

Speech Language Pathology Assistant Program

Murray State College

Application Information

Thank you for your interest in the Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Program at Murray State College (MSC). This document is designed to help prospective students understand the admission process for the MSC SLPA Program.

The MSC SLPA Program is a distance learning program that provides extensive flexibility through asynchronous online coursework while maintaining structure through weekly pacing. The program also includes 4-5 in person days the students are required to attend.

Students do not need to apply to the SLPA program to begin taking general education or prerequisite courses.

Program-Specific Admission Requirements

Reading Proficiency: Obtain an ACT Reading score of 20 or higher. Students with a Reading score below 20 must take the Next Gen Reading Accuplacer and achieve a minimum score of 250 (college-level reading). Testing is available at the MSC Testing Center.

Academic Performance: Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 on all completed college coursework and earn a grade of “C” or higher in all prerequisite biological and behavioral science courses. These courses must have been completed within 10 years of the anticipated graduation date from the SLPA Program.

Essential Functions: Be able to meet the physical and mental requirements necessary for the role of an SLPA. A detailed list of these requirements is provided (see “Essential Functions”). Applicants must confirm that they meet these standards prior to admission.

Prerequisite Completion: Complete Foundations of SLPA and obtain 25 observation hours.

Program Contact: Make contact with the SLPA Department—email communication is preferred.

Observation Hours: Complete a minimum of 25 hours of observation under a licensed Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) in a facility that provides Speech therapy services. Observation must be documented on the Clinical Observation Form and signed by the SLP who was observed.

Application Submission: Submit the online SLPA Application Packet on or before November 15th.

Committee Review: All application materials and interview information will be reviewed by the SLPA Advisory and Selection Committee.

Selection Process

The specialized portion of the SLPA Program begins once students enter SLPA-specific coursework.

Applicants are reviewed shortly after the application deadline by the Allied Health Programs Selection Committee, and selected students are invited to attend Program Orientation.

Selections are made using a point system developed by the Health Science Department to ensure an objective and equitable process. The committee, composed of MSC faculty and SLPA Advisory Committee members, evaluates applicants based on the following major components:

1. Reading Proficiency: ACT Reading score of 20 or higher, or Next Gen Reading Accuplacer score of 250 or higher.
2. Academic Record: Grades in prerequisite coursework and overall GPA.
3. Clinical Observation: Submission of a completed Clinical Observation Form.

To promote fairness and reduce bias, all applicant identifying information is blinded prior to review by the Advisory and Selection Committee. This ensures that each application is evaluated solely on academic merit, prerequisite completion, and observation performance, maintaining equality in the selection process.

A minimum of 25 observation hours is required to apply. These hours are intended to help applicants gain a realistic understanding of the speech-language therapy profession.

Observation experiences can be completed with any licensed SLP willing to supervise. Students should contact hospitals, outpatient clinics, or private practices to arrange observation opportunities. Scheduling should be mutually convenient.

Applicants should present themselves professionally—dressing appropriately and engaging respectfully—as they would for a job interview. They are encouraged to ask thoughtful questions to learn more about the field.

Each observation setting must be documented on a separate Clinical Observation Form.

For further information or questions, please contact the program office:

Sharon Young

Health Science Secretary

Email: syoung@mscok.edu

Phone: (580) 387-7440