Professional Enhancement Program in Speech-Language Pathology

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is PEP?**

The Professional Enhancement Program (PEP) is a master’s degree program in speech/language pathology for professionals working or interested in working in the public schools. It is designed for students holding a bachelor’s degree in speech & hearing sciences or the equivalent, that are presently working full or part-time in an Arizona public school. PEP students are master’s students in Arizona State University’s speech & hearing sciences department.

2. **How long is the program?**

The program is designed to be completed in three years and accommodate someone who is working full or part-time in the public schools, during that time.

3. **When will classes be held?**

Most classes will be held late afternoon and early evenings (beginning at 3:40pm). There are two classes, (typically taken in your second year) that meet on Friday afternoons. You will need to obtain your districts support for your participation in PEP to facilitate scheduling and attendance. Coursework and practicum in hospital settings will be completed during the summer sessions after your first or second year.

4. **What do I do to indicate that I wish to participate in PEP?**

There are three things to do now:
- Complete the application to the ASU graduate college department of speech & hearing sciences (including taking the GRE)
- Complete the PEP application form
- Discuss your interest with the special education director in your district and complete the District Letter of Support form.

5. **When do I apply?**

Applications must be received by January 15th and are considered with all other applicants to Arizona State University’s masters program in speech/language pathology. It is important that you indicate in your letter of intent that you are interested in applying to the Professional Enhancement Program.

6. **How will I get my clinical training?**
PEP clinical practicum hours are acquired in the public school work setting, ASU’s Speech and Language clinics, and hospital settings in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Your clinical training will be supervised by an ASHA-certified SLP and coordinated by an ASU faculty member. It will include hours with children and adults as required by ASHA. Because most of your training is completed on your job, it is best if you are employed as a speech/language assistant or speech/language technician. Some students have been able to arrange the necessary clinical training opportunities for the PEP while employed as special educators (or special education assistants) in settings where speech/language services are provided.

7. *What does my school district need to do?*

If you plan to work in a school district while you complete your master’s degree in speech/language pathology, you will need to obtain the school district’s support to accommodate scheduling to allow late afternoon classes most semesters, and Friday afternoon classes for two semesters. You also need to identify a CCC-SLP within the district to supervise practicum experiences in the work setting. You may also want to explore opportunities for financial assistance from your district such as grant/scholarship opportunities and work-exchange agreements.

8. *What if I have a bachelors degree in a different field?*

You will spend your first year completing undergraduate background coursework. These courses are currently only offered during the day time at ASU. Specific requirements are as follows:

**Fall Offerings**

- SHS 598 (250) Phonetics (3 credits) (*This requirement is just for Speech-Language Pathology students*)
- SHS 598 (310) Anatomical/Physiological Bases of Speech (3 credits)
- SHS 598 (311) Physical/Physiological Bases of Hearing (3 credits)
- SHS 598 (367) Language Science (3 credits)
- SHS 598 (384) Hearing Disorders (3 credits) (*This requirement is just for Audiology Students*)
- SHS 401/501 Introduction to Audiological Evaluation (3 credits) (*SHS 598/311 is a prerequisite*)

**Spring Offerings**

- SHS 598 (375) Speech Science (3 credits; *SHS 598/311 is a prerequisite*)
- SHS 598 (376) Psychoacoustics (3 credits; *SHS 598/311 is a prerequisite*)
- SHS 565 (465) Speech and Language Development (3 credits; *SHS 598/367 is a prerequisite*)
- SHS 450 Observation (1 credit)
SHS 496/596  Aural Rehabilitation (3 credits; SHS 598/311 and SHS 401/501 is a prerequisite)

Summer Offerings

SHS 401/501  Introduction to Audiological Evaluation (3 credits; SHS 598/311 is a prerequisite)
SHS 496/596  Aural Rehabilitation (3 credits; SHS 598/311 and SHS 401/501 is a prerequisite)

Please note that post-baccalaureate students and graduate students must enroll in the SHS 598 or 500-level equivalent of the undergraduate course indicated in parentheses.

9. Who can I contact for more information?

You can contact Vicky Bellendir:

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