

## Master of Science (Speech & Language Pathology) Courses

18 compulsory courses are taught across four semesters. Four of the courses involve supervised clinical placements with continuous assessment for about six weeks (April/May and October/November) after the written examinations.

Year	Semester	Course Code	Unit	Course Title
Year 1	1	SLP 5101	6	Normal Functioning 1 (Biosciences Foundation)
Year 1	1	SLP 5102	6	Normal Functioning 2 (Linguistics Foundation)
Year 1	1	SLP 5103	4	Professional Practice 1
Year 1	1	SLP 5104	4	Research Design and Statistics
Year 1	2	SLP 5105	4	Impaired Functioning – Children 1
Year 1	2	SLP 5106	4	Impaired Functioning – Adults 1
Year 1	2	SLP 5107	4	Impaired Functioning – Children 2
Year 1	2	SLP 5108	4	Impaired Functioning – Adults 2
Year 1	2	SLP 5109	6	Professional Practice 2
Year 2	3	SLP 5110	4	Intervention & Management – Children 1
Year 2	3	SLP 5111	4	Intervention & Management – Adults 1
Year 2	3	SLP 5112	6	Research Project 1
Year 2	3	SLP 5113	6	Professional Practice 3
Year 2	4	SLP 5114	4	Intervention & Management – Children 2
Year 2	4	SLP 5115	4	Intervention & Management – Adults 2
Year 2	4	SLP 5116	8	Research Project 2
Year 2	4	SLP 5117	4	Professional Practice Issues
Year 2	4	SLP 5118	6	Professional Practice 4

## SLP 5101: Normal Functioning 1

*Units: 6*

*Co-requisite: SLP 5102*

This course provides students with an understanding of the relationship between structure and function of the brain as well as the anatomy and physiology of peripheral organs involved in normal speech production and normal swallowing throughout the lifespan. The content of the PBL seminars, lectures, wet labs, workshops, and skill classes will include the normal central and peripheral nervous system, the oral and nasal cavities, the pharynx, larynx, and lungs, normal voice development, normal vs. abnormal aging. Students will also be introduced to examples of how anatomical or physiological problems can affect speech production, feeding, swallowing, and communication in children and adults, and be asked to consider the psychosocial impact of these problems.

## SLP 5102: Normal Functioning 2

*Units: 6*

*Co-requisite: SLP 5101*

This course provides students with an understanding of the linguistic components of communication, functional models of language representation, and the development of oral and written language(s). The content of the PBL seminars, lectures, workshops, and skill classes will draw attention to local linguistic diversity and include a review of language components and related phonetic, acoustic, and grammatical analyses; components of speech fluency; normal first and second language development in bilinguals; life-span changes and individual differences in language and cognitive development; orthography-phonology relationships for local languages and English; reading and spelling development, and the influence of home language(s) on language and literacy acquisition.

### SLP 5103: Professional Practice 1

*Units: 4*

*Co-requisites: SLP 5101 and 5102 or equivalent with the permission of the Programme Director*

This course provides an introduction to professional practice in a community or hospital clinic setting. This first clinical placement will involve guided and structured observation of experienced clinicians delivering speech pathology services to adult and/or paediatric clients who have communication and/or swallowing impairments. Students will have opportunities to interact with and conduct hands-on assessment of clients under supervision. Students will be encouraged to reflect on normal communication processes through interaction with children in community educational settings and the elderly in residential/day-care and other healthcare settings.

### SLP 5104: Research Design & Statistics

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101, SLP 5012, SLP5103 or equivalent with the permission of the Programme Director*

This compulsory course introduces the hierarchy of research evidence underpinning clinical practice (i.e., single-case, matched pairs, group designs, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses), psycholinguistic and biomedical variables relevant to evidence-based Practice (EBP), principles of psychometric testing including reliability and validity, and basic parametric and non-parametric statistics. Workshops will focus on developing the ability to critically analyse and evaluate the contribution of published research on assessment and treatment of speech, language, swallowing, fluency, and voice disorders. Reference will be made to SLP5101 and SLP5102 PBL cases, and any assessment data collected during SLP5103, in order to facilitate integration of theoretical models and clinical practice.

### SLP 5105: Impaired Functioning – Children 1

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101, SLP 5102, SLP 5103 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course provides an understanding of how speech and language development can be impaired in children. A range of language-based learning difficulties will be covered, focusing on the cause(s) and effect(s) of developmental language disorder (DLD) and related developmental disorders of perception, attention and memory. The administration and interpretation of language tests will be discussed in the context of local linguistic diversity and colloquial forms, notably Singapore Colloquial English (SCE). PBL seminars, lectures, and workshops, and skill classes will also include a review of cognitive assessment tools; reading and spelling disorders; assessment of dysfluency and voice problems; counselling families; working in multi-disciplinary teams in mainstream and special education settings.

#### SLP 5106: Impaired Functioning – Adults 1

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101, SLP 5102, SLP 5103 or equivalent with permission of Programme Director*

This course provides an understanding of acquired speech and language impairments in adults. A range of communication difficulties will be covered with a focus on receptive and expressive dysphasia following damage to the mature brain (e.g., cerebro-vascular accidents, head injury, tumour surgery). The administration and interpretation of oral and written language tests will be discussed in the context of local linguistic diversity and the importance of memory and attention. The content of the PBL seminars, lectures, workshops, and skill classes will also include exposure to a range of assessment tools.

#### SLP 5107: Impaired Functioning – Children 2

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101, SLP 5102, SLP 5103 or equivalent with permission of Programme Director*

This course provides an understanding of how developmental problems with an organic origin have an impact on swallowing and communication in children. The nature, epidemiology and assessment of a range of disorders will be reviewed. Particular reference will be made to speech difficulties resulting from congenital craniofacial abnormalities (cleft lip/palate), and disorders that may have a genetic basis, such as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity

Disorder (ADHD). The impact of developmental dyspraxia, cognitive impairment, and hearing deficits on the development of communication skills will be discussed, and students will be introduced to methods of Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC).

#### SLP 5108: Impaired Functioning – Adults 2

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101, SLP 5102, SLP 5103 or equivalent with permission of Programme Director*

*Co-requisite: SLP 5106*

This course provides an understanding of how acquired structural deficits will lead to swallowing and speech production difficulties in adults. The nature and epidemiology of a range of disorders will be reviewed but the focus will be on diagnostic issues related to swallowing disorders (dysphagia) and speech disorders (dysarthria) of neurological origin. Students will gain experience of subjective and objective swallowing assessments, and consider the psychosocial impact of dysphagia and dysarthria on the quality of life. Multidisciplinary management of clinical cases and informational counselling will also be discussed.

#### SLP 5109: Professional Practice 2

*Units: 6*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101 – 5108 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course provides professional practice experience related to the theoretical foundations on impaired functioning covered in SLP 5105, SLP5106, SLP 5107 and SLP 5108. Students will undertake an intensive block (5–6 weeks) of direct clinical experience in one clinic, either in a hospital or a community setting, under the close supervision of an experienced speech and language pathologist. The focus of this second placement is on the gradual development of the clinical skills required for assessing, describing, and diagnosing adult and/or paediatric clients with communication and/or swallowing impairments.

## SLP 5110: Intervention and Management – Children 1

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisite: SLP 5101 – SLP 5108 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course will enable students to understand the principles of treatment for basic communication and swallowing disorders, and to develop practical skills in the therapeutic management of these disorders in children. The major areas covered in this course include the types of treatment available, application of intervention strategies, goal setting in therapy, and service delivery models which apply for each of the range indicators: speech, language, fluency, swallowing and AAC.

## SLP 5111: Intervention and Management – Adults 1

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisite: SLP 5101 – SLP 5108 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course will enable students to understand the principles of treatment for basic communication and swallowing disorders, and to develop practical skills in the therapeutic management of these disorders in adults. The major areas covered in this course include the types of treatment available, application of intervention strategies, goal setting in therapy, and service delivery models which apply to each of the following range indicators for speech and language therapy: speech, language, fluency, swallowing, and voice.

## SLP 5112: Research Project 1

*Units: 6*

*Pre-requisite: SLP 5101 – SLP 5108*

This course prepares students for submission of an APA-style report in semester 4. In consultation with an Academic and a Clinical Supervisor, they will be directed to conduct a project based either on primary data or on secondary data relevant to evidence based practice in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP). Students will make an oral presentation, complete ethics training, submit a written proposal, and present a poster to the SLP community. For primary data projects, the scope of the research, participants, and variables will be discussed with supervisors. For secondary data

projects, students will conduct a comprehensive electronic database search, critically review identified publications, consider cultural and/or linguistic differences, and the developmental stage of the participants.

### SLP 5113: Professional Practice 3

*Units: 6*

*Pre-requisite: SLP 5101 – SLP 5112 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course provides professional practice experience related to the theoretical foundations of intervention and management covered in SLP 5110 and SLP 5111 and previous courses. Students will undertake an intensive block (5–6 weeks) of direct clinical experience in one clinic, either in a hospital or a community setting, under the supervision of an experienced speech and language pathologist. The focus of this third placement will be on the continued development of clinical skills in planning and carrying out intervention with adult and/or paediatric clients with communication and/or swallowing impairment with minimal guidance. If considered appropriate by their supervising clinician, students may progress to independent management of one client by end of placement.

### SLP 5114: Intervention and Management – Children 2

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101 – SLP 5110 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course will enable students to understand the principles of treatment for complex communication and swallowing disorders, and to develop practical skills in the therapeutic management of these disorders in children. Students will be required to extend and apply the knowledge developed in SLP 5110 to the therapeutic management of children with multi-faceted problems.

The major areas covered in this courses include the types of treatment available, application of intervention strategies, goal setting in therapy, and service delivery models which apply for each of the range indicators: speech, language, fluency, swallowing, voice and AAC.

## SLP 5115: Intervention and Management – Adults 2

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101 – SLP 5111 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course will enable students to understand the principles of treatment for complex communication and swallowing disorders, and to develop practical skills in the therapeutic management of these disorders in adults. Students will be required to extend and apply the knowledge developed in SLP 5111 to the therapeutic management of adults with multi-faceted problems.

The major areas covered in this course include the types of treatment available, application of intervention strategies, goal setting in therapy, and service delivery models which apply for each of the range indicators: speech, language, fluency, swallowing, voice and AAC.

## SLP 5116: Research Project 2

*Units: 8*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101 – SLP 5112 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course supports students' preparation of the final draft of the research project that is submitted in Semester 4. Following consultation with the MSc(SLP) Research Coordinator and two supervisors (one Academic and one Clinical), students will complete the research projects developed in SLP5112, based on either (1) primary data requiring access to participants, or (2) secondary data involving published research, and then submit a written report (<10,000 words) in APA style.



## SLP 5117: Professional Practice Issues

*Units: 4*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101 – SLP 5111 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course prepares students for professional practice problems and issues beyond single case clinical work. It will include discussion of caseload and resource management, waiting lists and consumer issues; client-centred and/or family-centred practice; importance of support, post-qualification mentorship, and continuing professional development; avoiding burn-out; working with groups of clients and organisations; making referrals and working with other professions; cultural differences and expectations; working through interpreters; advanced ethical and legal principles, pertinent regulatory and ethical standards, and ethical decision frameworks for professional practice; promoting the profession through evidence-based practice and outcome research.

## SLP 5118: Professional Practice 4

*Units: 6*

*Pre-requisites: SLP 5101 – SLP 5117 or equivalent with permission of the Programme Director*

This course provides professional practice experience related to the theoretical foundations of intervention and management covered in previous courses. Students undertake an intensive block (5–6 weeks) of direct clinical experience in one hospital or community clinic, under the supervision of an experienced speech–language pathologist. The focus of this final placement is on the continued development of clinical skills in planning and carrying out intervention with adult and/or paediatric clients with communication and/or swallowing impairment. Students progress to independent management of majority caseload by end of placement.