



Speech Pathology and Audiology 20 Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is Calvin's Speech Pathology and Audiology (SPAUD) program a faith-based program?

Yes, we uniquely combine a Christian perspective and academic excellence in all our courses and clinical experiences. We see Christian perspectives as interwoven discussions addressed throughout all of the courses you take at Calvin. We want you to think seriously about being redemptive servants of God, to contemplate what authentic compassion means, to learn ways of listening to and respecting others different from ourselves, to learn how to empower others with disabilities, and to begin to work on redemptive solutions for grief, poverty, injustice, and racism within your personal life and future work with persons with disabilities.

2. Is Calvin's SPAUD program accredited by ASHA?

Yes, the master's program in speech-language pathology at Calvin College is a Candidate for Accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700. Candidacy is a "pre-accreditation" status with the CAA, awarded to developing or emerging programs for a maximum period of five years.

3. How does the SPAUD BA-MA Five-Year Program work?

If you enroll in the program as a first-year student, you will complete three semesters of undergraduate pre-professional requirements and then apply to the BA-MA program by February 15, usually during your junior year. Transfer students may apply after completing designates prerequisite courses (<http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/academics/speech-pathology/Admissions/>). Also, see FAQ 12 for a sample curriculum for the five years. If you are accepted into the five-year program, you will earn both a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology and a master's degree in speech pathology. You must meet the academic requirements, as outlined in the *SPAUD Student Academic and Clinical Handbook*, to remain in the program. If you are not accepted into the five-year program, you may continue to be enrolled in the four-year program and apply to graduate programs at other institutions in your senior year, as long as you meet the retention requirements.

4. Can you choose to earn a bachelor's degree only in Calvin's SPAUD program?

Yes, the bachelor's degree is a four-year program in speech pathology and audiology designed for students who plan to complete their graduate work at other institutions. It includes additional cross-disciplinary undergraduate requirements in science and math. Students who choose this option may enroll only in undergraduate-level courses, not graduate-level courses (see FAQ 12 for a sample plan). You must meet the academic requirements, as described in FAQ 5 and outlined in the *SPAUD Student Academic and Clinical Handbook*, to remain in the program.

5. What are the academic requirements for remaining in the SPAUD program?

You must earn at least a 3.0 (B) grade point average every semester across all of your courses, You also must meet the essential functions required to practice as a speech-language pathologist, as outlined in the appendix of the *SPAUD Student Academic and Clinical Handbook*.

6. Can you apply to the graduate program only, if you have a bachelor's degree in speech pathology or its equivalent from another university?

Yes, we have accepted students previously but since preference is given to the undergraduate students enrolled in the five-year program, a limited number of seats will be available for post-baccalaureate students. We will open applications on November 1 for the following year, and all applications are due by February 15. All prospective students applying to Calvin's master's degree program only must apply through CSDCAS (www.csdcas.org).

7. Will admission into the graduate program only be competitive?

Yes, admission into the graduate program only will be very competitive. Preference will be given to the undergraduate students enrolled in the five-year program and not all students who meet the minimum criteria will be admitted into the graduate program. The minimum criteria are: graduation from a regionally accredited undergraduate college or university; a *minimum* overall grade point average (GPA) of at least a 3.0 and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in your major; three letters of recommendation that address your potential success in the graduate program; and a personal statement that addresses why you decided on a career in speech-language pathology, your eventual professional objectives which include your preferred job setting, and why Calvin, as a faith-based institution, is a good fit for your graduate education.

8. Can you apply to the program if you have a bachelor's degree in another area besides speech pathology?

Yes, post-baccalaureate students may apply and if accepted, take the undergraduate courses that required by most graduate programs in speech pathology. You may then decide to apply to Calvin's program or to graduate programs at other universities. You must also meet the same academic requirements as undergraduate students to remain in the program (see FAQ 5).

9. What undergraduate course work is required before entering the graduate program?

Successful completion of the following undergraduate courses or their equivalent is required:

- SPAUD 101: Introduction to Speech Pathology and Audiology
- SPAUD 210: Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism
- SPAUD 216: Phonetics
- SPAUD 217: Speech Science
- SPAUD 218: Hearing Science
- SPAUD 311: Child Language Development
- SPAUD 343: Neuroscience of Communication
- SPAUD 344: Evaluation Procedures in Audiology
- SPAUD 370: Introduction to Clinical Practicum
- Developmental Psychology: Lifespan
- Physical Science course, preferably a Physics or Chemistry course
- Biology course
- Statistics course

10. How do you apply to Calvin as an undergraduate student?

If you are a prospective first-year or transfer student without a previously earned bachelor's degree, you should first contact Calvin's Admissions office for more information (1-800-688-0122 or admissions@calvin.edu). Admission standards and an online application are available at <http://www.calvin.edu/admissions/apply/>. Transfer students who have never earned a bachelor's degree must complete at least two semesters of full time academic work at Calvin by the time they apply for admission to the graduate program; however, transfer students can expect to be full-time at the undergraduate level for at least four semesters before beginning the master's program. We highly recommend that prospective undergraduate students visit Calvin's campus before applying. You can make an appointment with the Admissions office (see <http://www.calvin.edu/admissions/visit/>).

11. How do you apply to Calvin as a post-baccalaureate student?

To apply, you must submit the following items online at **CSDCAS** (www.csdcas.org) by **February 15** to be considered for admission to the program for the fall of that year.

1. Official transcripts from every college and university attended; if currently attending college, most recently completed semester grades must be included
2. Three letters of recommendation that address your potential for success in the graduate program.
3. A personal statement with the online application form that address:
 - a. Why you decided on a career in speech-language pathology
 - b. Your future professional objectives
 - c. Why Calvin College, as a faith-based institution, is a good fit for your graduate education and your future profession.

If accepted, applicants will be directed to the Admissions Office for application to the college. Limited financial aid may be available. Email finaid@calvin.edu or phone (616) 526-6134 for more information.

12. What does the five-year BA-MA curriculum look like?

As shown on the table in Appendix A, you take undergraduate-level courses your first three years, and graduate-level courses your fourth and fifth years.

13. What does the four-year bachelor's-only program look like?

As shown on the table in Appendix B, you take undergraduate courses for four years, graduate with a BA in Speech Pathology and Audiology, and then apply to graduate programs at other universities in the fall of your senior year.

14. Will the program be clinical-, medical-, educational-, or research-based?

Yes to all four. We have on-campus clinics that serve persons of all ages and across different communicative disorders. For example, you will work with a person who has aphasia due to a stroke and a preschooler with a language delay during your first on-campus clinical practicum. In the fifth year, you will have at least one medical placement off-campus in an acute-care hospital, rehabilitation hospital, community hospital, or a skilled nursing facility. You also will participate in a second off-campus placement in a school setting during your fifth year. You will then be placed in a medical or educational setting for your third off-campus experience. In addition to the clinical experiences, you can be directly involved in faculty members' research projects, if you so desire. We provide all of these opportunities not only to help you fulfill ASHA

certification standards (<http://www.asha.org/certification/>), but also to offer an excellent education that prepares you well for working as a speech-language pathologist or for attending a doctoral program in the discipline.

15. Will students be expected to travel for clinical placements in their fifth year, and if so, how often and how far?

Yes, in your fifth year you will travel to off-campus medical and school placements. This will require access to a vehicle. We try to make placements within a 60-mile radius of Calvin's campus, and a majority of the placements are within a 20-mile radius.

16. How will you judge the transfer of graduate-level courses to your program?

Calvin will allow the transfer of up to six approved graduate credits into the SPAUD program. The SPAUD department chair along with the admission committee will evaluate any of your previous graduate work in the field and make recommendations to the Registrar's office.

17. What is tuition per year for an out-of-state resident?

Tuition rates are the same for Michigan and out-of-state residents. There will be an additional clinical fee per semester for the graduate program. For questions about financial aid, email finaid@calvin.edu.

18. Will students in your program complete a thesis, and if they do, will they still finish in the same amount of time?

We anticipate one or two students per graduate class will complete a thesis. We recommend that if you plan to enter a doctoral program upon graduation that you choose the thesis option. The thesis option requires a 1-credit registration over four semesters for a total of 4 semester hours. We do not expect that the thesis option will make it difficult for you to finish on time.

19. Is it possible for prospective students to arrange a tour of the SPAUD department?

Yes! If you will be an **undergraduate student** at Calvin, you can contact Admissions at admissions@calvin.edu to arrange for a personal campus visit. During your visit, you can meet with the faculty in the program and tour our facilities. You can also meet with a Financial Aid representative during your visit. If you are a **graduate applicant**, you can arrange a visit after you have been accepted into the program and before you decide to attend.

20. How do scholarships and financial aid work at Calvin?

For first-year and transfer undergraduate students, we highly recommend that you send an email to finaid@calvin.edu and make an appointment to discuss funding sources. Currently 92% of Calvin families receive some form of financial aid through scholarships, grants and loans. Over 75% of first-year students receive a renewable academic scholarship each year. Barron's Best Buys in College Education named Calvin among a select group of Best Buy private colleges in North America.

For graduate students accepted into the program, graduate assistantships are highly competitive. We recommend that you contact the department at (616) 526-6070 to receive the application. You can also make an appointment with Financial Aid by emailing finaid@calvin.edu or phoning (616) 526-6134.

Who do I contact if I have any other questions?

You may phone SPAUD Department Assistant at 616-526-6070. Your questions will be answered to the best of our abilities.

APPENDIX A: Speech Pathology BA-to-MA Program
(sample schedule with a foreign language core exemption)

First Year/Fall

Written Rhetoric Core
Physics Core
Biology Core (Human Biology)
Persons in Community Core
Fundamentals in Technology
Prelude Core

First-Year Interim

Developing Christian Mind Core

First Year/Spring

Literature Core
Communication and Culture
A & P Sp & Hearing Mechanism
Intro to SLP & Audiology
Health & Fitness Core

Second Year/Fall

Phonetics
Speech Science
History Core
Lifespan Psychology
Health & Fitness Core

Second-Year Interim

Elective (recommended abroad)

Second Year/Spring

Persons in Society Core
Philosophy Core
Math Core (Statistics)
Hearing Science
Health & Fitness Core

Third Year/Fall

Religion Core
Audiology
Intro to Clinical Practicum
Arts Core
Religion Core

Third Year/ Interim

Neuroscience of Communication

Third Year/Spring

English Grammar
Child Language
Aural Rehabilitation
Linguistics

Fourth Year/Fall

Aphasia
Diagnostics
Language Disorders 1
Clinical Practicum: On-Campus

Fourth Year/Spring

Research in SLP
Neurocognitive Disorders
Critical Reflections in SLP
Language Disorders II
Clinical Practicum: On-Campus

Fourth Year/Summer

Dysphagia
Fluency Disorders
Phonological Disorders
Clinical Practicum: On-Campus
Thesis (Optional)

Fifth Year/Fall

Motor Speech Disorders
Voice Disorders
Clinical Practicum: Off-Campus
Thesis (Optional)

Fifth-Year Interim

AAC

Fifth Year/Spring

Cleft and Craniofacial Disorders
SLP Seminar
Clinical Practicum: Off-Campus
Thesis (Optional)

Fifth Year/Summer

Clinical Practicum: Off-Campus
Thesis (Optional)

Note: You must apply to be accepted into the BA-MA Program, usually during your junior year, and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA every semester and meet the Essential Function requirements outlined in the Program and Clinical Handbook to remain in the program. Early admit students must earn at least a 3.3 in each of the prerequisite SPAUD courses, earn a 3.3 GPA every semester and meet the essential functions required to practice as a speech-language pathologist to maintain early admission to the graduate program.

**APPENDIX B: Speech Pathology Four-Year Program
(sample schedule without a foreign language core exemption)**

Year 1

Fall Semester

SPAUD 101: Intro to SLP & AUD	3
Foreign Language Core	4
BIO 115: Human Biology	4
ENGL 101: Written Rhetoric	3
Prelude	1
FIT	1

Interim Semester

Foreign Language Core	3
-----------------------	---

Spring Semester

SPAUD 210: A & P of Speech & Hearing	4
Foreign Language Core	4
Physics for the Health Sciences	4
IDIS 150: Developing the Christian Mind	3
PE	1

Year 2

Fall Semester

SPAUD 212: Speech Science	3
SPAUD 216: Phonetics (CCE)	4
HIST 151/152: History of the Western World	4
PSYC 151: Introduction to Psychology	3
PE	

Interim Semester

Elective	3
----------	---

Note: You must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA every semester, and meet the Essential Function requirements outlined in the Program and Clinical Handbook to remain in the program.

Spring Semester

SPAUD 311: Child Language Development	3
Literature Core course	3
Linguistics	3
SPAUD 218: Hearing Science	3

Year 3

Fall Semester

SPAUD 370: Intro to Clinical Practicum	3
SPAUD 344: Audiology	3
CHEM 115	4
Religion Core	3
PE	1

Interim Semester

SPAUD 343: Neuroscience of Communication	3
--	---

Spring Semester

SPAUD 345: Aural Rehab	3
Philosophy Core	3
Arts Core	3
Math 143: Statistics	4

Year 4

Fall Semester

CAS 399: Senior Seminar	3
PHYS 223: Physics for the Health Sciences	4
Theology Core	3
SPAUD 384: Speech Sound Disorders	3

Spring Semester

SPAUD 385: Language disorders	3
Societal Structures Core	3
PSYC 201: Lifespan Development	3
Elective	3

APPENDIX C: Speech Pathology MA-Only Program

Fourth Year/Fall

Aphasia
Diagnostics
Language Disorders 1
Clinical Practicum: On-Campus

Fourth Year/Spring

Research in SLP
Neurocognitive Disorders
Critical Reflections in SLP
Language Disorders II
Clinical Practicum: On-Campus

Fourth Year/Summer

Dysphagia
Fluency Disorders
Phonological Disorders
Clinical Practicum: On-Campus
Thesis (Optional)

Fifth Year/Fall

Motor Speech Disorders
Voice Disorders
Clinical Practicum: Off-Campus
Thesis (Optional)

Fifth-Year Interim

AAC

Fifth Year/Spring

Cleft and Craniofacial Disorders
SLP Seminar
Clinical Practicum: Off-Campus
Thesis (Optional)

Fifth Year/Summer

Clinical Practicum: Off-Campus