



Reasons to choose our program...

Speech-language pathology programming at Western Michigan University dates from 1936, when Dr. Charles Van Riper came from the University of Iowa to establish a speech clinic and develop a curriculum in speech correction. This program was one of the nation's earliest clinics for the study and treatment of speech disorders and the preparation of "speech correctionists." WMU's program has since grown with the field, now covering a full range of communication differences and including feeding and swallowing.

Van Riper was recognized worldwide for his pioneering, innovative treatment for stuttering. Graduate level study began some 20 years later, and in 1966, WMU's graduate program became the first in Michigan, and one of the first six in the nation, to gain national accreditation.

Students have the option of selecting the **Master of Arts in Speech Pathology** (M.A.) or the **Post-Baccalaureate** prerequisite sequence in speech-language pathology, a special program designed for individuals who have earned an undergraduate degree in an area other than communication disorders and wish to prepare for future graduate study in speech-language pathology or audiology.

WMU's comprehensive curriculum exposes students to the breadth and depth of the profession, allowing them to develop knowledge and essential skills in clinical service provision, research and interprofessionalism.

Points of Pride

- Ranked consistently among the top 50 programs of its kind in the nation by U.S. News & World Report
- Accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- Situated within the College of Health and Human Services that affords interprofessional experiences across a range of disciplines, including blindness and low vision studies, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, social work, social work, and nursing, etc.
- Offers dynamic and varied clinical partnerships through the on-campus Unified Clinics and within the southwest Michigan area
- Provides students with the opportunity to work with recognized faculty scholars on research grants and projects
- Integrates 16 full-time faculty with strong clinical and research expertise so that students often receive classroom instruction, clinical supervision, and research-based experience all from the same faculty



Speech-Language Pathology

Professional Highlights

The department boasts a 97 percent three-year average program completion rate, a 100 percent three-year Praxis exam pass rate, and a 100 percent three-year employment rate for graduates in the profession.

The annual salary range for a speech-language pathologist approximates \$48,000 to \$118,000 dependent on factors such as setting and experience. The profession is ranked in the top-25 best careers, with projected growth over the next seven to 10 years.

Teaching, Research and Program

Focus Areas

Faculty members have received prestigious federal grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Institute of Educational Sciences, and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

Faculty excellence is also reflected in numerous national awards and notable WMU awards for distinguished research and service. Areas of expertise include:

- Assessment of social communication
- Augmentative and alternative communication
- Autism and models of disability
- Culturally responsive and globally sustainable practices
- Effectiveness for speech-language intervention
- Feeding and swallowing
- Motor processes that underlie speech and voice production

Funding

Approximately 20 percent of first-year graduate students receive a graduate assistantship or scholarship; all applicants will be automatically considered. Financial aid may also be available; see wmich.edu/finaid.

Admission

Applicants must first complete the application through the Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (csdcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux) and then the graduate student application (wmich.edu/apply/graduate).

Applicants are admitted for the fall semester only.
Fall application deadline: Jan. 15

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2018 Faculty & Staff Retreat

Western Michigan University est. 1903

Offering over 100 world class advanced degree programs and holding Carnegie Foundation classification as a higher research doctoral university, the institution has consistently appeared in the U.S. News & World Report as one of America's best national universities. Graduate students make up 21 percent of the total student body and have been awarded nearly \$52 million in financial assistance. WMU enjoys a rich 60+ year history of graduate education.

Kalamazoo, Michigan

The community offers a vibrant cultural atmosphere mixed with a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The city of Kalamazoo is located midway between Detroit and Chicago and is in close proximity to the shoreline of Lake Michigan.

