

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in our Masters of Speech-Language Pathology graduate program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at University of Redlands. We are proud of our vibrant and diverse graduate program. Our alumni graduate in two years and enter into Clinical Fellowship work where they are busy advocating for the needs of people with communication disorders and helping meet the demands for Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) services locally, nationally, and even internationally.

Forty million Americans of all ages have communication disorders. More than 5% of first graders in the US have communication disorders, involving speech, language, hearing, and/or swallowing disorders. Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work in a variety of settings, including schools, hospitals, skilled nursing home facilities and private practices. The rewards to the SLP and those who the SLP serves are priceless. Imagine the feeling when an SLP and his/her team of professionals successfully assess and treat a child with a speech/language/hearing or a child who stutters, preventing a lifetime of secondary concerns. A typical day of an SLP graduate of our program might include providing Spanish-English bilingual services to a family in need, screening hearing or using tympanometry to rule out ear infections, or helping someone whose loved one has recently suffered a stroke and struggles to express needs and wants. These are only a few examples of what SLPs do.

Some SLP graduates of our program may choose to pursue teaching careers in colleges and universities. In the health professions, our specialists work in hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, and in state and federal agencies concerned with healthcare or rehabilitation. In the area of research, speech-language pathologists and audiologists may choose to work in laboratories and clinics at colleges and universities, governmental agencies or in private research facilities. They may also choose to work in communication-oriented industries, such as hearing aid manufacturers, medical industries, or in laboratories endowed for communications research. In industry, speech-language pathologists and audiologists serve as specialists and community relations consultants, particularly in the area of noise pollution abatement. Finally, many speech-language pathologists and audiologists establish private practices and work as consultants, diagnosticians and professional specialists, serving private patients, which is a growing need. Thus, a specialist in Communication Sciences and Disorders is able to choose from an exciting spectrum of career options based on particular professional interests.

Our purpose in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders department is to provide the education necessary for those of you who wish to make professional service to people with communication/swallowing disorders your career. Our program is especially strong because it is carried out within the context of liberal arts. Our Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders seeks intelligent, personable students who relate well to people of all ages and who show sensitive understanding and insights.

There are many reasons that our SLP profession will continue to grow nationally ([www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)), and some of these trends show up internationally, as well. First, there is an expanding population in older age groups, and these individuals are more prone to medical conditions that result in speech, language, and swallowing problems. We expect an increase in retirees in the coming years, predicting excellent job opportunities for SLPs. Secondly, medical advances improve the survival rate of premature infants, as well as trauma and stroke victims, who would then require clinical intervention services from SLPs. Along those lines, our (inter-) national awareness of the importance of early identification and diagnosis of speech, language, and swallowing disorders in infants and young children has increased, and will, in turn, increase employment of SLPs. Third, SLP employment in educational services needs to increase due to growth in elementary and secondary school enrollments, including special education students. Federal law guarantees special education and related services to all eligible children with disabilities. Finally, so many opportunities exist for those of you with the ability to speak a second language, and Spanish-English bilingualism is an opportunity here at the University of Redlands.

We thank you, again, for your interest in our department and we hope you will enjoy browsing through the website. We invite you to visit Truesdail Speech Center for Communicative Disorders at University of Redlands. You may reserve a spot in one of our Information Sessions and clinic tour by calling 909-748-8061. Dates for upcoming Information Sessions can be found at <http://www.redlands.edu/prospective-students/1443.aspx>. If you have further questions regarding the program or profession, please do not hesitate to contact us. We very much welcome your inquiries.

Cordially,

Lisa LaSalle, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Chair/Professor

Communication Sciences & Disorders