



## 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 want you to think seriously about being redemptive servants of God, to contemplate what authentic compassion means, to act on learning 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, justice, 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. Calvin College's candidacy accreditation status is in effect from 2011 to 2016.

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

If you enroll in the program as a first-year student, you will complete six semesters of undergraduate pre-professional requirements during your first three years at Calvin and then complete six semesters of mostly graduate professional requirements during your fourth and fifth years, including summers. Refer to FAQ 11 for a sample curriculum. If you choose to complete 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 (see <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/academics/speech-pathology/handbook/academic-and-clinical-handbook.pdf>).

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

Yes, the bachelor's degree is a four-year program in speech pathology and audiology which was designed for students who plan to complete their graduate work at other institutions.

Although open to any student, this option is primarily for students who intend to become audiologists. It includes additional cross-disciplinary undergraduate requirements in science and math and 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 outline in the *SPAUD Student Academic and Clinical Handbook* to remain in the program (see <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/academics/speech-pathology/handbook/academic-and-clinical-handbook.pdf>).

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

You must earn at least a 3.3 average every semester across all of your courses, and earn at least a 3.3 (B+) in every SPAUD course. 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, you may apply, but preference will be given to the undergraduate students enrolled in the five-year program. However, a limited number of seats may be available for post-baccalaureate students. We will open applications on November 1<sup>st</sup> 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](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 3.3 and a minimum GPA of 3.3 in your major, two 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, you may apply. You may take the undergraduate courses that you will need for most graduate programs in the speech pathology, and then apply to graduate programs at other universities. You may also apply to our program; a limited number of seats may be available for post-baccalaureate students. In either case, if you meet the minimum criteria of the program (see FAQ 6 above), but have inadequate undergraduate preparation in speech pathology, you are expected to enroll first in the undergraduate prerequisite courses (see below for course listings) to prepare for graduate study. Also, you must 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 only?**

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

- SPAUD 210: Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism
- SPAUD 212: Speech and Hearing Science
- SPAUD 215: Introduction to Speech Pathology and Audiology
- SPAUD 216: Phonetics
- 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, preferable a Physics or Chemistry course
- Biology course
- English Grammar 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 previous bachelor's degree, you should first contact Calvin's Admission's office (1-800-688-0122 or [admissions@calvin.edu](mailto:admissions@calvin.edu)) for more information. Admission standards and an online application are available at <http://www.calvin.edu/admin/admissions/apply/>. Transfer students who have not ever earned a bachelor's degree must complete at least a year and a half in residence before entering the graduate program and enroll in at least four upper-level courses in the SPAUD major to continue in the five-year program. We highly recommend prospective undergraduate students

visit Calvin's campus before applying (see Visit Calvin information at <http://www.calvin.edu/admin/admissions/visit/>).

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

You must submit the following online at **CSDCAS** ([www.csdcas.org](http://www.csdcas.org)) by **February 15** to be considered for admission to the program for the following fall.

1. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
2. Two 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 eventual professional objectives which includes your preferred job setting
  - c. Why Calvin, as a faith-based institution, is a good fit for your graduate education and your future profession.

Limited financial aid may be available. Email [finaid@calvin.edu](mailto:finaid@calvin.edu) or phone (616) 526-6134 for more information. All application materials (including official transcripts) are due no later than **February 15**.

### **12. What does the five-year curriculum look like?**

As shown on the table in Appendix A, you take undergraduate courses your first three years and mostly 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, most likely in audiology, at other universities.

### **14. Is the program be clinical-, medical-, educational-, or research-based?**

Yes to all four. We will 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. 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, and then will be placed in a setting of your choice 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.

**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 that are at a distance from campus and require the use of a car. All placements are made within a 50-mile radius of Calvin's campus and the great 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 6 graduate credits into the SPAUD program. The SPAUD Program Director 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. 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 of two students per graduate class will complete a thesis. We highly 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 to arrange a tour of your department and/or do you have an open house in your department?**

Yes! If you will be an undergraduate student, you can contact Admissions at [admissions@calvin.edu](mailto:admissions@calvin.edu) to arrange for a personal campus 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 applying to the graduate program, 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, grant and loans, and 75% of first-year students receive a renewable academic scholarship each year. Barons Best Buys in College Education named Calvin among a select group of Best Buy private colleges in North America.

For post-baccalaureate students, limited financial aid may also be available. We recommend that you make an appointment with Financial Aid. Email [finaid@calvin.edu](mailto:finaid@calvin.edu) or phone (616) 526-6134.

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

You may phone 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)**

**Year 1**

**Fall Semester – 15 credits**

SPAUD 215: Intro to SLP & AUD	3
PSYC 151: Intro to Psychology	3
BIO 115: Human Biology	4
ENGL 101: Written Rhetoric	3
Prelude	1
FIT	1

**Interim Semester – 3 credits**

IDIS 150: Developing the Christian Mind	3
---	---

**Spring Semester – 15 credits**

SPAUD 210: A & P of Speech & Hearing	4
CAS 140: Communication and Culture	3
SPAUD 216: Phonetics (CCE)	4
Literature Core course	3
PE	1

**Year 2**

**Fall Semester – 15 credits**

SPAUD 212: Speech and Hearing Science	4
HIST 151/152: History of the Western World	4
Theology Core	3
Elective	3
PE	1

**Interim Semester – 3 credits**

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

**Spring Semester – 14 credits**

SPAUD 311: Child Language Development	3
Linguistics	3
Societal Structures Core	3
Physical World Core	4
PE	1

**Year 3**

**Fall Semester – 13 credits**

SPAUD 370: Intro to Clinical Practicum	3
Religion Core	3
Grammar Course	3
PSYC 201: Lifespan Development	3

**Interim Semester – 3 credits**

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

**Spring Semester – 14 credits**

SPAUD 344: Evaluation Procedures in Audiology	4
Philosophy Core	3
Arts Core	3
Math 143: Statistics	4

**Year 4**

**Fall Semester – 15 credits**

SPAUD 345: Aural Rehabilitation	3
SPAUD 501: Diagnostics in SLP	3
SPAUD 503: Language Disorders 1	3
SPAUD 506: Aphasia	3
SPAUD 525: On-Campus Practicum	3

**Spring Semester – 15 credits**

SPAUD 504: Language Disorders 2	3
SPAUD 505: Research in SLP	3
SPAUD 599: Critical Reflections in SLP	3
SPAUD 522: Neurocognitive Disorders	3
SPAUD 525: On-Campus Practicum	3

**Summer Semesters – 12-13 credits**

SPAUD 510: Fluency Disorders	3
SPAUD 508: Phonological Disorders	3
SPAUD 515: SLP Seminar	3
SPAUD 525: On-Campus Practicum	3
SPAUD 595: Thesis option	1

**Year 5**

**Fall Semester – 12-13 credits**

SPAUD 520: Motor Speech Disorders	3
SPAUD 523: Dysphagia	3
SPAUD 526: Off-Campus Practicum	6
SPAUD 595: Thesis option	1

**Interim Semester – 3 credits**

SPAUD 512: AAC	3
----------------	---

**Spring Semester – 12-13 credits**

SPAUD 521: Voice Disorders	3
SPAUD 524: Cleft/Craniofacial	3
SPAUD 526: Off-Campus Practicum	6
SPAUD 595: Thesis option or Elective	1

**Summer Semesters – 9-10 credits**

SPAUD 526: Off-Campus Practicum	6
SPAUD 595: Thesis option	1

**Note:**

*You must maintain at least a 3.3 GPA every semester and a 3.3 (B+) for every SPAUD course, and meet the Essential Function requirements outlined in the Program and Clinical Handbook to remain in the program.*

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

**Year 1**

**Fall Semester – 16 credits**

SPAUD 215: 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 – 3 credits**

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

**Spring Semester – 15 credits**

SPAUD 210: A & P of Speech & Hearing	4
Foreign Language Core	4
CAS 140: Communication and Culture	3
IDIS 150: Developing the Christian Mind	3
PE	1

**Year 2**

**Fall Semester – 16 credits**

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

**Interim Semester – 3 credits**

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

**Spring Semester – 15 credits**

Theology Core	3
SPAUD 311: Child Language Development	3
Literature Core course	3
PSYC 201: Lifespan Development	3
Linguistics	3

**Year 3**

**Fall Semester – 14 credits**

SPAUD 370: Intro to Clinical Practicum	3
Societal Structures Core	3
CHEM 115	4
Religion Core	3
PE	1

**Interim Semester – 3 credits**

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

**Spring Semester – 14 credits**

SPAUD 344: Eval Procedures in Audiology	4
Philosophy Core	3
Arts Core	3
Math 143: Statistics	4

**Year 4**

**Fall Semester – 15 credits**

SPAUD 345: Aural Rehab	3
CAS 399: Senior Seminar	3
PHYS 223: Physics for the Health Sciences	4
SPAUD 361: American Sign Language 1	3

**Spring Semester – 15 credits**

SPAUD 362: American Sign Language 2	3
Math 132: Calculus	3
Elective	3
Elective	3

*Note: You must maintain at least a 3.3 GPA every semester and a 3.3 for every SPAUD course; and meet the requirements outlined in the Essential Functions document to remain in the major.*