

MSLP Program Course Descriptions

This section includes a current description of all the courses offered at the MSLP Program. Revised descriptions as they apply will be available through courses syllabus.

MSLP 501	Anatomy and physiology for speech language pathologists	3 crds
The complexity of the anatomy and physiology used in the production and perception of speech, language, and hearing, as well as the anatomy and physiology of swallowing, is discussed and analyzed. This knowledge will serve as a framework for understanding the pathophysiology of these structures and provides a basis for knowing how and where to intervene when attempting to treat or compensate for atypical processes in speech, language, hearing, and swallowing production. This understanding is framed in the context of responsibility, professionalism, empathy for the people cared for, and cultural competence.		
MSLP 502	Normal Development in Speech and Language	3 crds
This course provides an in-depth exploration of typical speech and language development across the lifespan. It examines the biological, cognitive, and social foundations of communication, integrating current research on language acquisition and speech development. Students will analyze developmental milestones in both monolingual and bilingual children. Special emphasis is placed on cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as bilingualism.		
MSLP 503	Acoustics and Speech Science	3 crds
This course provides an understanding of fundamental acoustic principles and their application in the evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorders. Topics such as the nature and description of sound, simple harmonic motion, pressure waves, decibels, frequency, source-filter theory, spectral analysis, signal digitization, and resonance in speech production will be explored. Additionally, the perception of sound will be covered, and acoustic variations in bilingual and diverse populations will be considered. Through an evidence-based approach, students will learn to apply these concepts in the clinical diagnosis and treatment of patients with speech and hearing disorders.		
MSLP 504	Neuroscience and Neurogenic Disorders	3 crds
This course provides an exploration of the neuroscientific foundations relevant to speech-language pathology, focusing on the anatomy and physiology of the brain and nervous system. Topics include the brain's organization, motor and sensory pathways, cranial nerves, and their role in speech, language, and communication. Students will examine the neural mechanisms underlying language, learning, and memory processes. The course also covers diagnostic techniques used in neurology and the assessment of neurogenic disorders. Special attention is given to the effects of neurological conditions and brain injuries on communication, including aphasia, dysarthria, apraxia, aphonia, and other disorders for bilingual and multilingual populations. The course will emphasize evidence-based practices for evaluating and treating neurogenic communication disorders, as well as the development of patient and family education strategies.		

MSLP 506	Motor Speech Disorders in Children	2 crds
This course provides an in-depth exploration of neuromotor disorders affecting communication in pediatric populations, with a special emphasis on childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) and pediatric dysarthria. It covers underlying mechanisms, clinical manifestations, assessment approaches, and evidence-based treatment strategies. Additionally, the course integrates a multicultural and linguistic perspective to adapt interventions for Hispanic communities, particularly in the United States and Puerto Rico.		
MSLP 507	Speech-Language and Cognitive Disorders in Adults	3 crds
This course discusses the study of the theoretical bases of acquired language disorders in the adult population. Diagnostic tools and treatment approaches based on theories of the nature of aphasia, apraxia, dysarthria and other adult language and cognitive disorders are discussed. Current trends in language and cognitive treatment in response to changes in the healthcare environment are analyzed. Areas to be covered are acquired communication problems, traumatic brain injury, apraxia of speech, dysarthria and types of dementias among other language disorders. Adaptation of the environment, particularly home is studied.		
MSLP 508	Voice and Voice Disorders	3 crds
This course focuses on the study of the speech mechanism and its role in voice production. It examines the analysis of voice and the causes of voice issues in both children and adults, including conditions like vocal hyperfunction and hypofunction, psychogenic voice disorders, neurogenic conditions, laryngeal cancer, and issues faced by professionals who rely on their voice for work. The course also covers diagnostic methods, clinical interventions, and strategies for preventing and treating voice disorders in a variety of populations, including bilingual and diverse populations.		
MSLP 509*	Fluency and Fluency Disorders	3 crds
Study of the normal and disordered speech fluency based on a critical review of the research and suggested theoretical models such as speech motor processing, integrative theory, psycholinguistic theory, psychological factors and brain functioning. Mayor theories such as those of Shames, Sheehan, Van Riper and Bloodstein, among others, are analyzed. Prevalence and incidence of stuttering including male-female ratio, genetic factors and environmental factors are presented. Current evaluation and management procedures and their underlying rationale are emphasized. Counseling and stuttering evaluation and therapy strategies (stuttering modification and fluency shaping therapy) are analyzed and discussed.		
MSLP 510	Language disorders in children	3 crds
This course discusses the analytical study of the evaluation and intervention of children with language disorders. The nature of language disorders is presented and the factors that can affect the development of communication; such as cognitive deficiencies, autism spectrum disorder, learning difficulties, information processing difficulties, hearing loss or brain trauma. The processes of first language acquisition, bilingual and multilingual acquisition are contrasted as well as multicultural considerations in language acquisition, assessment and diagnosis and intervention of language disorders. Evaluation and intervention methods related to different disorders are studied. The description of the practices relevant to the development of goals, planning of intervention activities and training of managers are discussed.		

MSLP 511	Assessment and Treatment in Phonological Disorders	3 crds
<p>This course addresses the study and analysis of phonology with a focus on monolingual and bilingual Spanish-English speakers. Topics include phonological analysis, the evaluation of distinctive features, and multidimensional analysis, integrating considerations of the interactions between the phonological systems of Spanish and English. Evaluative processes and treatment approaches based on linguistic theories, adapted to the needs of bilingual populations, will be discussed. Additionally, the course will explore topics related to phonological awareness, reading, and writing in both monolingual and bilingual children, considering how phonological patterns in both languages impact the development of these skills.</p>		
MSLP 520	Audiology for Speech Language Pathologists	3 crds
<p>The study of standard and specialized audiometric procedures such as behavioral tests, otoacoustic emissions, audiological responses of the brain stem and impedance tests are analyzed. The anatomy and physiology of the auditory mechanism and the physical characteristics of the sound are described. The interpretation of audiograms and their clinical diagnostic relationship are described, discussed, and evaluated. The strategies for planning intervention, provision of services and recommendations are presented considering cultural variables, integrity, empathy, responsibility, and professionalism. The course is aimed at audiology issues that relate to the practice of speech-language pathology according to the evidence-based practice and critical thinking through clinical cases, test analysis and practice exercises.</p>		
MSLP 541*	Ethics and Professional Issues in SLP	2 crds
<p>This course discusses the study of legal, administrative and professional issues of practice in different scenarios or settings. Includes current scope of practice according to the Puerto Rico Law 77 from 1983, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), ASHA certification standards, professional law, licensure, ethics, responsibilities, and local licensure guidelines. Policy and practice for service delivery in the context of health care, schools, hospitals, private practice, and other work settings are analyzed. Measures to provide quality health services are described. Scope of practice and professional legislation is described in accordance with the Organización Puertorriqueña de Patología del Habla-Lenguaje y Audiología (OPPHLA).</p>		
MSLP 542*	Multilingual and Multicultural Issues	2 crds
<p>This course explores the impact of cultural and linguistic diversity on the practice of speech-language pathology in the United States and Puerto Rico. It includes the study of bilingualism, second language acquisition, and its relationship with normal language development. The course also addresses the barriers that cultural and linguistic minorities face in accessing appropriate clinical and healthcare services, integrating legal, ethical, and social perspectives. It examines contemporary intercultural dynamics, including those related to migrants from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, as well as African American and Native American groups. Emphasis is placed on assessment, intervention, and educational programming for linguistically diverse learners, incorporating technological tools and culturally sensitive approaches.</p>		

MSLP 550	Clinical Assessment Skills	3 crds
Analytical study of the principles of assessment, observation, interviewing, effective interpersonal communication, and self-evaluation. Theories in language assessment are discussed. Students will select and administer appropriate speech and language test. The diagnostic report format and writing process is described. Clinically related academic activities and practical experiences are provided. Introduction to interdisciplinary evaluation. Assessment in each area is studied according to the guiding principles and the fundamental components of Preferred Practice Patterns for the profession of speech-language pathology document from the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association. Expected outcomes, clinical/educational indications, clinical process, setting/equipment specifications, safety and health precautions and documentation are discussed according to ASHA guidelines.		
MSLP 570*	Augmentative Alternative Communication	2 crds
This course is designed so that participants can learn the alternatives offered by assistive technology and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) in developing communication skills in populations with severe communication disorders. Symbol systems and vocabulary selection strategies are described. The Augmentative Alternative Communication Predictive Assessment Model is discussed and analyzed. Motor access and visual consideration strategies are studied. Use of AAC with individuals evidencing specific disabilities such as apraxia of speech, autism, multiple sclerosis and physical disabilities are demonstrated. Funding and legal issues in augmentative and alternative communication are discussed.		
MSLP 580	Aural Rehabilitation	3 crds
The principles of aural rehabilitation are discussed and analyzed including the theoretical framework, its applications, and components within the context of responsibility, professionalism, empathy, and cultural variables. The impact of hearing problems on speech and language development are analyzed from the framework of evidence-based practice and integrity. The theoretical and methodological aspects of aural rehabilitation are studied developing critical thinking. Manual and visual communication, auditory training, communication strategies, counseling and technological assistance teams for hearing are discussed and studied standing out the communication use of the profession.		
MSLP 594+	Simulation in SLP	2 crds
This course provides students with hands-on experience in a simulated clinical setting, designed to integrate theory with real-world practice. Students will engage in patient simulations, case studies, and collaborative exercises, focusing on evidence-based practice, cultural competence, and the management of diverse, multilingual populations. The course emphasizes clinical assessment, treatment planning, interprofessional collaboration, and ethical decision-making. Through guided simulations and reflective practice, students will develop their diagnostic, therapeutic, and professional communication skills.		

MSLP 596+**Clinical Intervention Internship****2 crds**

This course provides the opportunity to continue and expand practical experiences in the field of speech-language pathology. Through the internship, participants will work in supervised clinical settings, developing and applying evidence-based interventions to address the communicative needs of diverse populations.

The course emphasizes the integration of advanced clinical skills, critical case analysis, and the adaptation of therapeutic approaches to multicultural and bilingual contexts. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with interdisciplinary teams, implement personalized evaluation and intervention strategies, and demonstrate competencies in clinical documentation and professional communication.

This internship is designed to foster comprehensive professional development, consolidating the theoretical and practical foundations necessary for ethical and effective practice in speech-language pathology.

MSLP 601**Feeding and swallowing disorders in children and adults****3 crds**

This course explores the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of feeding and swallowing disorders across the lifespan. Students will learn about the anatomy and physiology of swallowing, common pathologies, and evidence-based intervention strategies. Emphasis will be placed on interdisciplinary collaboration, case studies, and clinical applications, including pediatric and adult populations. The course will also cover ethical considerations and cultural competency in the management of swallowing disorders. Students will gain practical experience through simulated clinical scenarios and clinical practicum opportunities.

MSLP 603***Craniofacial and Genetic Disorders****2 crds**

This course studies the anatomical, physiological and psychosocial aspects of genetic and craniofacial conditions. Basic anatomical information pertinent to craniofacial growth and development, as well as genetic and embryological information, is described. These conditions and their medical implications for infants, preschool children, school-aged children, adolescents, and adults are discussed, with emphasis on aspects of communication. Evaluation and intervention procedures in speech, language and hearing are studied in clients with genetic and craniofacial conditions. Interprofessional support in these cases is described.

MSLP 605***Research Methods in Speech-Language Pathology****2 crds**

The research paradigms will be discussed and analyzed: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed. The different approaches of conceptual frameworks, sampling, data collection, data analysis and dissemination will be presented. The student will be exposed to the effective search for literature review and professional writing style. Students will be introduced to all aspects and steps necessary to conduct research responsibly, in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable to research and human subjects in research, compliance and the requirements of the UAGM Institutional Review Board (IRB). They will present a research proposal according to a topic of interest and impact in the field of speech and language pathology.

MSLP 607*	Supervision in SLP	2 crds
<p>This course presents conceptual and empirical literature on supervision, including models, approaches, techniques, relationships, and situations within the process, as well as the ethical and legal considerations involved in supervision. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of integrating cultural, linguistic, and social diversity into all aspects of the supervisory process. The course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for the successful development of competencies in supervision, adopting an inclusive perspective that promotes equity and cultural sensitivity. Comprehensive models of clinical supervision are included, addressing the specific needs of multicultural populations, self-assessment with a focus on cultural competence, and the evaluation of supervisee development in diverse contexts. Additionally, intervention techniques in the supervisory relationship are addressed, fostering respect for individual differences and recognizing sociocultural factors that may influence the process.</p>		
MSLP 611+	Clinical Practice Experience I	3 crds
<p>Hands-on clinical experience. Students will accumulate the first 187.5 hours of the required 375 supervised clinical practicum hours at a variety of settings including Clínica de Servicios Interdisciplinarios Universidad Ana G Méndez in-house clinic, hospitals, schools, clinical private practice, among others. Observation, interviewing, basic assessment, clinical diagnosis, and intervention experiences are provided in children and adults</p>		
MSLP 612+	Clinical Practice Experience II	3 crds
<p>This course is a continuation of MSLP 600. This course requires interns to continue providing direct services to clients with communication disorders in various clinical settings. Students will accumulate 187.5 hours of the 375 hours of required supervised clinical practice in a variety of settings including: the Ana G. Méndez-Gurabo University Interdisciplinary Services Center. Emphasis is placed on the use of diagnostic and identification techniques in conjunction with evidence-based intervention strategies, therapeutic techniques, file management and report writing, as well as the interprofessional aspect. Orientation to parents, teachers and related service personnel is an integral part of this internship as well as multicultural and multilingual considerations of clients.</p>		
MSLP 686*	Evidence Based Practice Seminar	1 crd
<p>This seminar focuses on the integration, analysis, and application of all Master's level Speech-Language Pathology courses (MSLP code courses) with a strong emphasis on evidence-based clinical practice. The course highlights the application of current research and best practices in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of various speech-language pathologies through case studies. Special attention is given to the use of evidence-based interventions and the critical analysis of clinical scenarios to ensure the development of effective, culturally competent, and patient-centered therapeutic strategies.</p>		