

## 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 Masters of Arts education program in speech-language pathology at Calvin University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

### 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 January 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 January 15. All prospective students applying to Calvin's master's degree program only must apply through CSDCAS ([www.csdcas.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.csdcas.org)) by **January 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:
  - Question 1: Describe your professional goals.
  - Question 2: Describe three strengths and three areas of growth as related to your place in a graduate program for speech-language pathology.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:finaid@calvin.edu) or phoning (616) 526-6134.

**Who do I contact if I have any other questions?**

You may email us at [spaud@calvin.edu](mailto:spaud@calvin.edu) or phone the SPAUD Department Assistant at 616-526-6070. Your questions will be answered to the best of our abilities.

## SAMPLE COURSE SEQUENCES

### SPEECH PATHOLOGY BA-MA PROGRAM

#### 5 year BA-MA sample course template

	Fall		Spring			
Year 1	SPAUD 101		SPAUD 210			
Year 2	SPAUD 216		SPAUD 217			
	SPAUD 218		SPAUD 311			
Year 3	SPAUD 343		SPAUD 345			
	SPAUD 344		SPAUD 381			
	SPAUD 370					
	Fall 1	Fall 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 4	SPAUD 505	SPAUD 503	SPAUD 504	SPAUD 508	SPAUD 510	SPAUD 514
		SPAUD 506	SPAUD 523	SPAUD 599	SPAUD 522	
	SPAUD 530pt1	SPAUD 530pt2	SPAUD 531pt1	SPAUD 531pt2	SPAUD 532pt1	SPAUD 532pt2
Year 5	SPAUD 520	SPAUD 521	SPAUD 515	SPAUD 524	SPAUD 512	
	SPAUD 540pt1	SPAUD 540pt2	SPAUD 541pt1	SPAUD 541pt2	SPAUD 542pt1	SPAUD 542pt2

Note: This sample sequence is only for illustrative purposes. Actual course sequences may change based on the student's needs or course availability.

### SPEECH PATHOLOGY BA PROGRAM

#### 4 year BA sample course template

	Fall	Spring
Year 1	SPAUD 101	SPAUD 210
Year 2	SPAUD 216	SPAUD 217
	SPAUD 218	
Year 3	SPAUD 343	SPAUD 311
	SPAUD 344	
Year 4	SPAUD 343	SPAUD 345
	SPAUD 370	SPAUD 381

Note: This sample sequence is only for illustrative purposes. Actual course sequences may change based on the student's needs or course availability.

# SPEECH PATHOLOGY MA PROGRAM

## 2 year MA in Speech-Language Pathology course sequence (GR Campus)

	Fall 1	Fall 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1	SPAUD 505	SPAUD 503	SPAUD 504	SPAUD 508	SPAUD 510	SPAUD 514
		SPAUD 506	SPAUD 523	SPAUD 599	SPAUD 522	
	SPAUD 530pt1	SPAUD 530pt2	SPAUD 531pt1	SPAUD 531pt2	SPAUD 532pt1	SPAUD 532pt2
Year 2	SPAUD 520	SPAUD 521	SPAUD 515	SPAUD 524	SPAUD 512	
	SPAUD 540pt1	SPAUD 540pt2	SPAUD 541pt1	SPAUD 541pt2	SPAUD 542pt1	SPAUD 542pt2

## 2 year MA in Speech-Language Pathology course sequence (Distance Mode)

	Fall 1	Fall 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1	SPAUD 505	SPAUD 503	SPAUD 504	SPAUD 508	SPAUD 510	SPAUD 514
		SPAUD 506	SPAUD 523	SPAUD 524	SPAUD 522	
	SPAUD 530pt1	SPAUD 530pt2	SPAUD 531pt1	SPAUD 531pt2	SPAUD 532pt1	SPAUD 532pt2
Year 2	SPAUD 520	SPAUD 521	SPAUD 515	SPAUD 599	SPAUD 512	
	SPAUD 540pt1	SPAUD 540pt2	SPAUD 541pt1	SPAUD 541pt2	SPAUD 542pt1	SPAUD 542pt2

## 3 year MA in Speech-Language Pathology course sequence (Distance Mode)

	Fall 1	Fall 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1	SPAUD 505	SPAUD 503	SPAUD 523	SPAUD 508	SPAUD 522	SPAUD 514
			SPAUD 531pt1	SPAUD 531pt2		
Year 2		SPAUD 506	SPAUD 504	SPAUD 524	SPAUD 510	
	SPAUD 530pt1	SPAUD 530pt2			SPAUD 532pt1	SPAUD 532pt2
Year 3	SPAUD 520	SPAUD 521	SPAUD 515	SPAUD 599	SPAUD 512	
	SPAUD 540pt1	SPAUD 540pt2	SPAUD 541pt1	SPAUD 541pt2	SPAUD 542pt1	SPAUD 542pt2

Note: These sample sequences are only for illustrative purposes. Actual course sequences may change based on the student's needs or course availability.

### Explanation of Clinical Course Sequence for Distance Mode

#### 2 Year Track (Distance Mode)

Clinic courses will be taken consecutively in the student's first year. Each clinic course spans a semester. The course numbers will represent the clinic courses for each semester (SPAUD 530-fall, 531-spring, 532-summer). These three courses can be taken out of order, depending on when the student's cohort begins. The clinic courses are designed to have students in either their first, second, or third clinical semester within the same course. The student must take each of the courses before beginning externships.

#### 3 Year Track (Distance Mode)



The first three clinic courses will be taken over the first two years of the student's program. Each clinic course spans a semester. The student must complete at least one academic semester before registering for their first clinic course. The student may choose to do one clinical course in their first year and two clinical courses in their second year or wait to take all three clinical courses in their second year so they may focus solely on the academic courses in their first year. The course numbers will represent the clinic courses for each semester (SPAUD 530-fall, 531-spring, 532-summer). These three courses can be taken out of order, depending on when the student's cohort begins. The clinic courses are designed to have students in either their first, second, or third clinical semester within the same course. The student must take each of the courses before beginning externships.