



Hearing & Speech Sciences

0100 Samuel J. LeFrak Hall
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<http://www.hesp.umd.edu/landing/Undergraduate>

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Key Features of a Hearing & Speech Sciences Major

- The field of Speech-Language Pathology deals with the diagnosis and remediation of speech, language, voice and fluency problems in children and adults. The field of Audiology deals with the measurement of hearing and the rehabilitation of those with hearing impairments.
- The undergraduate degree in Hearing and Speech Sciences is a pre-professional program. The goal is to prepare students to continue on to Graduate study in either Speech Language Pathology or Audiology.
- You **MUST** have a graduate degree to be a Speech Language Pathologist (2 year Master's program) or an Audiologist (4 year Au.D. program).
- Required courses at the undergraduate level are identical for all HESP majors; emphasis can be given to individual curricula through the selection of elective courses.

Career Options and Salaries with a Hearing & Speech Sciences Major

Both the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the State of Maryland require a master's degree for work in Speech and Language Pathology and a doctoral degree for work in Audiology as the minimum educational background for certification and licensure. Research in this field is conducted by Ph.D. level individuals. Also, the experimental study of Hearing and Speech Sciences generally requires the Ph.D. as a minimal graduate degree.

Audiologists work with people who have hearing, balance, and related ear problems. They assess the hearing of individuals of all ages and identify those with hearing loss or balance problems. Following assessment, audiologists may recommend and dispense appropriate hearing technology to improve the person's hearing. This may include hearing aids, cochlear implants or other assisted listening devices. They then assess the nature and extent of the problems and help the individuals manage them. Audiologists may then coordinate with other medical or educational professionals in order to assure the patient continues to get adequate treatment. Some audiologists specialize in work with the elderly, children, or hearing-impaired individuals who need special treatment programs.

Speech-language pathologists (also called *speech therapists*) assess, diagnose, treat, and help to prevent disorders related to speech, language, cognitive-communication, voice, swallowing, and fluency. They work with people who cannot produce speech sounds or cannot produce them clearly; those with speech rhythm and fluency problems, such as stuttering; people with voice disorders, such as inappropriate pitch or harsh voice; those with problems understanding and producing language; and those with cognitive communication impairments, such as attention, memory, and problem-solving disorders. They also work with people who have swallowing difficulties. Speech-language pathologists help patients develop, or recover, reliable communication and swallowing skills so patients can fulfill their educational, vocational, and social roles.

As of May 2015, the median salary for audiologists was \$74,890. For speech-language pathologists, the median salary was \$73,410 for school year positions and \$69,870 (2012). *Salary information was taken from Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15* (<http://stats.bls.gov/ooh/>)

Advising

If you are considering a major in Hearing and Speech Sciences, it is recommended that you review the Department website at <http://www.hesp.umd.edu/landing/Undergraduate>. From there you can easily schedule an appointment with the advisor in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences to answer any questions you may have.

- To schedule an appointment online: <http://hespadvisingcalendar.umd.edu/>
- Location of Undergraduate Advising Office: 0131 LeFrak Hall

Declaring a Hearing and Speech Sciences Major

- ***Hearing and Speech Sciences is not a Limited Enrollment Program. If you have decided to major in this field, you can declare immediately!***

When you declare that you will major in Hearing and Speech Sciences, you are also declaring that you will be a student in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS), which houses the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences. There are two levels in your process of declaring and later advising, the department (Hearing and Speech Sciences) and the College (Behavioral and Social Sciences). The College will advise you regarding your General Education/CORE requirements and the Department will advise you regarding your major requirements.

- 1) Review the website of the Hearing and Speech Sciences Department, focusing on the information for undergraduates (<http://www.hesp.umd.edu/landing/Undergraduate>).
- 2) Make an appointment with the HESP Undergraduate Advisor at <http://hespadvisingcalendar.umd.edu/> to learn more about the major and career opportunities in the hearing and speech fields. At the conclusion of the appointment, the Undergraduate Advisor will give the student a signed “Change of Major” form.
- 3) Attend either an in person or online Academic Planning Workshop to learn how to develop an academic plan. The purpose of the academic plan is to help students learn their major requirements and earn their degrees in a timely manner. To sign up for a workshop go to www.bsosworkshops.umd.edu.
- 4) Submit the “Change of Major” form and the completed academic plan to BSOS Advising (2148 Tydings Hall). The academic plan will be reviewed and approved within 10 business days. An email will be sent to the student about the status of his/her plan. If a student’s plan is denied, he/she will need to meet with a college advisor before proceeding.

Please note:

1. HESP prerequisites are rigorously enforced. A student must complete the prerequisite for a course with a C- or better or they will not be allowed to continue on to the next course in the sequence. This is especially important for transfer and special students as they sometimes do not follow recommended sequences.

General Education Four Year Plan

First Year:

HESP 120	3	HESP 202	3
ENGL 101	3	PSYC 100 (HS)	3
MATH (based on placement)	3	NS-Human Biology	4
HU	3	OC	3
Elective	3	<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>UNIV 100</u>	<u>1</u>		16 credits
	16 credits		

Second Year:

HESP 305	3	HESP 311	3
PHYS 102 and 103 (NL)	4	HESP 300	3
HU	3	SP (non-major)	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits		15 credits

Third Year:

HESP 400	3	HESP Disorder Course	3
HESP 411	3	HSEP elective	3
HESP Statistics	3	HESP Supporting Course	3
UP	3	PW	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits		15 credits

Fourth Year:

HESP 403	3	HESP 407	3
HESP Supporting Course	3	HS	3
CC	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Elective</u>	<u>1</u>
	15 credits		13 credits

TOTAL = 120 credits

*All students must take two Distributive Studies courses that will also count for the I-Series requirement. (I-series are not listed separately in this plan)

*Understanding Plural Societies courses may also fulfill a Distributive Studies category.

CORE Four Year Plan

First Year:

HESP 120	3	HESP202	3
ENGL 101	3	PSYC 100	3
MATH 111, 115, 220, 140, or STAT 100	3	CORE Life Science (Human Biology)	3
CORE HA	3	CORE HL	3
Elective	3	CORE MS	3
UNIV 100	1		15 credits
	16 credits		

Second Year:

CORE HA/HL/HO/IE	3	HESP 300	3
HESP 305	3	HESP 311	3
PHYS 102 and 103	4	CORE SH	3
Elective	3	CORE D	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
	16 credits		15 credits

Third Year:

HESP 400	3	HESP Disorder Course	3
HESP 411	3	HESP Elective	3
HESP Statistics	3	HESP Supporting Course 1	3
Professional Writing	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
	15 credits		15 credits

Fourth Year:

HESP 403	3	HESP 407	3
HESP Supporting Course 2	3	Advanced Studies 2	3
Advanced Studies 1	3	Elective UL	3
Elective UL	3	Elective UL	3
Elective	3	Elective	1
	15 credits		13 credits

TOTAL = 120 credits

Q & A

Will I need to pursue an advanced degree to work in this field?

Students who wish to use the HESP major to practice as speech-language pathologists or audiologists should be aware that a graduate school degree is **absolutely required** for employment in these professions. Our undergraduate program will prepare you to go on to graduate school in either Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology. Graduate school admissions in both areas are EXTREMELY competitive! Your academic advisor will pay close attention to your grades and will advise you in the best way to assure your admission to a graduate program

Is there a Minor in Hearing and Speech Sciences?

Yes. The minor consists of 21 credits and is designed to complement major coursework for students majoring in another field (Education, Psychology, etc.). The minor coursework (plus other ASHA requirements) may also be used for students in another major who plan to attend graduate school in the fields of Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology. These courses are widely viewed as pre-requisite for admission to such programs and constitute a portion (**but not the full extent**) of classwork required for eventual post M.A. or post-Au.D. certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) as either a Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist. Because both graduate programs and ASHA may require additional coursework, the student pursuing the HESP minor is *strongly encouraged to meet with a HESP academic advisor* to ensure that eventual educational goals are properly addressed. The HESP minor does not qualify an individual to work professionally as a Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist, but does provide a proportion of the coursework required to practice in the State of Maryland as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant. See the HESP website at www.hesp.umd.edu for the full list of minor courses.

Can I study abroad?

Yes, Students at the University of Maryland have a number of options when considering credit-bearing overseas experiences, including classroom-based and experiential education abroad programs administered by University of Maryland faculty. Students interested in studying abroad should **first** contact an advisor in the University of Maryland Education Abroad Office (www.umd.edu/studyabroad). They can help you find programs that are interesting to you. Before you complete the study abroad application process, you will be required to meet with the HESP Academic Advisor (www.hespadvising.umd.edu) to determine how to fit a semester abroad into his/her academic plan. Since it is difficult for students to get academic credits for HESP courses abroad, usually they take Gen ED/CORE or Elective credits abroad.

What kinds of research opportunities are available to undergraduate students?

A large percentage of HESP students are involved in faculty research at some point in their program. Faculty in the HESP department welcome students to participate in their research labs. Students are encouraged to read the faculty information on the HESP website and contact faculty who are doing research in an area of interest to them. Students may earn credits (Pass/Fail only) for time spent working in faculty labs. Students who are interested in working with a professor more closely, may want to consider applying to the HESP Honors Program. Information regarding this program is available on the HESP website. Visit <http://hesp.umd.edu/landing/Research> for more research information.