



Post-Masters Certificate in Advanced Speech Language Pathology

Loma Linda University is a world-renowned health sciences institution recognized for the emphasis on educating students in a value-based environment that promotes a lifestyle of wellness. This certificate is for individuals who want to increase their depth of knowledge in the field of speech-language pathology while also acquiring academic credits required for advancement in their careers.

OVERVIEW

The CMSD Post-Masters Certificate in Speech-Language Pathology is for individuals who want to increase their depth of knowledge in the field of speech-language pathology while also acquiring academic credits required for advancement in their careers. The program is one of two such programs in the country and is currently the only program in California. Current practitioners will gain advanced knowledge in the field of speech-language pathology, with specific focus on evidence-based practice, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Certificate students will become adept at analyzing and synthesizing the existing research literature as they design and conduct their own project related to their place of employment. The completion of their programs will include a capstone presentation for the dissemination of their projects. Four of the courses in this program can be credited toward and used as a ladder into the Speech-Language Pathology Doctorate (SLPD) program. However, this is not an automatic expectation and students would need to formally apply and be accepted into the SLPD program.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

It is projected that students will spend 1 year in the program, taking 2 classes a quarter for 4 quarters for a total of 29 quarter units (equivalent to 19 semester units). Students are not required to register or progress as members of a cohort, but instead are permitted to progress through the program at their own pace, subject to University requirements for academic progression.

The curriculum consists of 9 courses, all are online courses. Four of the courses are content courses providing exposure and advanced knowledge in complex topics in the field. Four courses are project courses where students will design, conduct, write and disseminate a project related to their place of employment. The final course is a religion course.

BENEFITS OF THIS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AT LLU

Depth of Knowledge – Speech-Language Pathology has an increasingly broad scope of practice. All topics cannot be covered fully in the relatively short master's degree programs. This certificate provides a way to increase your knowledge in areas of the field.

Professional Development - There is a need among working speech language pathologists (SLPs), particularly in the education sector for additional university coursework in order to advance on the pay scale. This certificate provides SLPs specific coursework to further their knowledge and improve clinical skills while also providing a way to gain additional university credits and achieve upward mobility in the workplace.

Flexibility – The certificate program gives working clinicians the opportunity for advancement and upward mobility without committing to the intense rigor of a PhD, or SLPD. The online format of this certificate allows students to learn on their own schedule from a convenient location with the added benefit of online, face-to-face instructor/student interaction and engagement.

Ladder to Higher Education – Four of the courses included in this certificate are also courses in the SLPD program in the CMSD department at LLU. Students would need to apply and be accepted into the SLPD program.

Admission Requirements

- Master's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Speech-Language Pathology or equivalent
- Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Complete the LLU application, including values and personal essays
- Nonrefundable application fee
- Written statement: Essay describing your interests, your professional experience, why you want to pursue the certificate, and why you want to attend LLU
- Provide three letters of recommendation that indicate a strong academic and professional background
- Personal interview

State Regulations for Online Programs

Note: Due to legal restrictions created by some state governments, only students from certain states are eligible for the program. Please refer to LLU's Information page for online distance education programs for a current list of eligible states.

Coursework

SLPD 570 Special Topics* (taken 3 times-different topics)	9
SLPD 580 Clinical Issues*	3
CMSD 601 Project Planning	4
CMSD 602 Project Proposal	4
CMSD 603 Project Implementation	4
CMSD 604 Project Dissemination	4
RELG 510 Christian Service	1
TOTAL UNITS	29

* Indicates courses which can be credited toward the SLPD program, if admitted.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why should I complete this certificate program?

There is a need among working speech language pathologists (SLPs), particularly in the education sector for additional university coursework in order to advance on the pay scale. This certificate provides SLPs specific coursework to further their knowledge and improve clinical skills while also providing a way to gain additional university credits and achieve upward mobility in the workplace.

How long does it take to complete the program?

The certificate program is designed to be 2 courses per quarter, for 4 quarters (1 year), however students may progress through the program at their own pace, subject to University requirements for academic progression.

How many students do you accept each year?

This varies depending on the strength of the applications we receive. In order to ensure the quality of the program, we will be restricting the number of students we admit (at most 5 per year).

When is the application due?

Fall 2023 (program begins September 25, 2023)

- Application open date: 03/01/2023
- Application close date: 9/15/2023

Winter 2024 (program begins January 2, 2024)

- Application open date: 9/25/23
- Application close date: 12/15/23

Spring 2024 (program begins March 25, 2024)

- Application open date: 1/2/24
- Application close date: 3/1/24

Summer 2024 (program begins June 17, 2024)

- Application open date: 3/25/24
- Application close date: 6/1/24

What is the format of the program?

The certificate is an online program with online, face-to-face instructor/student interaction and engagement.

Is this program accredited by ASHA?

No, ASHA does not accredit certificate programs.

Cost of Attendance

Please review LLU's Find a Program [website](#) for the most up-to-date information on the cost of attendance or scan the QR code below.



Contact Information

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Follow CMSD!

Instagram: @llusahp

Facebook: @Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions

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LLU at a Glance

>> Founded in 1905 >> A Seventh-day Adventist institution integrating health, science, and Christian faith >> Offers over 200 programs in the health sciences >> Houses eight schools: Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Religion >> About 4,000 students >> Over 1,300 faculty >> 2,000 professional researchers >> \$46 million dollars in private and public grants generated each year >> Many service-learning opportunities

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