Traditional On-campus Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program Information

**Clinical Training is Our Specialty!**

During the first year of the program, SLP graduate students are be assigned on- and/or off-campus clinical placements, supervised by university-based clinical faculty. Some off-campus clinical placements are supervised by community-based SLP supervisors. Students start clinical practicum in the first semester of the graduate program.

**Opportunities in the Audiology and Speech Center on Main Campus:**

- Acquired speech-language disorders, including cognitive and motor speech disorders
- Hearing impairment and deafness (auditory – verbal therapy)
- Complex communication disorders (augmentative-alternative communication evaluations and treatment)
- Developmental disabilities, to include autism spectrum disorders
- Childhood speech sound and developmental language impairments
- Fluency disorders
- Social/Pragmatic language impairments
- Voice disorders (neurological impairments) and differences (transgender clients)
- Diagnostic evaluations and screenings
- Accent reduction or modification

**Opportunities through our Clinical Collaborations:**

- Akron Children’s Hospital: ENT Center
- AAC Evaluations in various community settings
- Neurology and Neuroscience Associates of Akron, Inc. (Unity Health)
- Summit County ESC: KidsFirst Program for children with autism spectrum disorders
- Various public school districts

During the second year, clinical extern opportunities are available in a wide variety of local schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics. Community-based speech-language pathologists provide the supervision for these clinical experiences.
## Course and Clinic Sequence

### First Year: Fall Semester
- 7700: 628 Topics in Differential Diagnosis of SLP Disorders 2 Credits
- 7700: 631 Cognitive Communication Disorders 3 Credits
- 7700: 540 Augmentative Communication 3 Credits
- 7700: 623 Support Systems for Individuals and Families with Comm. Disorders 2 Credits
- 7700: 650 Advanced Clinical Practicum: Speech-Language Pathology 3 Credits

### First Year: Spring Semester
- 7700: 624 Neurogenic Speech and Language Disorders 3 Credits
- 7700: 626 Voice and Cleft Palate 3 Credits
- 7700: 620 Articulation/Phonology 2 Credits
- 7700: 632 Dysphagia 3 Credits
- 7700: 650 Advanced Clinical Practicum: Speech-Language Pathology 3 Credits

### First Year: Summer Semester
- 7700: 633 Professional Issues 2 Credits
- 7700: 561 Organization and Administration: Public School SLH Programs 2 Credits
- 7700: 627 Stuttering: Theories and Therapies 2 Credits
- 7700: 590 Workshop-Literacy-based Approach 3-5 year-olds 2 Credits
- 7700: 650 Advanced Clinical Practicum: Speech-Language Pathology 3 Credits

### Second Year: Fall Semester
- 7700: 611 Research Methods in Communicative Disorders I (online) 3 Credits
- 7700: 630 Clinical Issues in Child Language (online) 4 Credits
- 7700: 695 Medical or School Externship: Speech-Language Pathology 6 Credits
- 7700: 696 Externship Seminar (online) 1 Credit

### Second Year: Spring Semester
- 7700: 585 Developmental Disabilities (online) 2 credits
- 7700: 639 Audiology for the SLP (online) 3 Credits
- 7700: 695 Medical or School Externship: Speech-Language Pathology 6 Credits
- 7700: 696 Externship Seminar (online) 1 Credit
Clinical Plan and Specializations

In order to meet ASHA’s clinical standards for certification, students in The University of Akron’s graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology will:

- Participate in a total of 400 clock hours of supervised practicum, of which at least 375 must be in direct client/patient contact and 25 in clinical observation. 325 clock hours must be at the graduate level.
- Participate in a range of clinical experiences in the areas of evaluation and intervention across clinical skills areas of articulation, fluency, voice, language (receptive and expressive), hearing, swallowing, cognitive aspects, social aspects, and communication modalities.
- Specializations are available, and enrolled students will gain focused direct and indirect experiences.
- Demonstrate that they have worked with clients across the lifespan and with diverse populations; perform clinic activities in the on-campus clinic and at off-campus sites.
- Participate in two clinical extern experiences; one setting will be a school-based externship experience, the other a medical, rehabilitation, specialty clinic, or specialty school setting.

Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) Concentration

In order to address the increasing need for SLPs with AAC expertise, Mrs. Katie Boarman and Dr. Charles Carlin developed the Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) Concentration. Through this concentration, graduates will receive a Master’s Degree in Speech-Language Pathology as well as a certificate of training in AAC. Certificates of training are offered to eligible graduate students who complete a sequence of focused and intensive coursework and clinical experiences all within the area of AAC. This program is run concurrently with the existing 5 semester graduate program, and funding is available through graduate assistantships, scholarships, and the AAC fellowship. Each year, up to four students are enrolled in the concentration program.

Hearing Impairment Training

Dr. K. Todd Houston provides advanced clinical training that focuses on serving individuals with hearing impairments. Students develop advanced knowledge and skills in the areas of cochlear implants, modern hearing aids, telepractice, and special therapeutic techniques (e.g., Auditory-Verbal Therapy).

Mindfulness ACT Social Cognition and Stuttering Lab

Dr. Scott Palasik is the director of the Mindfulness ACT Social Cognition and Stuttering Lab (MASS Lab). This lab focuses on the use of mindfulness practices along with a psychotherapy approach called Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) with people who stutter (PWS). In addition to examining what PWS think along with the social construct of mental language which can influence decisions, behaviors, and speech, the MASS Lab looks at conscious and unconscious attitudes (social cognition) toward stuttering. In conjunction with the University of Eastern Kentucky, Dr. Palasik is currently performing pedagogical research with respect to how graduate students perceive and learn fluency enhancing techniques.
Clinical Placements

The Speech-Language Pathology graduate program at the University of Akron offers a wide variety of practicum sites. These opportunities are designed to give students real-world clinical experiences across the lifespan, disorders, and severity levels. Students are immersed in on and off campus clinical placements from the onset of their graduate program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year Clinical Placements</th>
<th>Second Year School Externships</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* The University of Akron Audiology and Speech Center</td>
<td>Summit County</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Neurology and Neuroscience Associates of Akron</td>
<td>* Green Local</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Head Start of Summit and Stark Counties</td>
<td>* Hudson City</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Kids First Autism Center</td>
<td>* Nordonia Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>* KidsLink Neurobehavioral Center</td>
<td>* Stow-Munroe Falls City</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Akron area school districts: Hudson City, Tallmadge City, Revere Local, Lakewood City, Rocky River City, and Nordonia Hills</td>
<td>* Norton City</td>
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<td>* Barberton City</td>
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<td>* Revere Local</td>
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<td>* Tallmadge City</td>
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<td>* Akron Public</td>
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<td>* Coventry Local</td>
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<td>* Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<td>Wayne County</td>
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<td>Medin County</td>
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<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<td>Second Year Medical Externship</td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Cleveland Clinic Akron General Medical Center</td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital for Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Cleveland VA Medical Center</td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>* MetroHealth Hospital</td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Summa Health Systems Rehabilitation Hospital</td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Wooster Community Hospital</td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Aultman Woodlawn Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Various skilled nursing facilities in the greater Akron area</td>
<td>Summit Co. ESC</td>
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The College of Health Professions has a affiliation with the above listed clinical placements. Students cannot be guaranteed a placement at a specific facility; however, placement coordinators will take requests and make every effort to place students in desired facilities.
Augmentative-Alternative Communication Concentration Program

Each year, four students entering the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology at The University of Akron will be selected to participate in the Augmentative-Alternative Communication Concentration Program. This program, operated in collaboration with school districts, specialty schools for children with autism, and a children’s hospital, allows students to develop a specialization in augmentative-alternative communication (AAC).

While enrolled in the traditional five semester master’s program, students complete all requirements for licensure and certification as a speech-language pathologist (SLP) through the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (OBSSLPA), the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). In addition, upon completion of the AAC Concentration Program requirements, students earn a departmental certificate of specialization in AAC.

To apply, write a two-page letter stating why you are interested in this program. The application must be completed by March 1st at 5:00 p.m. EST and emailed to Katie Boarman at kboarman@uakron.edu. Often, more students are interested than can be accommodated, so qualified students will be interviewed by at least two faculty member before final selections are made.

Program Highlights:

- The University of Akron boasts a state-of-the-art Augmentative-Alternative Communication and Assistive Technology Center. The Center includes over $100,000 in up-to-date AAC technologies from a wide variety of vendors. Students develop enhanced clinical skills while receiving 1:1 and small group instruction from experienced faculty.

- During the graduate program, students complete learning modules devoted to advanced AAC concepts and technologies, participate in focused on and off-campus practica, and take part in a range of field-based experiences (e.g., poster presentations, case management, device procurement, AAC consultation, mentoring).

- Students have the opportunity to develop new clinical skills in direct (e.g., co-treatment) and indirect service delivery models (e.g., consultation, curricular adaptations, caregiver training, support groups).

- Interested students who are selected for the AAC Concentration Program may be eligible for some financial assistance.

- For more information, please contact Mrs. Katie Boarman at kboarman@uakron.edu

The use of AAC, with support from a trained speech-language pathologist (SLP), allows clients to develop language and literacy skills; communicate with family members, peers, teachers, and community members; and participate meaningfully in academic, vocational, independent living, and extra-curricular activities.
Each year, approximately six students entering the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology will be selected to participate in the Consortium. This program, operated in collaboration with the University of Toledo, allows students to develop a specialization in facilitating listening and spoken language in young children with hearing loss.

While enrolled in the master's program, students take four additional courses related to pediatric hearing loss, complete extra practica experiences, and participate in a variety of service learning projects and field-based experiences. Additionally, not only do the students specialize in working with young children with hearing loss and their families, but they also gain valuable experience delivering services through telepractice. While some families attend in-person therapy in the Audiology and Speech Center, others choose to receive these services through telepractice service delivery models.

Quick Points

- To apply to the Consortium, students should state in their letter of intent for graduate school that they are interested in this program. They can also contact Dr. K. Todd Houston directly to express their interest.

- For more information, please contact:

  K. Todd Houston, PhD, CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT
  Professor
  School of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology
  The University of Akron
  Office: (330) 972-6141    Email: Houston@uakron.edu
Mindfulness behaviors ACT and Social Cognition

Stuttering Lab (MASS)

The MASS lab’s first purpose is to perform research related to unconscious and conscious perceptions toward People Who Stutter (PWS) and People Who Don’t Stutter (PWDS) by utilizing Implicit Association Tests (IAT) and other self perception instruments. These tests (IATs) along with the theoretical foundations of Media Equation provide a base for exploring implicit and explicit social attitudes with the use of digital technology. By performing research with several colleagues across the country, we are able to develop some unique experiments to examine human social interactions while measuring indirect and direct perceptions about stuttering and the pedagogy of teaching stuttering treatment to graduate students.

Another line of research currently being examined are the behavioral and social cognitive impact of sound on eating. This line of research was developed with a student from the University of Southern Mississippi in collaboration with a colleague in Alabama.

Finally, this labs look to explore Mindfulness and ACT principles with people who stutter and other communication disorders in order develop science behind these treatment approaches with psychophysiological equipment.

Program Highlights

* Lab includes BioPac psychophysiology equipment to study skin conductance, respiration, EMGs, and heart rate

* Access to new Visipitch voice software programs and games to take acoustic measure of normal and disordered voices, and measures of people who stutter and don’t stutter.

* Students have performed research in the areas of fluency, effects of music on swallowing, Tourette’s, music and literacy, poverty and more.

* The chance to conduct and be apart and develop new research on Mindfulness and ACT as applied to not just people who stutter, but those with any communication disorder.

* Get the opportunity to present at local, state, national or international conferences.

* For more information, please contact Dr. Scott Palasik at: spalasik@uakron.edu

The use of Mindfulness and ACT with a trained professional can improve quality of life and help a client and family member live a valued base life.
The University of Akron – Audiology & Speech Center

The Polsky Building ~ Room 181, First Floor

225 South Main Street ~ Akron, OH 44325-3001

Directions (website):  http://www.uakron.edu/sslpa/directions.dot

Campus map: https://maps.uakron.edu/

The Polsky Building is located on the western edge of campus, in downtown Akron. The building comprises the block between High Street - Main Street and University Avenue - E. State Street.

Driving Directions:

I-77 South:  Take I-77 South to the Main/Broadway/Downtown Exit (exit 22A). Turn left on Broadway and follow for approximately 1.5 miles to the University of Akron West Parking Deck, which will be on your left.

- From Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport - Take I-71 South from Cleveland to I-80 (Ohio Turnpike) East to I-77 South – proceed as noted above.
- From the Northwest (Toledo, Bowling Green, Sandusky) - Follow I-80 (Ohio Turnpike) East to I-77 South – proceed as noted above.
- From the West (Barberton, Wadsworth) - taking I-76 - Take I-76/224 East to I-76 East/I-77 South – proceed as noted above.

I-77 North:  Take I-77 North to the Main/Broadway/Downtown Exit (exit 22A). Merge onto Broadway and follow for approximately 1.5 miles to the University of Akron West Parking Deck, which will be on your left.

- From the South (Akron-Canton Regional Airport, Canton, New Philadelphia) - taking I-77 - Take I-77 North to the Central Interchange, and follow I-77 North – proceed as noted above.
- From the East (Kent, Youngstown) - taking I-76 - Follow I-76 West through the Central Interchange, to I-76 West/I-77 North – proceed as noted above.
**SR-8 South:** Take Route 8 South and exit at Perkins, turn right. Follow Perkins to High Street, turn left. Continue on High Street to the University of Akron West Campus Parking Deck, which will be in your left, or the open parking lot, which will be on your right.

- **From the North (Cleveland – east suburbs)** - taking I-271 - Take I-271 South to SR-8 South – proceed as noted above.
- **From the Northeast (Erie, Buffalo)** - taking I-90 - Take I-90 West to I-271 South (you will pick up I-271 near Cleveland). Take I-271 South to SR-8 South – proceed as noted above.

**Parking:**

A parking pass is attached to this email, and **must be displayed on your dashboard**. The pass entitles you to park in any “Commuter” spaces, in University parking lots or decks. The closest parking options to the Polsky Building are the West Campus parking deck or the surface lot on High Street (Lot #66), across from the parking deck. You may park in any space in the lot/deck except:

- Visitor/metered parking spaces (this includes on-street metered parking ... unless you choose to pay at the meter, $1.00 per hour, quarters only)
- The 4 designated “Audiology and Speech Center” parking spaces on the High Street level of the deck – these are for our clinic patients only
- Designated handicapped parking spaces, unless you display a placard

The above link for campus maps includes parking locations.

**Building Entrance:**

Entrance to the Polsky building is ONLY through the High Street doors (accessed from the street), or by the walkway from the West Campus parking deck. The High Street entrance will bring you in the building on the 3rd floor, near the Starbucks and bookstore. The parking deck walkway will enter on the 4th floor of the Polsky building. Elevators are located in the center of the building – follow the signs. Take the elevators down to the 1st floor. The Audiology and Speech Center will be to your left as you exit the elevators.
**Hilton Garden Inn Akron** (East) - about 2 miles from The University of Akron

1307 East Market Street  
Akron, Ohio, 44305  
Phone: 330-733-2900  FAX: 1-330-733-2901

**Country Inn & Suites** - about 5 miles from The University of Akron

1420 Main Street  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221  
Phone: 330-926-1233/800-830-5222

**Sheraton Suites Cuyahoga Falls** - about 5 miles from The University of Akron

1989 Front Street  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221-3811  
Phone: 330-929-3000

**Radisson Akron-Fairlawn**

200 Montrose West Avenue, Akron, OH 44321  
Room Rates: Deluxe King or Double Bed Rooms

More hotels can be found here: [http://www.uakron.edu/law/career-services/lodging.dot](http://www.uakron.edu/law/career-services/lodging.dot)
Speech & Language Pathology
Graduate Program Interview Day
For Fall 2018

Permit Valid: February 16th, 2018
8 AM - 5:00 PM

Valid in Commuter and
All-Permit Lots

Permit Code: 184181JW02

Permit is NOT valid in fire lanes,
reserved spaces, visitor lots, resident
lots, or disability spaces unless
accompanied by a valid State of Ohio
disability placard. This permit is
intended for departmental visitors only.