

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN
SPEECH, LANGUAGE, HEARING SCIENCES**

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I. SUMMARY

Metropolitan State College of Denver has submitted a proposal for a Baccalaureate Degree in Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences (SLHS).

Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences (SLHS) is currently a concentration area within the **Speech Communication** major. This discipline has existed within Speech Communications since 1974, when there were 17 courses in the area entitled *Communication Disorders and Voice Science*. During the most recent program review for Speech Communication, the external consultant and the College Program Review Committee both recommended that the program become an independent major.¹

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from the MSCD proposal to offer a baccalaureate degree in Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences.

The proposed Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences (SLHS) major gives students the knowledge and skills to successfully pursue graduate education in speech-language pathology and audiology—careers in which critical nationwide and statewide personnel shortages exist. These majors provide a sound background for students pursuing careers in education, health care and other related fields. The SLHS program is aligned with relevant standards proposed by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Authorization for Speech-Language Pathology Assistants, and the Colorado Performance-Based Standards for Teachers. The standards are relevant to students who elect to pursue graduate education in speech-language pathology or audiology, early childhood or elementary teacher licensure, and a career as a speech-language pathology assistant²

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT:

The Baccalaureate Degree in Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences supports the role and mission of Metropolitan State College of Denver. The statutory mission of MSCD is:

¹ MSCD SLHS proposal, page 1.

² MSCD SLHS proposal, page 8

to be a comprehensive baccalaureate institution with modified open admission standards; except that nontraditional students who are at least twenty years of age shall only have as an admission requirement a high school diploma, a GED equivalency certificate, or the equivalent thereof. Metropolitan State College of Denver shall offer a variety of liberal arts and science, technical and educational programs. The college may offer a limited number of professional programs. Metropolitan State College of Denver shall not offer graduate programs.”C.R.S. 23-54-101.³

ADMISSION AND GRADUATION STANDARDS:

For admission into either the SLHS major or its concentration, Childhood Communication, a student must have received admission notification from the Metro State Office of Admissions.

Transfer students may be granted credits for equivalent course work if they earn a “C” or better. Students may transfer up to 64 credits from a community college and up to 90 credits from a four-year institution. Students who obtain an Associate’s Degree in Communication Disorders from Red Rocks Community College may transfer up to 17 required and 6 hours of elective coursework considered equivalent to Metro State’s SLHS 1610, SLHS 1710, SLHS 1500, SLHS 2530, SLHS 2890, SLHS 3540, SLHS 3511. Transfer students must obtain at least eight hours in their major and 30 hours total from the Metro State catalog. Coursework is evaluated based on curriculum content, not on credit equivalency. Students must provide a copy of their Metro State transcript evaluation to their SLHS faculty advisor.

Graduation requires a minimum of 120 hours, with a minimum of 40 credits in upper-division courses as per the Metro State catalog.

Students must earn a grade of “C” or better in all courses required for the major in order to progress through the program. Students must repeat a course in which they earn a grade lower than “C” if that course is required as a prerequisite. Students must meet all general College requirements of a Bachelor of Arts degree prior to graduation.

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative and major GPA of 2.0.⁴

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

A major in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) provides a sound background for students pursuing careers in education, health care, and vocational rehabilitation. Graduates in Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences

³ MSCD received statutory authority to offer graduate masters level programs effective August 2009.

⁴ MSCD SLHS proposal, page 15

who complete the SLHS major will have the prerequisite coursework to pursue a graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology, which opens careers in schools, community clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and private practice. Additionally, the SLHS program offers an optional concentration in Childhood Communication and two certificates. The Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate prepares students to become Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) and the Leveling Certificate allows students with a bachelor's degree in another field to show they have completed the prerequisite coursework to apply to graduate school in speech-language pathology or audiology.⁵

PROGRAM FACULTY:

The program currently has two tenured faculty, one tenure-track assistant professor, and nine adjunct faculty, with master's degrees, or terminal degrees in Audiology, Deaf Education, Speech Language Pathology, Communication Disorders and Speech Science, and Special Education. The program anticipates one additional full-time clinical faculty member and one additional administrative assistant to support clinical aspects of the program. As the number of majors grows, additional costs for instructional materials and adjunct faculty may also be anticipated.⁶

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

The Department staff has reviewed this proposed program and letters of assurances from academic administrators to ensure that the degree program meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. 23-5-129.6. The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission approve the Baccalaureate of Arts Degree in Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences submitted by Metropolitan State College of Denver.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-5-129.6

VI. ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS

The program proposal materials are attached.

⁵ MSCD SLHS proposal, page 1.

⁶ MSCD SLHS proposal, page 16.