

# Pathways to Speech-Language Pathology: Preparing at Emory

## Considering Graduate Study in Speech-Language Pathology?

Students in Linguistics and related fields often pursue careers in **speech-language pathology (SLP)**. To become an SLP, you must complete a **master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology** from a program accredited by the **Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA)**, along with required observation and clinical experiences.

This page outlines:

1. **ASHA certification requirements** (essential for all SLPs)
2. **Typical prerequisite courses** for graduate school
3. **How Emory courses prepare you for the path**
4. **Observation and shadowing expectations**

## National Requirements (ASHA Standards)

The **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)** requires one stand-alone course in each of the following areas (outside of CSD):

- **Statistics** (not research methods)
- **Biological Sciences** (e.g., biology, anatomy, physiology, genetics)
- **Physical Sciences** (physics or chemistry only)
- **Social/Behavioral Sciences** (e.g., psychology, sociology, anthropology, public health)

These requirements are separate from the Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD) courses expected by most graduate programs.

## Common CSD Prerequisite Courses

Although course names vary, most graduate programs require:

- Phonetics / Phonetic Transcription
- Anatomy & Physiology of Speech and Hearing
- Language Development / Acquisition
- Speech Science / Hearing Science
- Introduction to Audiology
- Aural Rehabilitation
- Neuroanatomy / Neurobiology for Communication (often strongly recommended)

## Sometimes-Required (School-Specific)

Some programs also ask for:

- Speech Sound Disorders (Articulation/Phonology)
- Language Disorders (Child or Across the Lifespan)
- Intro to Communication Disorders

- General Linguistics
- Language Sample Analysis
- Physics of Speech / Acoustics
- Research Methods
- Professional Issues in Communication Disorders

## Observation and Shadowing

In addition to coursework, ASHA requires:

- **25 hours of guided clinical observation** (shadowing a certified SLP with debriefing/reflection)

### Key Points about the 25 Observation Hours:

- They may be completed in undergraduate or graduate study, but some programs require them before admission.
- “Guided” means active engagement with the supervising SLP (discussion, reflection, feedback).
- Hours should span diverse settings and client populations.
- Keep a **formal log** with date, site, hours, supervisor name/ASHA number, and reflection notes.

### Getting Started at Emory:

- Reach out to local clinics, hospitals, school SLPs, or private practices.
- Use Emory’s alumni network, faculty connections, or local SLP associations.
- The **Marcus Autism Center** provides structured observation opportunities.

## Emory Courses That Map to Prerequisites

### Currently Offered:

- **LING/PSYC 316 Language Acquisition** → Language Development
- **LING 210 Sounds of Human Languages** → Phonetics / Acoustics
- **LING 385 Speech Sciences** → Speech Science
- **LING/PSYC 309 Brain and Language** → Neuroanatomy / Brain basis of communication

### In Development:

- **Language Disorders** → Developmental and acquired language impairments

## Next Steps for Students

1. Contact Dr. Kim ([yun.kim@emory.edu](mailto:yun.kim@emory.edu)) to design a tailored course plan.
2. Get involved with **SLAP (Speech-Language Acquisition & Pathology)** student group.
3. Plan Emory coursework to include these classes when available.
4. Begin guided observation hours early and keep detailed logs.
5. Check specific prerequisites for each graduate program via ASHA EdFind.

# Emory Courses That Map to SLP Graduate School Prerequisites

| Prerequisite Category                                 | Typical Course Title (CSD)                       | Emory Course(s)                    | Status at Emory                 |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Phonetics / Acoustics</b>                          | Phonetics  | LING 210 Sounds of Human Languages | Offered                         |
| <b>Language Development / Acquisition</b>             | Child Language Development                       | LING/PSYC 316 Language Acquisition | Offered                         |
| <b>Speech Science</b>                                 | Speech Science, Hearing Science                  | LING 385 Speech Sciences           | Offered                         |
| <b>Neuroanatomy / Neurobiology</b>                    | Neural Bases of Communication                    | LING/PSYC 309 Brain and Language   | Offered                         |
| <b>Language Disorders</b>                             | Language Disorders (Child/Adult)                 | Language Disorders (new course)    | In Development                  |
| <b>Anatomy &amp; Physiology of Speech and Hearing</b> | Anatomy & Physiology of Communication Mechanisms | —                                  | Not currently offered at Emory* |
| <b>Intro to Audiology</b>                             | Intro to Audiology                               | —                                  | Not currently offered at Emory* |
| <b>Aural Rehabilitation</b>                           | Aural (Re)habilitation                           | —                                  | Not currently offered at Emory* |

\*These courses are typically only offered in Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD) departments. [The ARCHE program at Emory](#) or online/in-person summer programs can help you fulfill this requirement.

## Additional ASHA 'Basic Science' Requirements (Outside CSD)

| Category                          | Examples   | Where to Take at Emory                   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Statistics</b>                 | Introductory Statistics (not Research Methods)     | QTM 100, PSYC 230, or equivalent         |
| <b>Biological Sciences</b>        | Human Biology, Anatomy, Physiology, Genetics       | BIOL 120/141, NBB courses                |
| <b>Physical Sciences</b>          | Physics or Chemistry                               | CHEM 150/202, PHYS 141/142               |
| <b>Social/Behavioral Sciences</b> | Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Public Health | PSYC 110, SOC 101, ANT 101 or equivalent |