



# Dual Degree in Autism Studies and Speech Language Pathology

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## **FACULTY**

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## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Speech language pathologists with expertise in autism are in great demand, and have the power to make a tremendous impact on the lives of people on the spectrum and their loved ones. The Master of Autism Studies and Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology dual degree program provides students with a unique opportunity to gain expertise in autism and become licensed and certified speech language pathologists while enjoying a savings of cost and time in comparison with what would be required if they pursued these degrees separately.

The Speech Language Pathology program prepares graduate students to make a difference in the world on a very personal level—they improve the lives of individuals, one person, one family, at a time. The program develops leadership in individuals who are educated in the liberal arts and who use their talents to help support children, families, the elderly, people with disabilities, and others in need. Our students realize their social responsibility first-hand by providing services to those in need. They think critically and creatively while responding with humanity. The Speech Language Pathology program fosters the development of lifelong learners who are adaptive and reflective clinicians, culturally sensitive, and empathetic to those in need.

The Master of Autism Studies provides students with a unique opportunity to examine autism from scientific, therapeutic, educational, and humanistic perspectives. Our students gain deep expertise in autism spectrum disorder by completing a curriculum in which every course focuses on autism. They also develop the skills needed to become leaders in the interprofessional field of autism services by completing rigorously interdisciplinary coursework and by exploring a broad range of evidence-based approaches to autism intervention. In addition to providing unparalleled interdisciplinary expertise in autism, the Master of Autism Studies is distinctive in the way it incorporates the voices of people on the spectrum into the curriculum as well as in the way it engages with the Catholic intellectual tradition and the mission of Saint Mary's College.

When combined, these programs give rise to a unique dual degree program that produces students who understand how autism affects the lives of individuals, families,

and communities, who possess the professional expertise to be effective speech language pathologists, and who have the interprofessional perspective to be leaders in the field of autism services.

The dual degree program normally takes three years (nine consecutive terms) to complete. Coursework begins in the summer, with the majority of the Master of Autism Studies coursework being completed in the first year, and ends in the spring of the third year, with the majority of the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology coursework being completed in the second and third years. Dual degree students are able to substitute AUST 535 for SLP 510 in the speech language pathology program, to substitute SLP 524 for AUST 560 in the autism studies program, and to integrate their autism studies capstone project (AUST 700) with their speech language pathology clinical externship (SLP 587), all of which translates into savings of time and money equivalent to 9 credit hours. Because of the savings of time, students in the dual degree program have more time to devote to their clinical experiences, and have more opportunities to work with people on the spectrum. The financial savings are built into the cohort pricing for the program.

## LEARNING GOALS

Since students in the dual degree program complete all of the requirements for both the Master of Autism Studies and the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology, they meet all of the learning outcomes for both programs. See the Master of Autism Studies and Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology sections of the bulletin for more information on the respective programs' learning outcomes.

## PREREQUISITES

- Introduction to Communicative Disorders (recommended but not required)
- Anatomy & Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanism
- Phonetics
- Speech & Hearing Sciences
- Introduction to Audiology
- Child Language Development
- Aural Rehabilitation
- Clinical Methods and Supervised Observation (recommended but not required)
- Statistics
- At least one course in the biological sciences, e.g., Introduction to Biology
- At least one course in the physical sciences, e.g., Introduction to Physics, Acoustics, etc.
- At least one course in the behavioral sciences, e.g., Developmental Psychology

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- All applicants must have a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders, or related field, from a regionally accredited college or university, or the international equivalent. Please review the prerequisite section above for the list of required courses necessary to apply. The most competitive candidates typically have maintained at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in undergraduate coursework. Experience with autism is also taken into account.
- Submission of a completed CSDCAS application.
- Official transcripts from every college or university attended (via CSDCAS)
- GRE scores (use code 6970). Only scores submitted to code 6970 will be considered.

- Three letters of recommendation from people familiar with the applicant's academic and/or professional abilities, focusing particularly on the potential for success.
- A personal statement that addresses reasons for pursuing the dual degree, professional objectives, and how Saint Mary's aligns with personal and professional goals.
- A brief video interview.

Applications for the summer term open in early August. Saint Mary's College uses the Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS) application system for the dual degree program. Applicants must complete the application form, submit the application fee for CSDCAS (no additional fee is collected by Saint Mary's), and provide all supporting documents through the CSDCAS application system. The application deadline is January 15.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### *Dual Degree in Autism Studies and Speech Pathology (87-90 hours)*

#### All of the following (87-90 hours):

AUST 500	Gateway: Autistic Experiences	3 hours
AUST 510	Autism and Humanity	3 hours
AUST 520	A Biopsychosocial Understanding of the Autism Spectrum	3 hours
AUST 530	Quantitative Methods in Autism Research	3 hours
AUST 535	Autism Research Design and Methods	3 hours
AUST 540	Approaches to Autism Intervention	3 hours
AUST 550	Occupational Therapy and Autism	3 hours
AUST 570	Autism and Education	3 hours
AUST 580	Social Policies and Social Services for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum and Their Families	3 hours
AUST 611	Autism and Ethics	3 hours
AUST 700	Capstone Project	3 hours
SLP 502	Assessment	3 hours
SLP 503	Speech Sound Disorders	3 hours
SLP 505	Early Childhood Language Disorders	3 hours
SLP 506	Later Childhood Language Disorders	3 hours
SLP 508	Adult Language Disorders I	3 hours
SLP 509	Adult Language Disorders II	3 hours
SLP 512	Neurology for Speech-Language Pathologists	3 hours
SLP 516	Motor Speech Disorders	3 hours
SLP 517	Fluency Disorders	3 hours
SLP 518	Voice Disorders	1 hour
SLP 520	Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)	3 hours
SLP 521	Cleft Palate	1 hour
SLP 522	Dysphagia	3 hours
SLP 524	Autism Spectrum Disorders	3 hours
SLP 525	Counseling	3 hours
SLP 584	Clinical Practicum: Clinical Proseminar	1 hour
SLP 585	Clinical Practicum (taken twice)	3 hours
SLP 586	Clinical Practicum	3 hours
SLP 587	Advanced Clinical Practicum	6 hours
SLP 698	Comprehensive Examination	0 hours
or SLP 699	Thesis (taken three times)	1 hour

## PROGRESS TO COMPLETION

The following charts show the sequence of courses dual degree students take to complete the three year program.

DDP: Summer 1	DDP: Fall 1	DDP: Spring 1
AUST 500	AUST 510	AUST 550
AUST 520	AUST 530	AUST 570
	AUST 535	AUST 580
	AUST 540	AUST 611

DDP: Summer 2	DDP: Fall 2	DDP: Spring 2
SLP 524	SLP 502	SLP 506
	SLP 503	SLP 508
	SLP 505	SLP 516
	SLP 512	SLP 585
	SLP 584	

DDP: Summer 3	DDP: Fall 3	DDP: Spring 3
SLP 517	SLP 509	SLP 587
SLP 518	SLP 522	AUST 700
SLP 520	SLP 525	
SLP 521	SLP 586	
SLP 585		

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

For course descriptions, see the Master of Autism Studies and Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology sections of the bulletin.