

## ***Proposal for the New Dual Degree program in Psychology and Speech-Language Pathology***

### ***Introduction***

The Department of Psychology (College of Arts and Sciences) and the Department of Speech-Language Pathology (School of Health and Medical Sciences) are proposing a 4+2 dual degree program in Psychology and Speech-Language Pathology (BA or BS in Psychology and MS in Speech-Language Pathology). Students enrolled in this program will complete an undergraduate degree with a Major in Psychology [Bachelor of Science (120 credits overall, 44 PSYC credits) or Bachelor of Arts (120 credits overall, 43 PSYC credits)] and a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (65 credits). This program will mirror the existing dual degree program with the Department of Educational Studies (College of Education and Human Services) in terms of format (4 undergraduate years + 2 graduate years) and admission requirements (outlined below).

### ***Rationale***

The profession of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) has been extensively influenced by advances in the domains of medicine, psychology, and education. Models of assessment and intervention in the domain of speech language and communication disorders are based on our understanding of human behavior from theories in psychology. Likewise, the rigor and intricacies of experimental psychology continue to influence the well-formed evidence-based clinical and research protocols in the field of Speech-Language Pathology. Therefore, a dual degree program with an undergraduate major in Psychology will complement the graduate work in Speech-Language Pathology.

Specifically:

- Students of psychology are well versed in the study of typical and atypical human development thereby providing an excellent foundation for the study of normal and disordered speech and language development
- The provision of services for individuals with communication disorders and their families is a psychosocial process. Students of psychology have a strong foundation in recognizing the psychosocial influence of disability on behavior
- Students in psychology have a strong background in research methods and statistics that provides the foundation for applying the principles of evidence-based practice in clinical service delivery during graduate school training and beyond
- Over the past five years, the MS-SLP program at Seton Hall has attracted students from the general applicant pool with different majors at the undergraduate level. One of the most common undergraduate majors other than SLP is Psychology. A total of 12

students have entered the MS-SLP program over the last five years with a major in Psychology (i.e., about 2 to 4 students from a cohort of 25 students). A similar number have a minor in psychology. Therefore, there is some inherent interest within the undergraduate student pool that sees the synergy between the undergraduate major in Psychology and an MS-SLP program.

### **Program Objectives**

This six-year (4+2) dual degree program offers students an opportunity to complete an undergraduate degree leading to a BA or BS degree in Psychology and an MS degree in Speech-Language Pathology. At the end of the program, students will have met the following objectives:

1. The ability to screen and/or evaluate, diagnose, plan and provide intervention for individuals with communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan using an evidence-based practice framework.
2. An understanding of and adherence to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) code of ethics, which are the standards of practice endorsed by the profession and all applicable state and federal laws.
3. An understanding of different organizational frameworks and clinical delivery models across educational and healthcare settings.
4. The skills to contribute to the profession and one's community by engaging in lifelong learning, advocating for clients and educating the general public about communication and swallowing disorders. Seton Hall University embraces the principle that effective and meaningful assessment is an integral part of the educational process. This principle is at the heart of our commitment to meet our responsibilities to our students, professions, and the communities that we serve.

### **Program Evaluation**

This dual degree program will be evaluated using similar metrics and processes in place to evaluate the outcomes of the current dual degree program with the College of Education and Human Services as well as the overall program assessment for the MS-SLP cohort.

In particular, the following data will be tracked for the students in the dual degree program. At the undergraduate level, a) undergraduate cumulative GPA, b) grades for the six undergraduate SLP courses, and c) per semester GPA will be tracked to ensure they meet the criteria for automatic admission to the graduate portion of the program (which are stated on page 5). At

the master's level, the following will be tracked for the students in the dual degree program: a) cumulative GPA at graduation, b) praxis score (completed right before graduation), c) employment status and place of employment, d) clinical evaluations at each of the practicums (3 in total), and e) clinical/academic remediations provided during the master's program. These data will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, compare student performance across cohorts, and identify possible areas for improvement. Further, these data points are in line with the ongoing assessments conducted within the Master's program.

### **Program Target Population**

Students enrolled in the Department of Psychology (BA/BS) will be the primary candidates for this program. However, current students enrolled at Seton Hall University or transfer students could be potential candidates for this program should they also major in Psychology.

### **Projected Enrollment**

The following are relevant factors related to enrollment into this dual degree program:

- The growth trends of the existing dual degree program with Department of Educational Studies (CEHS) can inform our projections. Until 2010, the enrollment into this program was in the 5 to 8 student region. Subsequently, the number has increased to its current level of 15 to 20 students each year.
- Historically, the Department of Speech-Language Pathology tracks between 2 to 3 Psychology majors each year who take the pre-requisite SLP courses and fulfill all requirements for the MS-SLP program.
- Based on the above mentioned factors, it is likely that the growth trend for this new dual degree track with Psychology will be similar and a projected enrollment of 3 to 5 students per academic year seems feasible for the next three years. It is important to note that some of these students are already at SHU as undergraduate Psychology majors planning to pursue the MS in SLP. We are only expecting an additional 3 to 5 Psychology majors per year to be enrolled in this dual degree program.

### **Curriculum**

- Required and elective courses at the undergraduate level:
  - Students in this dual degree program will complete all the required courses listed for the BA/BS degree in Psychology. This includes the University core, the Arts

and Sciences core, and the Psychology core (43 credits for BA and 44 credits for BS).

- Students will also be required to take 18 credits of undergraduate SLP courses. All of these courses are offered in an online format with some courses incorporating lab/skill related call-back days. The six courses include GMSL 5001, 5003, 5004, 5005, 5006, and 5007. It is advisable to take one course per semester in the following order:
  - Fall, Junior year - GMSL 5007 - Introduction to Communication Disorders
  - Spring, Junior year - GMSL 5006 - Hearing and Speech Science
  - Summer between Junior & Senior year - GMSL 5004 - Audiology
  - Summer between Junior & Senior year - GMSL 5001 - Phonetics
  - Fall, Senior year - GMSL 5005 - Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanism
  - Spring, Senior year - GMSL 5003 - Language Development
- The above listed six required courses in SLP will be considered general electives to meet the requirements to receive the undergraduate degree. They will not count towards the Psychology major requirements.
- The only modification to the Psychology degree requirements is that students in the dual degree program will be required to take PSYC 2315 Laboratory Research Experience or PSYC 3408 Internship in Psychology to fulfill their experiential learning requirement for the Psychology major. This eliminates the service learning option for students in the dual degree program. The rationale for this modification is that the intensive experience obtained through an internship or working with a faculty member on research is more beneficial for SLP students than the service learning option. Importantly, dual degree students may still complete a Psychology course with an explicit service learning component, but it will not meet the experiential learning requirement.
- There will be no other changes made to the Psychology requirements for dual degree students.

- Required courses at the graduate level: The MS-SLP program operates in a cohort model. It is 65 credits and all courses are required with the exception of a 3-credit research option (a student can take an independent research project option or a course based research methods sequence). This option is available to all students.

### **Admission to the Dual Degree Program**

- Starting in the sophomore year, students in the dual degree program must meet with their undergraduate advisor in Psychology and the undergraduate advisor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology each semester of their undergraduate career.
- Students who have transferred to Seton Hall University can also apply for this dual degree program provided that they have less than 67 credits. Further, the students are required to take all of the SLP prerequisite courses at Seton Hall University. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 to transfer into this program.
- Automatic admission to the graduate portion of the program will be granted provided students complete the undergraduate degree with a major in Psychology (BA or BS) with the following:
  - a grade of B or higher in each of the SLP courses. Students can repeat one of the six SLP courses if a grade of B or higher is not obtained during the first attempt.
  - Students are required to complete general education courses in the following categories to meet the requirements of the MS-SLP program: Statistics, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social/Behavioral Sciences. The suggested courses offered at Seton Hall that meet the requirements are MATH 2111 or PSYC 2311, BIOL 1105-06, CHEM or PHYS 1001, and PSYC 1101. Substitutions for these specific courses may be made in consultation with the student's GMSL advisor. A grade of C or higher is required in these courses.
  - Maintain a cumulative as well as per semester GPA of 3.2 (the semester GPA requirement does not apply for the Summer semester if the total credits enrolled for the Summer is less than 12 credits).
  - Complete 25 hours of observation in the SLP practice setting and submit the clinical observation hours verification form by the end of the Spring semester of Senior year.

- Submit a 1000 word Personal Goal Statement by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March of the senior year.
- The GRE, 3 letters of recommendation, and application fee are waived.
- Students must complete the Intent to Declare Progression to Graduate Study form by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March of the senior year.

### **Recommended Schedule: 4+2 program BA/BS in PSYC + MS in Speech-Language Pathology**

#### **Undergraduate Curriculum**

Students must enroll in at least 12 credits per semester to maintain full-time status. Course selection should be made in consultation with PSYC and GMSL advisors.

(The semester in which students take each course is not as important as the year; for example, students should take PSYC1201 at some point during their freshman year; whether that is during Fall or Spring is not critical.)

#### **Freshman year**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
PSYC1101 Introduction to Psychology	PSYC1201 Orientation to the Psychology Major
ENGL1201 College English I	ENGL1202 College English II
BA or BS appropriate MATH	College core
CORE1101 University Life	
CORE1101 Journey of Transformation	
College core	

#### **Sophomore year**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
BA majors: BIOL1105 Human Structure & Function I	BA majors: BIOL1106 Human Structure & Function II

BS majors: MATH/CS, BIOL, CHEM, or PHYS course for BS core	BS majors: MATH/CS, BIOL, CHEM, or PHYS course for BS core
BA majors: PSYC2311 Elementary Psychological Statistics  BS majors: MATH2111 Statistics for Science Majors <i>or</i> PSYC2311	CORE2101 Christianity & Culture in Dialogue
1000 or 2000 level PSYC courses	1000 or 2000 level PSYC courses
College core	College core

### Junior year

Fall	Spring
PSYC3311 Research Methods	CORE3xxx Engaging the World
2000 or 3000 level PSYC courses	2000 or 3000 level PSYC courses
GMSL5007 Introduction to Communication Disorders (counts as general elective)	GMSL5006 Hearing & Speech Science (counts as general elective)
College core	College core

Summer between junior & senior year:

GMSL5001 Phonetics (counts as general elective)

GMSL5004 Audiology (counts as general elective)

### Senior year

Fall	Spring
BA majors: PSYC5111 Seminar in Psychology  BS majors: PSYC5113 Advanced Seminar in Psychology	GMSL5003 Language Development (counts as general elective)

PSYC courses remaining to finish undergraduate degree	PSYC courses remaining to finish undergraduate degree
GMSL5005 Anatomy & Physiology of the Speech & Hearing Mechanism (counts as general elective)	College core (if needed)
College core (if needed)	

### MS-SLP program Curriculum Sequence

#### First Professional Year

##### Fall 1 Semester

GMSL 6007	Physiologic & Acoustic Phonetics	3
GMSL 6009	Diagnostic & Clinical Principles	2
GMSL 6010	Child Language Development & Disorders	4
GMSL 6141	Neuroscience	3
GMSL 7001	Audiology & Aural Rehab for the SLP	3
GMSL 7002	Research Methods I	3

*Semester Total = 18 Credits*

##### Spring 1 Semester

GMSL 6011	Speech Intelligibility & its Disorders in Children	3
GMSL 6012	School Age Language & Literacy	3
GMSL 6022	Biomedical Ethics/Prof. Issues SLP	2
GMSL 6518	Acquired Disorders of Language & Cognition	3
GMSL 6521	Dysphagia	3
*GMSL 7041	Clinical Practicum/Clinical Seminar I	3

*Semester Total = 17 Credits*

#### Second Professional Year

##### Summer Semester

GMSL 6522	Early Intervention	3
GMSL 6523	Fluency Disorders	3
GMSL 6524	Augmentative & Alternative Communication	3
GMSL 7010	Traumatic Brain Injury	3
**GMSL 7003	Research Methods II	3

OR



\*\*GMSL 7039 Research Project I 2  
*Semester Total = 14 or 15 Credits*

**Fall 2 Semester**

GMSL 6013	Adult Neuromotor Disorders of Communication	2
GMSL 6525	Voice Disorders	3
GMSL 7013	Craniofacial Disorders	3
GMSL 7102	Clinical Practicum/Clinical Seminar II	2

*Semester Total = 10 Credits*

**Spring 2 Semester**

**GMSL 7040	Research Project II (if taking 7039 in the Summer)	1
GMSL 7103	Clinical Externship	5

*Semester Total = 5 or 6 Credits*

**Program Total = 65 Credits**

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\* Practicum begins in January and ends in June

\*\* Students have the option of taking GMSL 7003 OR both GMSL 7039 and GMSL 7040 as a part of their research requirement