

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANT

Faculty of Health and Community Studies
Department of Allied Health and Human Performance
MacEwan.ca/SLPA (<http://MacEwan.ca/SLPA>)

Speech Language Pathologist Assistant Major

The Speech Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA) major provides the theoretical knowledge, skill development and practical experience required to work as an SLPA. SLPAs primarily work with children and support the implementation of treatment for communication disorders. The SLPA major is delivered at City Centre Campus and online.

Career Potential

SLPAs work largely in early education settings and in schools. SLPAs may also work in regional and community health centres, hospitals and rehabilitation centres. People who succeed in this career enjoy working with children and are patient, flexible and creative team players. The ability to communicate in English with clear pronunciation is a requirement of employment in this field. The employment rate for graduates is currently 100 per cent.

Admission to the program is competitive and is subject to a quota.

Transferability

Internal Opportunities

MacEwan University is committed to providing bridging and laddering opportunities to its certificate and diploma graduates. Graduates of this diploma program may be granted up to 33 credits to the Bachelor of Child and Youth Care degree or 42 credits to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree programs. Students are advised to consult an advisor for specific admission requirements and required bridging course information.

External Opportunities

All courses completed for the Therapist Assistant, Speech Language Pathologist Assistant Major diploma are credit courses and may be transferable individually toward further study at other Alberta institutions. Students presenting a completed diploma in this program may be eligible for a block transfer to other Alberta institutions. For current, detailed information on individual course and diploma transferability, refer to the Learner Pathways System at www.transferalberta.ca (<http://www.transferalberta.ca>) or contact the receiving institution directly.

Categories of Admission

Applicants may be admitted to one of the following:

Regular Admission

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicants must have a minimum overall average of 65 percent, with no course grade lower than 50 percent, in the following high school courses:

1. ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2
2. Four subjects from Group A, B, C or D

Notes:

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to present a broad range of subjects across the humanities and sciences in order to benefit from the breadth of learning and to increase flexibility of future course choices.
- A maximum of two Group B subjects; they must be from different disciplines.
- A maximum of one Group D subject. Group D subjects used for admission must be one five-credit subject or any credit combination of at least five credits (e.g., two three-credit subjects).

Mature Admission

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicants must be 20 years of age or older and have been out of full-time high school at least one year by the beginning of the intake term. Applicants must have a minimum overall average of 65 percent, with no course grade lower than 50 percent, in the following high school courses:

1. ELA 30-1 or ELA 30-2
2. One subject from Group A, B, or C

Previous Post-Secondary Work

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Admission in this category does not imply or guarantee the transfer of any coursework and/or credential unless a block transfer agreement (internal or external) is in effect and published in the calendar by the Office of the University Registrar. In addition, transfer of coursework does not imply or guarantee that an applicant will be admitted.

Applicants must have successfully completed:

- A minimum of 18 post-secondary credits with a minimum Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Additional Admission Criteria

All applicants must meet the following:

1. English Language Proficiency

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicable to All Admission Categories

All applicants must meet an acceptable level of English language proficiency. We will require official documents such as high school or post-secondary transcripts or proof of successful completion of standardized language evaluation. Full details are available in MacEwan University's academic calendar or online at MacEwan.ca/ELP (<http://MacEwan.ca/ELP>).

2. Spoken English Proficiency

To be evaluated through the Office of the University Registrar

Applicable to All Admission Categories

Applicants who speak English as a second language – regardless of citizenship – are required to submit official documents such as high school, post-secondary transcripts or proof of successful completion of standardized language evaluation. Full details are available in MacEwan

University's academic calendar or online at MacEwan.ca/ELP (<http://MacEwan.ca/ELP>).

3. Other Admission Criteria

To be evaluated through the Program

Applicable to All Admission Categories

Applicants offered admission must present a clear Police Information Check (or equivalent from another policing agency) that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search. The Police Information Check must be submitted by the published document deadline and have been issued within three months of the start of the program intake term.

Program of Study

Course	Title	Credits
Year I		
Term I		
HLST 101	Interpersonal Skills Development ¹	3
LING 100	Introduction to Human Language	3
PSYC 104	Introductory Psychology I	3
THAS 101	Normal Development of Speech, Language and Literacy ¹	3
THAS 104	Role and Responsibilities of Paraprofessionals in an Educational Setting ¹	2
	Credits	14
Term II		
ECDV 155	Curriculum II: Learning Through Play	3
THAS 102	Communication Disorders ¹	4
THAS 115	Human Development ¹	4
	Three credits of university English (includes WRIT 101)	3
	Credits	14
Year II		
Term III		
TAST 102	Supporting Classroom Behaviour Management	3
THAS 201	Therapeutic Interventions I: Articulation and Phonology ¹	5
THAS 202	Therapeutic Interventions II: Introduction to Clinical Role and Skills ¹	3
THAS 203	Field Placement I ²	5
	Credits	16
Term IV		
THAS 213	Therapeutic Interventions III: Language ¹	5
THAS 214	Therapeutic Interventions IV: Special Populations ¹	4
THAS 215	Field Placement II ²	5
THAS 216	Sign Language ¹	2
	Credits	16
	Total Credits	60

¹ The minimum passing grade for this course is a C-.

² The minimum passing grade for this course is a CR.

The minimum passing grade for a course at MacEwan University is a D unless otherwise noted next to the appropriate course in the program of study.

Course Substitutions

Credit Earned in:	May Be Substituted for Credit in Program Course:
CORR 100	HLST 101
CYCW 101	HLST 101
ENGL 100	ENGL 111
ENGL 101	ENGL 111

ENGL 102	ENGL 111
ENGL 103	ENGL 111
ENGL 105	ENGL 111
ENGL 108	ENGL 111
ENGL 199	ENGL 111
INTD 105	HLST 101
MHST 103	THAS 115
NURS 101	HLST 101
OPCA 103	THAS 102
OPCA 205	THAS 115
PSSC 141	HLST 101
RPPR 103	HLST 101
SLPA 240	THAS 101
SLPA 241	THAS 202
SOWK 102	HLST 101
TAST 100	THAS 104

Program Regulations

Academic Residency - Exemption

A student in the Therapist Assistant-Speech Language Pathologist Assistant major must complete at least 40 per cent of courses through MacEwan University. Challenge examinations, transfer credit and other special assessments (for example, prior learning and recognition) are not included in the 40 per cent.

Regulations Governing Clinical Fieldwork Courses

Students must achieve satisfactory performance in all clinical fieldwork courses in accordance with the course/clinical criteria and outcomes. Clinical fieldwork hours may include days, evenings, nights and weekends. Students are to arrange their own transportation for required program activities and any costs incurred for meals, travel and accommodation are the student's responsibility. Students will require daily access to a vehicle for any clinical fieldwork experience not accessible through public transportation. Students cannot be in attendance at clinical agencies as a MacEwan University therapist assistant student except at times and locations authorized by the clinical fieldwork instructor for the course in which the student is currently enrolled. Students must comply with the Work Integrated Learning policy regarding clinical fieldwork practice and/or placement as well as other applicable policies and regulations of the university and the host agency. Students must have completed all prerequisite courses as well as all program and agency pre-clinical requirements prior to the start of any clinical fieldwork course. In accordance with the Work Integrated Learning policy, the university reserves the right, at any point during the clinical fieldwork placement, to remove a student from the clinical fieldwork placement for serious performance issues (i.e., engaging in behaviour that places the client and/or others at risk or that is contrary to the professional or safety requirements of the placement). In such cases the Chair, through consultation with the Dean, will assign a grade of F in the course. Although the decision may be appealed according with the Appeals policy, the student will not be permitted to remain in the clinical fieldwork placement during the appeal.

Police Information Check

Students must meet the specific police information check (PIC) requirement as set out in the admission criteria for the duration of the program or they may be required to withdraw from the program. Students are responsible for obtaining a PIC at intervals specified by clinical

agencies or the program and making these available, upon request, to their clinical agency representative. Students may also be required to obtain an intervention record check (child welfare check) for some clinical fieldwork placements. Students whose PIC status changes following admission must self-report this change in status; this may compromise the student's ability to complete the program requirements as they may be denied required clinical fieldwork placements and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.

Immunization

Students must be able to meet agency requirements for immunizations prior to the start of all clinical fieldwork placement courses. Current immunization against specified communicable diseases is required as a prerequisite for clinical fieldwork placements and thus for continued enrolment in the program. Students must meet the specific immunization requirements prior to the start of the third term. Documentation of these requirements must be provided to the program by the start of the third term. Failure to meet the specific immunization requirements may result in a student being denied an approved clinical fieldwork placement and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.

CPR – Basic Life Support for Health Care Provider (C) or Equivalent

Students must meet the specific CPR requirements prior to the start of the third term. The certification must be for Health Care Providers and include one and two person rescuers (adult, infant, child), bag-valve masks, and automated external defibrillation (AED). Certification must be current, with no grace period provided for clinical fieldwork courses. Documentation of these requirements must be provided to the program by the start of the third term. Failure to meet the specified CPR requirements may result in a student being denied an approved clinical fieldwork placement and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.

First Aid – Basic

Students must meet the specific First Aid requirements prior to the start of the third term. Documentation of these requirements must be provided to the program by the start of the third term. Failure to meet the specified First Aid requirements may result in a student being denied an approved clinical fieldwork placement and, therefore, be unable to meet graduation requirements.