SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANT DIPLOMA

Overview

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

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.

Therapist Assistant Program

The are two major programs of study in the two-year Therapist Assistant diploma:

- Speech Language Pathologist Assistant (http://MacEwan.ca/SLPA/)
- Physical Therapist Assistant and Occupational Therapist Assistant (http://MacEwan.ca/PTAOTA/)

Contact Information

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PROGRAM OFFICE

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Program Requirements

The following program requirements are needed to complete the credential. Refer to the Student Plan as this plan identifies the usual course schedule.

Code	Title	Credits
Year 1		
ECCS 155	Curriculum II: Languages of Play	3
INTD 105	Interpersonal Communication	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 102	Communication Disorders [1]	4
THAS 104	Role and Responsibilities of Paraprofessionals in an Educational Setting [1]	2
THAS 115	Human Development [1]	4
University-level English (includes WRIT 101)		3
Year 2		
TAST 102	Supporting Behaviour	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
THAS 215	Field Placement II [2]	5
THAS 233	Therapeutic Interventions III: Language [1]	4
THAS 234	Therapeutic Interventions IV: Clients with Concurrent Diagnoses [1]	4
THAS 237	Therapeutic Interventions V: Adult Populations [1]	3
Total Credits		**60**

1

The minimum grade required for this course is a C-.

2

The grade required 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:
HLST 101	INTD 105

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 attend clinical agencies as a MacEwan University therapist assistant student except at times and locations authorized by the clinical fieldwork placement 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 placement 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 NCR (or F) in the course. For further information, refer to the Work Integrated Learning policy.

In accordance with the Academic Standing policy, the performance of a Student in a clinical, field placement, ensemble setting, or equivalent learning activity may be reviewed at any time. If the student's performance is inadequate relative to the standards required in the student's program, the student may be placed on probation or required to withdraw from the program. For further information, refer to the Academic Standing policy.

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 for some clinical fieldwork placements. Any costs incurred are the responsibility of the student.

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. Any costs incurred are the responsibility of the student.

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 placement 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. Any costs incurred are the responsibility of the student.

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. Any costs incurred are the responsibility of the student.

Student Plan

Students must follow the Student Plan (listed below) to complete this credential in the year(s) indicated by the plan. Students must consult with a program Academic Advisor regarding any deviation from the Student Plan, as this may extend the time it takes to complete the program. The student plan may be subject to change.

Year 1

Term 1	Credits	Term 2	Credits
INTD 105	3	ECCS 155	3
LING 100	3	PSYC 104	3
THAS 101[1]	3	THAS 102[1]	4
THAS 104[1]	2	THAS 115[1]	4
University-level English (includes WRIT 101)	3		
	14		**14**

Year 2

Term 1	Credits	Term 2	Credits
TAST 102	3	THAS 215[2]	5
THAS 201[1]	5	THAS 233[1]	4
THAS 202[1]	3	THAS 234[1]	4
THAS 203[2]	5	THAS 237[1]	3
	16		**16**

Total Credits 60

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Admission Requirements

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:

1. 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.
2. A maximum of two Group B subjects; they must be from different disciplines.
3. 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.