediation techniques associated with disorders of speech production and voice. Includes case studies and guided observations in a variety of clinical settings.

**CDD 3259: Basic Audiology**
Prerequisites: CDD 2251, CDD 2260
An introduction to the theory and practice of pure tone and speech audiometry. Interpretations of audiograms for education, medical and industrial application. Observation and limited clinical experience are made available to the students.

**CDD 3261: Speech Science**
Prerequisites: CDD 2251, CDD 2260
An introduction to speech science. Instruction in the anatomy and physiology of the speech production mechanism and the acoustics of speech. Normal speech production is studied through the use of computerized speech measurement equipment.

**CDD 3269: Neuroscience***
Prerequisites: CDD 2260, Basic Bio course
*Petition Required
Emphasizes the human nervous system including neuroanatomy and physiology, neural processing and neural feedback loops of the central and peripheral nervous systems. Covers neuroscience, especially as related to speech, language, and hearing.

*Neuroscience is required for all Kean University Master of Arts Speech-Language Pathology students but may not be required by other programs. Check with your individual program for its requirements.
These courses are also required for Kean University undergraduates majoring in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. These students are directed to the face to face, on campus sections of these courses, which are offered most semesters. Online, distance sections (designed to be as identical to the face to face courses as possible but for post-baccalaureates) are reserved for the students in the pre-professional program to insure their ability to access classes to complete the suite of foundation courses in a timely manner (e.g., one year). Pre-professional program students are able to enroll in on campus sections only when seats are available; pre-professional program students will not be overloaded into these courses.

ASHA requires that students have a physical science course (e.g. physics, chemistry, earth science, geology, astronomy, and oceanography) in addition to a basic biological sciences course in order to be eligible for the Certification of Clinical Competence (awarded after a graduate degree in this field). Students are encouraged to take a physical science course if not previously completed during their undergraduate coursework.

Admission and Retention
Students may have become familiar with the program through family or friends who work in the profession, or they may have observed or spoken with a speech-language pathologist or audiologist about this profession.

To seek admission into the program:
1. Complete the admission application available through the Graduate Admissions Office of the Nathan Weiss Graduate College (http://www.kean.edu/KU/Nathan-Weiss-Graduate-College);
2. Submit proof of a baccalaureate degree or higher;
3. Complete an interview, at the discretion of the Program Coordinator or designee

Once admitted, a student must meet with the Program Coordinator or designee for academic advisement and class registration information.

Students must maintain a valid Kean e-mail account. For those who do not already have one, forms are available at http://www.kean.edu/KU/Forms-OCIS; click on "E-mail account request form". Students are expected to check their Kean accounts regularly and to use this account for all correspondence with their instructors and other members of the faculty and staff. All students are encouraged to join CampusAlert, the University's emergency notification system (www.mir3.com/kean) in order to be informed of campus emergencies, weather notices, and other announcements.

If it is observed by the faculty that a student lacks the necessary communication skills and aptitudes deemed necessary to succeed in this field, the student will be requested to meet with the Coordinator to discuss the concerns noted by the faculty.

Academic Conduct
Students should familiarize themselves with the Student Code of Conduct http://www.kean.edu/KU/Code-of-Conduct) and are expected to be familiar with the University's policies regarding academic integrity (http://www.kean.edu/admin/uploads/pdf/AcademicIntegrityPolicy.pdf)

Any misconduct, dishonesty, unauthorized collaboration and/or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of "F" and possibly other institutional disciplinary action (including dismissal from the university).
Clinical/Laboratory Facilities
The School of Communication Disorders and Deafness is located on the East Campus in a state-of-the-art facility. We have a very active community based clinic, the Center for Communication Disorders, a computerized speech science laboratory and an extensive library of textbooks, standardized assessment tools, videos and intervention materials. These resources are available to students in any of our programs. Please seek further information about the accessibility of these resources from me or your course instructor.

Students are always encouraged to volunteer and seek additional opportunities to enhance their observational skills outside of Kean and to confirm that this career choice is appropriate. Throughout these learning experiences, students will become familiar with the professional standards described in the Code of Ethics of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (http://www.asha.org/docs/html/ET2010-00309.html).

Speech/Language and Hearing Competency
Students must demonstrate competence in oral English, written English, and mathematics to successfully continue with this course of study. It is the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that clinicians and future clinicians must be able to model all target phonemes, grammatical features, and other aspects of speech and language that characterize the client’s particular communication disorder/difference. Our program agrees with and adheres to this standard. If your speech skills do not allow you to model Standard American English productions, support services will be needed to help you meet this standard. Seek them out and take advantage of them as early as possible, to maximize their benefits.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Be forewarned that admission into graduate programs in speech-language pathology nationally is quite competitive. If your previously earned grade point average is not competitive with the minimal requirements at your target graduate program institutions, successful completion of the eight foundation courses will not significantly change your profile. For example, at Kean, University, all applicants for the Master’s of Arts degree program in Speech-Language Pathology, whether they were Kean undergraduates or not, are required to meet the same standards and present an exemplary profile (application deadline is February 1st). In order for an application to be forwarded from the Office of Graduate Admissions to our School’s Graduate Admission Committee, it must meet certain minimal standards: an overall grade point average of 3.2, a competitive score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), three letters of recommendation and a very well-written narrative statement. Only then will the file become part of the applicant pool to be considered by the Admissions Committee. Each school has its own admissions requirements and students are encouraged to check out multiple programs.
To: Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional Program Students

From: Martin D. Shulman, Ph.D., Exec. Director, School of Communication Disorders & Deafness  
Christina Z. Luna, SLP.D., Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional Program Coordinator

Re: Graduate Program Admission

Date: September 2011

As you know, a master’s degree is the entry-level training required to work in this challenging and rewarding career. Our pre-professional program is designed to provide the foundation course work on which graduate education can rest solidly.

In preparing for a wonderful career in a challenging discipline, please be aware that admission to a graduate program in speech-language pathology has become increasingly difficult. Admission to the Speech-Language Pathology Pre-Professional Program in no way is a guarantee of acceptance into the Master of Arts Program in Speech-Language Pathology at Kean or any other institution.

At Kean University, all applicants for the Master’s of Arts degree program in Speech-Language Pathology, whether they are Kean undergraduates or not, or if they have successfully completed the pre-requisite courses, are required to meet the same standards and present an exemplary profile. In order for an application to be forwarded from the Office of Graduate Admissions to our department’s Admission Committee, it must meet these minimal standards: an overall grade point average of 3.2, a competitive score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), three letters of recommendation and a very well-written narrative statement. Only then will the file become part of the applicant pool to be considered by the Committee. If there is anything unclear about this, please see Dr. Shulman or Dr. Luna.

We are eager to provide ongoing advisement and support to our pre-professional students. We are pursuing this by creating an email list of all intended enrolled students. Please provide the following information and note that we will use only your Kean University email address, so please check it periodically.

Thank you very much and have a successful semester.

Name_______________________________________________________________

Kean University Email address:  __________________________________________

Phone (optional):  home________________________cell______________________

I have read and understand the above information __________________________________________     _____________

(Signature)                (Date)

Please submit this signed form to Dr. Christina Luna (fax: 908 737-5805; email: cluna@kean.edu)