Speech and Hearing Science (Auditory and Language Neuroscience), PhD

NHSHSALPHD

Language is a complex and uniquely human brain function. With training in innovative research methods like neuroimaging and electrophysiology and with personalized mentorship and hands-on experience in research, teaching and service, you can become poised to make discoveries regarding how the brain processes language and sound.

**Program Description**

**Degree Awarded: PHD Speech and Hearing Science (Auditory and Language Neuroscience)**
The auditory and language neuroscience concentration within the PhD program in speech and hearing science trains scholars in basic and applied research in the fields of auditory and language neuroscience. Students develop a strong foundation from which to conduct impactful neuroscience research related to healthy auditory and language abilities as well as the neural bases of communication disorders.

This program's expert faculty are in a unique position to provide this integrated training experience because of the program's focus on innovative approaches to the field of speech, language and hearing science. Faculty backgrounds include engineering, neuroscience and psychology in addition to expertise in speech-language pathology and auditory neural prosthetics.

**At a Glance**

- **College/School:** [College of Health Solutions](#)
- **Location:** Tempe

**Degree Requirements**
84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (2 credit hours)**
SHS 701 Scientific Writing and Presentation in Communication Sciences and Disorders I (1)
SHS 702 Scientific Writing and Presentation in Communication Sciences and Disorders II (1)

**Concentration (12 credit hours)**

**Research (21 credit hours)**
SHS 792 Research (12)
research methods and statistics (9)

**Electives or Additional Research (28 credit hours)**

**Other Requirements (9 credit hours)**
professional seminars (9)
preliminary exam (0)
comprehensive exams (0)

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**
SHS 799 Dissertation (12)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Students entering the doctoral program with a master's degree in a related discipline may count up to 28 credit hours from the master's degree toward the total credit hours, with program approval.

Concentration courses focus on issues related to auditory and language neuroscience and is selected in collaboration with faculty. Students must fulfill teaching, grant writing, and career development competencies through the professional seminars.

The preliminary exam research project must be within the field of auditory or language neuroscience. This formal research experience during the first three semesters of the program provides students with a jumpstart into research, preparing the student for their subsequent dissertation research.

Prior to commencing dissertation research, the student must pass written and oral comprehensive examinations covering their field of study.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Health Solutions.
Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's degree in a related field and do not wish to earn a clinical master's degree, or if they have earned a master's degree or equivalent in speech and hearing science, psychology, linguistics, or a related discipline from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate study
3. application cover letter and personal statement
4. three letters of recommendation
5. resume or curriculum vitae
6. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency.

Professional letters of recommendation should be from three individuals who can speak to one or more of the following: academic performance, clinical performance, or potential to succeed in a research-intensive doctoral program. The letter writers are typically faculty and clinical and research supervisors. If the applicant has spent some time away from research or academia, it is still the recommendation to have some letters from those experiences, in addition to a more recent clinical or research supervisor.

In addition to uploading a letter of recommendation, letter writers are asked to rate the applicant on the following:

- academic performance
- analytical skills
- creativity and originality
- emotional maturity
- honesty and integrity
- intellectual potential
- mathematical and statistical skills
- motivation to complete a doctorate
- oral communication skills
- promise as a researcher in the discipline
- working with others
- written communication skills

Letter writers also are asked to respond to the following short answer questions or prompts:
• What is the context in which you have known the applicant?
• Describe instances where you have seen this person go above and beyond.
• Do you have any reservations about this applicant? If yes, what are they?
• Describe an instance where you have seen the applicant demonstrate technical, analytical or problem-solving skills.
• Would you admit this applicant to our PhD program? Why or why not?
• Please provide any additional comments regarding the applicant’s potential.

The personal statement, typically one or two double-spaced pages, should address the student's motivation to pursue the PhD with a specific faculty mentor in the program and include evidence of potential to succeed in a research-intensive doctoral program and goals for the future. Examples of evidence of potential to succeed include technical skills, clinical experiences, and research achievements and interests.

**Tuition Information**

When it comes to paying for college, everyone’s situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

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**Program Learning Outcomes**

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

• Students completing the Doctor of Philosophy in speech and hearing science with a concentration in auditory and language neuroscience will be able to develop curriculum and instruct in key knowledge areas within the fields of auditory and language neuroscience.
• Students completing the Doctor of Philosophy in speech and hearing science with a concentration in auditory and language neuroscience will engage with scholars in academic and professional settings.
• Students completing the Doctor of Philosophy in speech and hearing science with a concentration in auditory and language neuroscience will master the key concepts related to research in the field at an advanced level.

**Career Opportunities**

Doctoral-level scientists in the field of speech and hearing science are well situated to pursue positions in which they can lead independent research programs, such as a university professor or research scientist in the private or public sectors. There is a particular need for doctorate prepared individuals with speech-language pathology or audiology backgrounds in tenure-track academic positions.
Career examples include:

- lecturer
- professor
- program officer in a nonprofit or government agency
- research analyst
- research scientist

Contact Information

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Admission Deadlines