

WVU Online MS-SLP Program Q&A

Choosing a graduate program is a big decision, especially when you're balancing it with work, family, and everything else in your life. Below are answers to some of the questions we hear most often from prospective students about WVU's Online Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program.

Admissions and Prerequisites

What GPA and prerequisite coursework do I need to apply?

Applicants need an overall undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 (where 'A' = 4.0). You'll also need prerequisite coursework in several Communication Sciences and Disorders areas, including phonetics, language development, anatomy and physiology of speech and hearing, speech and hearing science, and introductory audiology, along with ASHA's required coursework in biological science, physical science, statistics, and social/behavioral science. Prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Do I need a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders, or can I apply with a different undergraduate major?

No. Students with undergraduate degrees in other areas are welcome to apply, as long as they complete the required prerequisite coursework before beginning the graduate program. See our answer above and [admissions webpage](#) to review the required coursework.

Is the GRE required for admission?

No. The GRE is not required for admission.

Do I need to already be working as an SLPA to apply?

No. You do not need to be working as an SLPA to apply for or enroll in the program. If you are already working as an SLPA, your work setting may be able to serve as one of your graduate clinical placements, as long as it meets the requirements for that clinical enrollment. If you are not working as an SLPA, we will develop an individualized clinical plan with you. This is true whether you live in West Virginia or elsewhere; students outside the state complete their clinical experiences in their own communities.

Do I need prior observation or fieldwork hours before I apply?

No. Prior clinical observation hours aren't required as part of the application. Those experiences are built into the graduate program itself.

What is the application deadline? Do you accept rolling admissions?

Our traditional admissions cycle has a January 15 deadline for a verified CSDCAS application, with the program beginning that summer. We also consider students through rolling admission when space and timing allow, so reach out if you're interested even after the traditional deadline has passed. For the 2026–27 cycle specifically, the CSDCAS portal opens July 16. We recommend submitting your application by December 3 to allow time for verification, with verified applications due January 15.

Do you accept transfer credit from another graduate program?

Yes. Students may transfer up to 12 graduate credit hours, the maximum permitted by the University. Transfer credit is evaluated individually, not automatically. Depending on the courses involved, you may be asked to complete the summative assessments for the corresponding WVU courses and demonstrate at least 80% mastery, and your graduate committee may determine that additional requirements are necessary. Because every student's previous coursework is different, we strongly encourage you to talk with us early if you're considering transfer credit, so we can review your specific situation.

What does the application require?

We accept and review applications submitted via [CSDCAS](#). You'll submit official transcripts, prerequisite coursework information, and a written personal statement. If your undergraduate education requires English-proficiency verification, you'll also submit the appropriate test scores.

We do not require GRE scores, letters of recommendation, or previous clinical observation hours. If you're selected to move forward in the process, you'll complete a virtual interview on February 1, 2027.

Program Format and Structure

Is this program fully online, or are there any in-person requirements?

Yes, the program can be completed fully online, with no mandatory trips to Morgantown. That said, we love welcoming our online students to campus when we can. You may be invited to optional experiences like our White Coat Ceremony and other events, which are great ways to connect with faculty, classmates, and the wider WVU community, but none of them are required to complete the program.

How long does the program take to complete?

WVU describes the online program as a seven- to ten-semester program, and most students land toward the higher end of that range, given the flexibility it offers around work and family responsibilities. Because we individualize each plan of study based on your circumstances, previous graduate coursework, and clinical plan, some students complete it more quickly.

Is the program full-time only, or is there a part-time option?

Students can be enrolled part-time in some semesters and full-time in others, depending on their individualized plan of study. Not every student follows the same schedule every semester.

How many credit hours are required to graduate?

The program requires 66 graduate credit hours, including both academic coursework and clinical education.

What does a typical course load look like each term?

It varies. Some semesters are academically heavier, and others carry a larger clinical component. You'll receive a plan of study mapping out your coursework and clinical enrollments, so you know what to expect throughout the program.

Because plans of study are individualized, especially for students transferring graduate credit or needing a different clinical plan, not every student's schedule looks the same.

Are courses synchronous (live) or asynchronous?

Our courses are primarily synchronous, meaning students and faculty meet live online at scheduled times, sometimes with asynchronous components you complete independently.

We believe the live component matters. It gives you the chance to interact with faculty and classmates, ask questions in real time, work through clinical cases together, and build relationships with your cohort, rather than working through an online program on your own.

Can I keep working full-time while I'm enrolled?

Yes. Many of our students continue working while completing the program, and the online format was designed with working students in mind. That said, we want to be realistic: graduate school is a significant commitment. You'll be balancing graduate-level coursework, live classes, assignments, studying, and eventually clinical experiences. It can be done, but it takes good time management and a willingness to make graduate school a priority during the program.

Clinical Placements and Fieldwork

How are clinical placements arranged? Can I complete mine where I live?

Clinical placements are arranged through a collaborative process between the Online Program Director and the Director of Clinical Education (DCE). If you're part of the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) matching program, your placement is set automatically: a school setting during the fall and spring semesters, and a medical or adult placement during the summer. If you're not in the WVDE matching program, you'll work closely with the DCE through surveys and one-on-one meetings to discuss and secure placement opportunities.

You can absolutely complete your placements where you live. That said, plan for a commute of up to an hour and a half to a placement site in any given semester. We encourage you to work closely with the DCE and help identify potential placements in your own area.

How many clinical clock hours are required?

You'll complete a minimum of 400 supervised clinical clock hours as part of the graduate program, in line with [ASHA's certification standards](#) for speech-language pathology.

When do clinical placements begin in the program? Clinical placements begin with simulated clinical experiences in CSAD 610 (Clinic 1). You won't have clinical placements during CSAD 609 (Introduction to Clinic), which comes before 610.

Is there a required externship? When does it happen?

Yes. You're responsible for securing your own externship supervisor and site, though the DCE will guide you in preparing your applications and interviews. The externship typically happens during your last semester before graduation.

Can any of my clinical hours be completed through tele practice?

Yes. ASHA's guidelines on this are always evolving, but currently up to 125 hours can be completed through tele practice.

If I'm already working as an SLPA, can that experience count toward clinical hours?

Yes, as long as your employer is willing to partner with the university. We encourage every SLPA to talk with their employer directly about this option. An affiliation agreement, put in place by the DCE, formalizes the partnership between WVU and your workplace.

Licensure and Certification**Will this program prepare me to sit for the Praxis exam?**

Yes. Yes. The academic and clinical curriculum is designed to prepare you for professional practice and the national [Praxis examination in Speech-Language Pathology](#).

Does completing this program qualify me for ASHA's Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP)?

Graduating from our program fulfills the graduate education and supervised clinical practicum portion of the pathway to the CCC-SLP. You'll also need to meet [ASHA's remaining requirements](#), including passing the [Praxis exam](#) and completing the post-graduate [Clinical Fellowship](#). Our program is designed to prepare you for those next steps.

Will I be eligible for licensure in my home state after I graduate?

Our program prepares you to meet national certification standards, but state licensure requirements vary. If you live outside West Virginia, we strongly encourage you to review the requirements for the state where you plan to practice. We're happy to help you understand the process, but each state licensing board sets its own requirements.

Is the program accredited by ASHA's Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA)?

Yes. WVU's Master of Science program in Speech-Language Pathology, including its distance-education modality, [is accredited](#) by ASHA's Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

Cost and Financial Aid**What is tuition for the online program? Does it differ for in-state and out-of-state students?**

WVU Online currently lists tuition for the program at \$864 per credit hour. Because tuition is reviewed annually, check [WVU Online's current tuition page](#) when you're planning your expenses.

Are there scholarships or grant-funded tuition support opportunities available?

Sometimes, particularly for students who plan to live and work in West Virginia after graduation. Availability and eligibility can change year to year, so if you think you might qualify, ask us what's currently available. You can also find resources highlighted by [WVU Graduate Education and Life](#).

Is federal financial aid available for online students?

Yes. Eligible graduate students can apply for federal financial aid through the [FAFSA](#). WVU Hub (our dedicated Financial Aid office) can help you understand what you may qualify for.

Are there fees beyond tuition, such as technology or clinical placement fees?

Online students are assessed WVU's Online Learning Student Support fee in addition to tuition and standard University fees. WVU currently lists this fee at \$25 per online credit hour, capped at \$75 per course. Because tuition and fees are reviewed regularly, check WVU's current schedule when calculating your total cost of attendance.

Technology and Online Learning**What technology or equipment do I need for online coursework?**

A reliable computer, a webcam and microphone, and dependable high-speed internet. Because our classes include live participation, you'll need technology that lets you join class reliably, participate in discussions, view course materials, and complete assignments. Please review [WVU Online's Technical and Readiness Requirements](#) and assess your current technology set-up.

What platform do you use for coursework and live sessions?

Course materials come through WVU's university-supported online learning system, and live class meetings happen through WVU's Zoom environment.

Will I have access to support services as an online student, such as advising, library resources, or tutoring?

Yes. Being an online student doesn't mean being on your own. You'll have access to WVU resources including advising, library services, tutoring and academic support, and technology assistance, along with services specifically for online students through [WVU's Online Learning Student Support](#) program.

Timelines and Cohorts**When do new cohorts start, and how often?**

The online MS-SLP program typically starts a new cohort each summer.

How long does it take to hear back after I apply?

Timing varies from year to year, and because we may consider rolling applications, we don't want you to rely on a fixed number of days between applying and hearing back. If you've already applied and have questions about where things stand, reach out. We're glad to help you understand where you are in the process.

Can I defer my admission to a later cohort?

Yes, an admitted student can defer for one year. Talk with us as soon as possible if you think you may need to defer, so we can help with the process.

After Graduation

What kinds of jobs do graduates typically pursue?

The MS-SLP degree prepares you to work as a speech-language pathologist across a wide range of settings and populations, including public and private schools, hospitals and healthcare systems, rehabilitation settings, outpatient clinics, skilled nursing facilities, early intervention, private practice, and other community-based settings.

One of the things we value about this profession is its flexibility. You'll be prepared across the scope of practice rather than trained exclusively for one setting.

Does the program help with job placement after graduation?

What we offer is faculty mentorship, clinical supervisors, professional contacts, and a growing network of colleagues throughout the program, and we're always glad to support you as you think through the move from graduate school into your first professional position. We don't currently offer a formal, coordinated job-placement service.

Can I complete this program if I want to work in a school setting rather than a medical setting?

Absolutely, and many of our students are especially interested in school-based practice.

The program prepares you across the full scope of speech-language pathology, so you'll still learn about communication and swallowing disorders across populations and settings. That breadth matters for your professional preparation and certification, but there's no expectation that you pursue a medical career after graduation. School-based speech-language pathology is an excellent career path and an important part of our profession.

Have More Questions?

Can I schedule a Zoom to speak with someone more about the program?

Of course. Sometimes it's easier to talk through your questions than to track down every answer on a website.

Prospective students are welcome to reach out to Kim Klaus, Director of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment, or Marleah Herman-Umpleby, MS, CCC-SLP, with the Online MS-SLP program. We're happy to answer questions about admissions, program structure, clinical placements, or whether the program might be a good fit for you.