



## **Tips for Applying to the MS in Speech Language Pathology Program** **Jacksonville University**

Whether applying for the first time or reapplying to the Masters of Science in Speech Language-Pathology (MS SLP) program at Jacksonville University (JU), you may have questions concerning the Admissions Review process. Many applicants ask “What makes for a strong and competitive application?” Here are a few tips that may be helpful as you move forward in your application process.

**Academic Performance:** The committee uses GPA and GRE scores to assess your academic strength. Evaluation will be completed on your cumulative GPA and your GPA in the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) pre-requisite courses required for JU’s MS SLP program. Whether you have received an undergraduate degree in CSD or within a different area of study, the committee looks for high performance academically in the following courses:

- Anatomy & Physiology of Speech
- Introduction to Language Development
- Acoustics/Speech Science
- Phonetics
- Introduction to Speech Production Disorders
- Neuroanatomy
- Clinical Observation

If you have earned less than a “B” in any of these areas, you may want to consider re-taking the course.

**Essay:** The essay provides an opportunity to identify yourself with the committee. Items to be discussed should include, but are not limited to: motivations for pursuing speech language pathology as a career field; current career goals; and reasoning behind your choice to select Jacksonville University for continuing your education. Proofreading is imperative! An interesting personal statement riddled with grammatical errors, incoherent ideas, and/or is not structured will detract from your message.

**Recommendation Letters:** Letters of recommendation provide the opportunity to learn more about applicants from reputable sources and perspectives. The most suitable recommendations come from academic or professional references; those with a first-hand relationship and able to speak in detail regarding your contributions to a course or organization. Invest time when considering your reference options. Doing well in an academic course does not guarantee that a strong letter of recommendation will be written. Select a professor you may have engaged with outside of the classroom or a professor who provided an opportunity for active classroom discussions. Three letters of recommendation are required. Generally speaking, the committee suggests that applicants select *1 professional* reference and *2 academic* (faculty) references.



## **Experience:**

Those applicants who have acquired experience within the SLP field improve their competitiveness considerably. The opportunity to speak about your experience will be given in the essay portion of your application and can be verified by your references. In addition, your experience will showcase the dedicated time spent learning the field and your commitment to the profession. Current undergraduate students should not be discouraged by the experience category. Students who are admitted directly from an undergraduate degree typically have completed extensive internships, volunteer work, and/or research thus increasing their level of experience. If you have applied previously and were not accepted, use the subsequent year to gain further experience. Please reference below the admissions profile of the students admitted for the 2015-2016 academic year. This may be utilized as a reference point for statistical purposes. Please note that our admissions process is very competitive. Therefore, applicants within these ranges, or perhaps even higher, cannot be guaranteed acceptance.

### **MS Speech- Language Pathology Graduating Class of 2019 Admissions Profile**

#### **Average GPA for admitted students: 3.54**

- Average GPA for CSD (or related) majors: **3.54**
- Average GPA for non-CSD majors: **3.54**
  - Average GPA in Pre-requisite courses: **3.73**

#### **Average GRE scores:**

- Verbal: **148**
- Quantitative: **145**
- Writing: **3.85**

#### **Undergraduate Majors:**

- Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) or related: **76%**
- Non-CSD: **24%**

**In-State: 71%**

**Out-of-State: 29%**

**Female: 97%**

**Male: 3%**

#### **Ethnicity:**

- African-American/Black: **9%**
- Asian/Pacific Islander: **3%**
- Caucasian: **76%**
- Hispanic/Latino (Caucasian): **3%**
- Multiracial/Multiethnic: **6%**
- Decline to Answer: **3%**

**Total applications received: 190**

- Class size: **34**
- Yield: **18%**