

Who is the ideal candidate to study BA (Speech-Language Pathology)?

The BA (Speech-Language Pathology) programme will help students acquire in-depth knowledge of normal speech and language processes within the framework of human communication (infants, children, and adults).

The possible causes and symptomatology of speech, voice, language, listening and literacy disorders, as well as the scientific basis of assessment and intervention of individuals with communication-related disorders or those at risk of developing such pathologies are included. Students are, additionally, equipped theoretically and practically to assess and manage swallowing and feeding disorders (dysphagia) in clients across their lifespan.

Therapy (intervention) can occur in a one-on-one situation, by means of group therapy, as part of a multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary team approach, or using community-based intervention programmes. Practical skills in therapeutic techniques for improving speech, voice, and language as well as the management of dysphagia, are acquired. The qualification complies with international requirements.



Who is the ideal candidate?

If you are interested in the social humanities and keen to improve the well-being of people and help them excel in their interactions, then this is the programme for you!

The ideal candidate should have an aptitude for languages and problem solving and be passionate about human interactive communication. Candidates should be dedicated students and devoted to the ethics of their future profession. Improving the quality of life of their clients should be their main objective, assisting their clients to connect with people throughout daily interactions.

Shadowing a speech-language therapist at work is encouraged.

What makes this programme unique?

Dual high quality theoretical and practical training by registered healthcare professionals. Candidates will be registered as student clinicians with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) during their studies, as students already deliver speech-language therapy services at an undergraduate level.

The option, depending on progress marks, exists to pursue a full-time master's degree following the completion of the four-year professional degree.

At the completion of the four-year professional degree, students must complete one year of compulsory community service at a public healthcare facility in the employment of the South African Department of Health. This allows for excellent clinical exposure and provides graduates with an immediate appointment and income opportunity following their studies.

Career opportunities

Work in education and special education, medico-legal practices, hospitals, clinics or rural communities, or private practices, government, military, and academic institutions (teaching and research)

Structure of programme

Core modules

- An African language (either isiZulu, Sepedi or Setswana)
- Anatomy
- Audiology
- Communication pathology
- Integrated health leadership
- Medical terminology
- Neuro-anatomy
- Neurophysiology
- Physiology
- Psychology
- Research
- Speech-language pathology
- Speech sciences

▶ Watch the BA (Speech-Language Pathology) YouTube video here:
youtu.be/XDsXES3c0_o



Which companies employ our graduates?



‘I began studying speech-language pathology with the simple desire to help people, specifically children with special needs. I did not know much about the programme at the time or what the career itself would entail, but I decided to take a leap of faith.

I found that speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are involved in intervention for children with special needs and serve individuals of all ages. On top of that, their expertise is not limited to speech and language but extend to social communication, feeding and swallowing, voice disorders, literacy, and so much more!

Speech-language pathology is a profession that is much broader and more dynamic than I initially imagined, but at its core, I have learnt that it is simply about empowering people and improving their quality of life. SLPs have the privilege of working closely with families, parents and caregivers, and other professionals to cultivate positive outcomes for some of the most vulnerable populations. They are needed in schools, healthcare settings, low-income communities, nursing homes—the list can go on.

I am now in my final year of study, and it has been an incredibly fulfilling journey thus far. Through the practical exposure that this degree offers, I gained experience working in various settings and have had the opportunity to form invaluable connections with many different people—young and old. Nothing compares to the joy of making a meaningful impact in other people’s lives, all the while having those people impact your life too—I cannot recommend this career path enough!’

Pearl Donzwa – BA (Speech-Language Pathology)

Minimum admission requirements

SELECTION PROGRAMME

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2023		
	Achievement level		APS
	Mathematics	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	
BA (Speech-Language Pathology) [4 years] Closing date: 30 June	4	5	32

Selection is based on academic achievement, and only 50 students are admitted. The conditional selection process starts in August each year. For more information, please contact the programme coordinator (see page 6). The first year of study is the same for both the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology programmes.

Note: We will consider both first- and second-choice applications for BA (Speech-Language Pathology).

Careers: Work in education and special education, hospitals, clinics or rural communities, or private practices, government, military and academic institutions (teaching and research)

Contact information

Dr Esedra Krüger | Tel +27 (0)12 420 2949 | **Email** esedra.kruger@up.ac.za
Ms Naniki Rakolle | Tel +27 (0)12 420 2959 | **Email** naniki.rakolle@up.ac.za



For more information on other programmes in the Faculty of Humanities, go to www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Faculty brochures.



Enquiries may be forwarded to:

Email: esedra.kruger@up.ac.za or naniki.rakolle@up.ac.za

Tel: +27 (0)12 420 2949 or +27 (0)12 420 2959



For career advice, please consult a Student Advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to carol.bosch@up.ac.za

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