



Canadian Association of Speech- Language Pathologists and Audiologists: University Programs in Speech-Language Pathology - 2010

Final Report

December 2010



Overview

The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) recently distributed a survey to the nine universities across the country that offer speech-language pathology and audiology programs. This survey is an update from the 2008 survey. The purpose was to gain insight into the similarities and differences between the programs offered, to monitor any important trends that may be affecting the profession now or in the future and to provide a resource for potential students seeking information on the education programs in Canada.

There are nine university programs in Canada that offer programs in communication sciences and disorders. Nine universities offer speech-language pathology programs.

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Introduction

Context

With more than 5,500 members, the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) is the only national body that supports and represents the professional needs of audiologists, speech-language pathologists and supportive personnel inclusively within one organization. Through this support, CASLPA champions the needs of people with communications disorders.

Mission

Supporting and empowering our members to maximize the communication and hearing potential of the people of Canada.

Survey Goals and Objectives

In 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2010, CASLPA surveyed the nine universities across the country offering speech-language pathology programs.

The purpose of the university survey is:

- to gain insight into the similarities and differences between the programs offered;
- to monitor any important trends that may be affecting the profession now or in the future;
- to provide context to assess the current state of the profession in Canada; and
- to provide a resource for potential students seeking information on the education programs in Canada.

The survey included sections on program profiles, entry-level requirements, number of positions in program, number of applicants, number of recent and projected graduates, student profiles and much more.

Method

One person from each of the nine Canadian universities was asked to complete an online survey developed by InfoFeedback in collaboration with CASLPA.

Respondents received a personalized e-mail from InfoFeedback explaining the rationale for the survey and the benefits to respondents.

The e-mails were sent out on May 19, 2010. These e-mails were followed up by telephone calls to universities that had not submitted their survey form. The survey was closed on August 27, 2010. All nine universities offering speech-language pathology programs responded.

Results

Participating Universities

- Dalhousie University
- McGill University
- Université d'Ottawa
- University of Alberta
- Université Laval
- University of British Columbia
- University of Toronto
- University of Western Ontario
- Université de Montréal

The report is organized by program with the results presented primarily in tables. Summary statistics are given for each table. In most cases, the columns summed to represent the total for all universities. In other cases, an average is provided. Zeros are represented as blank cells within the tables.

Speech-Language Pathology Programs

While all programs share common theoretical and applied criteria for entry and graduation, each one has its own unique program configuration and practices. The universities surveyed offer graduate-level training in speech-language pathology research only or clinical practice only, or both. The program name and degree conferred also varies from one institution to another.

Table 1 provides an overview of the speech-language pathology programs offered by each of the universities surveyed.

Table 1
Degrees Offered in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Programs			
	Bachelor's Degree	Clinical/ Professional Master's Degree	Non-clinical/ Research Master's Degree	PhD
Dalhousie University		✓		✓
McGill University		✓	✓	✓
Université d'Ottawa		✓		✓
Université Laval		✓		✓
University of Alberta		✓	✓	✓
University of British Columbia		✓		✓
University of Toronto		✓	✓	✓
University of Western Ontario		✓	✓	✓
Université de Montréal	✓	✓	✓	✓

At Dalhousie University, the PhD degree is offered in an Interdisciplinary Program in Health Sciences.

At the Université d'Ottawa, a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences is set to begin in the fall of 2010.

The PhD degree at Université Laval is a part of the program in Experimental Medicine.

The University of Alberta offers non-clinical MSc and PhD degrees in rehabilitation science. Speech-language pathology is one of several possible areas of research focus in these programs, and speech-language pathology faculty members may supervise MSc and PhD students in rehabilitation science.

The University of Western Ontario offers a MSc and PhD through the Graduate Program in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, with fields of study in (i) Hearing Science, (ii) Speech and Language Science, and (iii) Rehabilitation Science, among others.

At the Université de Montréal the non-clinical Master's degree in speech-language pathology is offered through the Sciences biomédicales program. The PhD program is also offered through the Sciences biomédicales program and one of the options offered is speech-language pathology.

Staffing

Table 2 details the staffing profile for each of the participating universities.

Table 2
Speech-Language Pathology Staffing

University	Full-time			Part-time		Sessional/Contract	
	Master's	PhD	Vacancies	Master's	PhD	Master's	PhD
Dalhousie University	1	6		1		3	
McGill University	1	9.5				15	2
Université d'Ottawa		5				8	
Université Laval		8	2	8		24	
University of Alberta ¹	3	16		5	1	1-3	
University of British Columbia	1	6		1		2	1
University of Toronto	2	9				3	4
University of Western Ontario	3	10			1	5	
Université de Montréal		11	3			20	
Total	11	80.5	5	15	2	81-83	7

Recruitment plans are in the works at Dalhousie University for one part-time dysphagia/voice resonance faculty; one in speech science and another slot at the Université Laval for a faculty member with an expertise in acquired deficit of language (aphasia, dementia); one researcher who has the best fit with the program at the University of Alberta; one in child development at the University of Toronto.

At the Université de Montréal, the School has been granted permission to recruit three more faculty members in speech-language pathology.

¹ Full-time staff includes two audiology faculty members who teach and/or supervise student research in the S-LP program.

Master's Degree Program Profiles

Program profiles are detailed in Table 3. The differences in nomenclature reflect the unique approach of each university.

Table 3
Speech-Language Pathology Degrees Offered

University	Name	Research or Clinical/Professional	Clinical Training Provided
Dalhousie University	MSc	Clinical Professional (Thesis option available)	Yes
McGill University	M.SC.(A)/M.Sc.	Professional/Research	Yes/No
Université d'Ottawa	Master's in Health Sciences (Speech-Language Pathology)	Clinical/Professional	Yes
Université Laval	Maîtrise en orthophonie	Clinical/Professional	Yes
University of Alberta	MSc-SLP (Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology); MSc-RS (Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences)	Master of Science-SLP: Clinical/Professional & Research; Master of Science-RS: Research	Master of Science-SLP: yes; Master of Science-RS: no
University of British Columbia	MSc in Audiology and Speech Sciences	Research	Yes
University of Toronto	MSc (Master of Science) and MHSc (Master of Health Science)	Master of Science: Research Master of Health Science: Professional	Only the Master of Health Science
University of Western Ontario	MCISc	Clinical/Professional	Yes
Université de Montréal	Maîtrise professionnel en orthophonie (MPO)	M.Sc. en sciences biomédicales (option orthophonie)	Yes/No

This report provides a standard view of the programs through the text and tables that follow, detailing entry and graduation requirements, training offered and other information that may be of interest to readers.

Clinical/Professional Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology (master's degree with professional qualification)

Entry requirements include mandatory pre-requisite courses, research and observational experience.

Mandatory Pre-Requisite Courses

Table 4 details the courses required by the participating universities.

Table 4
Mandatory Pre-requisite Courses for the Clinical/Professional Master's
Degree in Speech-Language Pathology

Courses	Universities
Linguistics	McGill University, University of Alberta (2 courses), Université d'Ottawa, Université Laval, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario
Psychology	McGill University, Université Laval
Statistics	McGill University, University of Alberta, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario
Intermediate Statistics or Quantitative Methods	Université d'Ottawa, Université Laval
Physiology or Human Anatomy	Université d'Ottawa, Université Laval, University of Western Ontario, University of Toronto
Basic Principles in Physics or the Analysis of Sound	Université d'Ottawa
Preference for courses in general phonetics or phonetics-phonology	Université d'Ottawa, Université Laval
Relevant course in psychology such as child development, ageing or perception	Université d'Ottawa, Université Laval, University of Western Ontario, University of Toronto
Phonetics	University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Toronto
Child Development	Université Laval, University of Alberta (or Developmental Psychology), University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario
Developmental Psychology	Université Laval, University of Alberta (or Child Development), University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario
Theories of Learning	Université Laval, University of Alberta (or Cognitive Psychology)
Neuroanatomy or Neuropsychology	Université Laval, University of Alberta
Sensation/Perception	Université Laval
Research Methods	University of British Columbia
Life Science/Biomedical/General Science relevant to Communication Sciences and Disorders	University of Western Ontario
Other courses	University of British Columbia, University of Western Ontario, University of Alberta

At the Université de Montréal a BSc degree in speech-language pathology (90 credits) or the equivalent is required for admission to the clinical Master's programme (MPO).

Other Courses

Table 5 identifies other pre-requisite course for the Clinical/Professional Master's degree.

Table 5
Other Pre-requisite Courses for the Clinical/Professional Master's
Degree in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Other
Dalhousie University	None reported
McGill University	Courses in neuroscience, physiology, anatomy and physics may be counted toward three of 18 credits required in linguistics and psychology provided six linguistics credits and six psychology credits have been completed.
Université d'Ottawa	Three credits in syntax, morphology or morphosyntax. Three credits in another linguistics course (not introductory) preferably in semantics, language acquisition, bilingualism, neurolinguistics or psycholinguistics
Université Laval	None reported
University of Alberta	Child Language Development/Acquisition or First Language Development; Cognitive Psychology (or Theories of Learning).
University of British Columbia	Phonology (3); Syntax (3); Speech science (3); Language acquisition (3); Cognitive psychology OR Psycholinguistics (3); Research methods (3) must include research design, not simply statistics); Neuroanatomy (3); Neurolinguistics (1.5). Courses should be at the 300-400 level when possible.
University of Toronto	None reported
University of Western Ontario	None reported

Volunteer, Research and Observation Experience

At the University of British Columbia, applicants must arrange to meet with—or-observe at least two audiologists and/or speech-language pathologists at work. One of these observations must be in the applicant’s major area of study. The School recommends that the other observation be in the applicant’s minor area of study.

At the University of Toronto, applicants must obtain a clinical reference from the primary supervisor of their speech-language pathology experience. A Clinical Reference Form is included in the Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Program (ORPAS) application. Applicants should give it to the clinical supervisor for completion. The completed Clinical Reference Form should be forwarded directly to ORPAS by the supervisor. Applicants who have completed undergraduate degrees in communication disorders may have their clinical coordinator forward the Clinical Reference Form to ORPAS. Some applicants may have completed more than one supervised clinical experience in a speech-language pathology setting. Usually, an applicant will have completed a second experience because the clientele in the first setting was limited to a single population or age group. The applicant may submit more than one Clinical Reference Form.

The University of Western Ontario requires a minimum of 14 hours of supervised volunteer experience with a registered speech-language pathologist.

McGill University and the University of Alberta do not formally require volunteer, research or observational experience. However, many applicants have such experiences and the Admissions Committee takes them into consideration.

GPA Requirement

Table 6 details the minimal grade point average requirements for entry into the program. It should be noted that, at McGill University and the University of Alberta, the minimum GPA for consideration is listed at 3.0; in practice, competitive GPA’s are generally 3.5 or above. The University of British Columbia requires a cumulative average of at least B+ (at UBC, 76%) over the last two years of a four-year undergraduate degree, or at least 12 credits in the A- grade range (at UBC 80%) in courses at the 300-level or above.

Table 6

Minimum GPA Requirement for Entry into the Clinical/Professional Master’s Degree Program

University	Minimum GPA Requirement
Dalhousie University	3.3
McGill University	3.0
Université d'Ottawa	Minimum B average (70%)
Université Laval	3.3
University of Alberta	3.0
University of British Columbia	B+
University of Toronto	3.3
University of Western Ontario	Minimum B average
Université de Montréal	3.0

Information/Documentation Required

Table 7 identifies the information/documentation required of all applicants. Letters of recommendation may come from academic and/or clinical sources; language proficiency may be verified through formal testing.

Table 7
Information/Documentation required for a Complete Application
to the Clinical/Professional Master's Degree Program

University	Transcripts	Letters	Application Fee	Personal Statement	GRE	Language Proficiency	Other
Dalhousie University	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
McGill University	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Université d'Ottawa	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Université Laval	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
University of Alberta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
University of British Columbia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
University of Toronto	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
University of Western Ontario	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Université de Montréal	✓		✓			✓	

At Dalhousie University, applicants must provide a résumé with their application.

McGill University asks candidates to complete a pre-requisite information form.

The Université d'Ottawa provides an electronic form that serves as an admission checklist. Applicants are required to submit a curriculum vita.

Université Laval requires an applicant interview.

The University of Alberta requires letters of recommendation from academic and/or clinical sources, graduate record exam scores, a résumé and a completed pre-requisite information form.

The University of Toronto asks for one clinical letter of reference based on volunteer experience.

At the University of Western Ontario, one clinical letter of reference is required from the professional who supervised 14 hours of volunteer clinical experience, plus two academic references.

At the Université de Montréal, applicants who have not completed the undergraduate degree in a French-speaking university must successfully complete a standardized language competency exam (receptive and expressive) in French.

Other Program Entry Issues for the Clinical/Professional Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

Due Dates

Due dates for all programs fall in January or February. In addition, the deadline for international students at the University of British Columbia is January 15th. At the University of Alberta, applicants who wish to be considered for recruitment scholarships should have their files completed by mid-January.

Table 8 specifies the due dates for submitting an application.

Table 8
Due Date for Submitting an Application to the Clinical/Professional Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Due Date
Dalhousie University	January 15
McGill University	January 15
Université d'Ottawa	February 1
Université Laval	February 1
University of Alberta	February 1
University of British Columbia	February 1
University of Toronto	Early January
University of Western Ontario	Mid-January
Université de Montréal	February 1

Application Deficiencies

Table 9 describes other mechanisms in place to help students meet their entry requirements.

Table 9
Other Mechanisms of Helping Students Meet Entry Requirements for the Clinical/Professional Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Other
McGill University	None reported
Université d'Ottawa	HSS2525 Introduction à l'analyse du son pour les sciences de la parole et l'ouïe
Université Laval	Admission in complementary schooling (admission en scolarité complémentaire)
University of Alberta	The Admissions Advisor provides feedback on request, including guidance on strengthening applications (if appropriate) for re-submission the following year.
University of British Columbia	Students of exceptional merit who apply to the University of British Columbia and who are missing prerequisites may be invited into an extended (3-year) M.Sc. program. Only a few students each year qualify for such an offer. No special application materials are required. Students with special circumstances (e.g., family responsibility, health issues, etc.) may <i>request in writing</i> to be considered for an extended M.Sc. program (this request should be included with the letter of intent at the time of application).
University of Toronto	Language proficiency test for non-native speakers of English/French, if necessary.
University of Western Ontario	Provide information about how to meet the deficient portion of the application process, provide guidance.

Affirmative Action

Dalhousie University, the University of Toronto² and the University of Western Ontario have affirmative action admission policies for the Clinical/Professional Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology (i.e., for Aboriginal students, African-Canadian students, etc.)

Program Description

Program Length

Clinical/Professional Master's Degree programs vary in length from 22 to 32 months. However, length is contingent on both program and student characteristics.

At Dalhousie University, project students are expected to complete by April of their third year (32 Months); thesis students may take additional four months to end August (36 months). No programs for part-time students were reported.

McGill students completing a thesis will normally require a minimum of four to 12 extra months to complete their program.

At the University of Alberta thesis track students typically take one or two additional semesters to complete the program.

At the University of British Columbia, some (non-thesis) students can expect to take 24 months; for students who complete a thesis, there is no "expected" length (but it often takes longer than 24 months).

Table 10
Length, in Months, to Complete the Clinical/Professional Master's Degree
Program in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Expected Length for Full-time Students
Dalhousie University	32
McGill University	24
Université d'Ottawa	24
Université Laval	24
University of Alberta	23
University of British Columbia	24
University of Toronto	22
University of Western Ontario	24
Université de Montréal	12

Part-Time Attendance

The University of Toronto has a formal part-time program that can be completed in four, five, or six years of part-time study. No other universities reported having a formal part-time program.

² Aboriginal students

However, at the University of Alberta some students complete the program on a modified or extended schedule due to medical or other considerations. This may involve spreading coursework and/or placements over an additional one to three semesters.

Graduation Requirements

Table 11 highlights program requirements for graduation. At the University of British Columbia students have to complete a thesis or a comprehensive exam or a research project or a literature review.

Table 11
Graduation Requirements for the Clinical/Professional Master's Degree Program
in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Mandatory Courses	Clinical Practicum	Research Project	Comprehensive Literature Review	Thesis (Optional)	Thesis (Required)	Comprehensive Exam
Dalhousie University	✓	✓	✓		✓		
McGill University	✓	✓			✓		
Université d'Ottawa	✓	✓	✓				
Université Laval	✓	✓	✓	✓			
University of Alberta	✓	✓	✓		✓		
University of British Columbia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
University of Toronto	✓	✓					✓
University of Western Ontario	✓	✓		✓			
Université de Montréal	✓	✓	*	*			

*At the Université de Montréal the student chooses between an option that includes the completion of a research project or the completion of a comprehensive literature review in the form of an evidence-based analysis and synthesis.

Applications in 2009 – 2010

Table 12 shows that applications to the program range from 78 at the Université d’Ottawa to 332 at Dalhousie University.

Table 12
Applications in 2009 - 2010 Year to the Clinical/Professional Master’s Degree
Program in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Applications
Dalhousie University	303
McGill University	264
Université d’Ottawa	78
Université Laval	200
University of Alberta	134
University of British Columbia	128
University of Toronto	250
University of Western Ontario	300
Université de Montréal	60 ³
Total	1,717

Recent Graduates

Table 13 shows that the number of graduates is on the rise from 246 in 2008 – 2009 to a projected 276 in 2010 – 2011, an increase of 12%.

Table 13
Numbers of Recent and Projected Graduates from the Clinical/Professional Master’s
Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

University	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Dalhousie University	25	24	25
McGill University	28	27	23
Université d’Ottawa	18	18	25
Université Laval	34	42	50
University of Alberta	44	59	53
University of British Columbia	22	23	24
University of Toronto	39	47	46
University of Western Ontario	36	38	30
Université de Montréal	55	58	55
Total	301	336	331

³ At the Université de Montréal, only students with a BSc degree in speech-language pathology from the Université de Montréal can apply to the clinical Master’s degree in speech-language pathology.

All students normally complete all clinical/professional Master's degree programs in speech-language pathology in the summer. Most students at Dalhousie University complete their program of study in April. Thesis students may take longer.

In-House Clinical Experiences

At Dalhousie University, students participate in a weekly aphasia group/aphasia book club during academic year. Two 4-week Intensive Residential Aphasia Communication Therapy Programs (InterACT) providing clinical placements for students. Programs take place during the summer term after second year.

At the Université d'Ottawa, students take part in an Inter-professional clinic servicing the Francophone school-aged and geriatric populations.

At the University of Alberta, All students complete their first placement in our in-house clinic, Corbett Clinic. For this introductory placement, students work in teams to deliver assessment and treatment services. During this intensive 12-week, part-time experience, students acquire the equivalent of 24 full-time days of experience. For the second introductory placement, the majority of students are placed in Corbett Clinic. Experience with alternative service delivery models, such as group treatment, is provided. Some students are placed in the Integrated Community Living program, which is a joint venture with Alberta Health Services. During this 12-week part-time placement, which runs concurrently with academic training, students acquire the equivalent of five full-time days of experience.

The University of Toronto has an in-house clinic that is operated by the Speech and Stuttering Institute that offers student hours in fluency and articulation/phonology.

At the University of Western Ontario, the H.A. Leeper Speech and Hearing Clinic provides clinical training in speech language pathology and audiology for students enrolled in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. It is also the home of the Southwestern Ontario sites of the Ontario Infant Hearing Program and the Preschool Speech and Language Initiative ([tykeTALK](#)). A wide range of services is available to community members, in the areas of hearing, speech, language, and voice.

At the Université de Montréal, some students (mainly at the undergraduate level) may complete a practicum at the newly established university clinic that is housed within the School.

The various in-house clinic experiences are summarized in Table 14.

Table 14
In-house clinics

University	Yes
Dalhousie University	✓
McGill University	
Université d'Ottawa	✓
Université Laval	✓
University of Alberta	✓
University of British Columbia	
University of Toronto	✓
University of Western Ontario	✓
Université de Montréal	✓

Table 15 details the number of days expected for clinical placements, with variability between universities as well as within some of them.

Table 15
Expected Number of Days (full-time equivalent) of Clinical Placements in the Clinical/Professional
Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Dalhousie University		70	60	130
McGill University	20	94		114
Université d'Ottawa	25	100		125
Université Laval	12	81		93
University of Alberta	Spring/summer Yr 1: 24 days (12 wks part-time)	Fall Yr 2: 7 days (12 wks part- time) plus Jan to Aug Yr 2: 120-160 days (depending on placement type)		151-191
University of British Columbia	65	62		127
University of Toronto	60 days 12 wks	90 days 18 wks		150
University of Western Ontario	48-74	50-72		98-146
Université de Montréal	78			78

At the Université de Montréal, a substantial number of clinical practicum hours are completed within the BSc program in speech-language pathology.

Table 16 indicates that the final placement can take place at any time during the year, depending on the university or site selection.

At the University of Alberta all external placements are undertaken after all academic courses are completed. These external, full-time placements allow for flexible scheduling. A single placement may be completed during a six to eight week full-time block. Alternately, two placements may be completed concurrently, each half-time, over a 12-week block. Many students will complete two of these placements in a single setting

Table 16

Timeframe for the Final Clinical Placement in the Clinical/Professional Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology Takes Place

University	Timeframe
Dalhousie University	Winter
McGill University	Spring/Summer
Université d'Ottawa	Spring/Summer
Université Laval	Spring
University of Alberta	Jan-Aug of Year 2
University of British Columbia	Summer
University of Toronto	Summer
University of Western Ontario	Spring-Summer
Université de Montréal	Spring/Summer

Plans to Change Clinical Placements

While Université Laval plans to increase the number of days of clinical placement, the others will maintain the status quo. At the University of Western Ontario, students may take additional optional weeks of clinical placement. The number of hours will not change but the organization will change, for example fewer clinical hours in Year 1 and more clinical hours in year 2.

With the exception of Dalhousie University, all universities are experiencing difficulties in finding clinical placements for their clinical/professional master's degree programs. The issues are detailed in Table 17.

Table 17
Difficulties in Finding Clinical Placements for the Clinical/Professional Master's Degree
in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Yes
Dalhousie University	
McGill University	Competition with Université de Montréal (same city) and Université Laval - competition with other programs in Canada, 2/3 of our students are from out of province - often students are unilingual or not sufficiently bilingual to undertake a practicum in province of Quebec, or in Montreal -not enough access to specialty placements (e.g. dysphagia, fluency, voice, etc.)
Université d'Ottawa	1. Increase in admission numbers from 18-25 (translates to 35 additional placements) 2. Francophone program in a bilingual town. 3. Poor participation from most teaching hospitals compared to the provincial benchmarks.
Université Laval	Yes
University of Alberta	We have most difficulty finding placements with adult clients in rehab settings (e.g., adult neurogenics, voice, fluency, aural rehab).
University of British Columbia	There is a general shortage of placements. There is a particularly severe shortage of adult/hospital placements for our students.
University of Toronto	We have difficulty finding voice and fluency placements.
University of Western Ontario	Difficulty if student seeks placement in a particular location/city. Competition for clinical placements in Toronto/Vancouver/Ottawa areas. Difficult to find adult neuro positions, often difficult to match students and sites so that there are reasonable expectations regarding additional accommodation and transportation. Despite available funding, many students continue to incur substantial costs to complete required placements.
Université de Montréal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition with the other programs that provide training in French (U. Laval and U. d'Ottawa) • Competition with other training programs in Québec (U. Laval and McGill University) • Providing practicum hours in some specialty areas is difficult to achieve for all the students • No funding available for students who must complete a practicum beyond the greater Montreal area

Special Situations

Dalhousie University occasionally allows courses to be audited by members of the professional community. Upgrading for those who have been educated outside of Canada to meet national standards can be accommodated on an individual case-by-case basis.

Upon the recommendation of the Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and with the consent of the instructor, the University of Alberta will allow professionals to audit or take for credit up to three courses. This applies to clinicians trained abroad to meet regulatory or certification requirements.

McGill University, the University of Alberta, the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, the University of Western Ontario and Université Laval accept applications from graduates of universities outside of Canada.

At McGill and the University of British Columbia, clinicians trained abroad are allowed to sit in existing courses to meet regulatory or certification requirements.

The University of Western Ontario may offer courses for internationally trained speech-language pathologists to upgrade for licensing in Ontario on a case-by-case basis. This is contingent on the permission of the instructor and Director.

Table 18
Other Master's Degrees in Speech-Language Pathology Offered by the Universities

University	Other Master's Degrees
Dalhousie University	
McGill University	Non-clinical/research Master's degree program
Université d'Ottawa	Graduate certificate in auditory verbal studies
Université Laval	Non-clinical/research Master's degree program (experimental medicine)
University of Alberta	Non-clinical/research Master's degree program in rehabilitation science (speech-language pathology is one of many options for area of research focus).
University of British Columbia	
University of Toronto	Non-clinical/research Master's degree program
University of Western Ontario	Non-clinical/research Master's degree program
Université de Montréal	Non-clinical/research Master's degree in speech-language pathology within the Sciences biomédicales graduate program

Non-Clinical/Research Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology (master's degree without professional qualification)

Entry requirements include minimum GPA scores and information or documentation about previous educational experiences.

GPA

McGill University, the University of Toronto and the University of Alberta require a minimum 3.0 GPA. Université Laval requires a minimum 2.67 GPA; at the University of Western Ontario, it's 2.7

Information/Documentation Required

Table 19 details the information/documentation required by the universities offering the non-clinical/research master's degree program in speech-language pathology.

Table 19
Information/Documentation Required for a Complete Application
to the Non-Clinical/Research Master's Degree Program

University	Transcripts	Letters	Application Fee	Personal Statement	GRE	Language Proficiency	Other
Dalhousie University							
McGill University	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Université d'Ottawa							
Université Laval	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
University of Alberta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
University of British Columbia							
University of Toronto	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
University of Western Ontario	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Université de Montréal	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓

The letters are letters of reference and should come from academic and/or clinical/volunteer sources; language proficiency tests are required only if necessary.

McGill University, Université Laval and the University of Alberta require formal statements of research interests and goals. The University of Alberta also asks for a research plan and graduate record exam results, and a potential supervisor must be identified.

The University of Toronto asks for examples of written work and requires the applicant to confirm a supervisor prior to applying to the program. McGill University and the University of Western Ontario highly recommends contact with a potential supervisor.

At the Université de Montréal, the student must identify a potential supervisor or a potential research topic.

Other Program Entry Issues for the Non-Clinical/Research Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

Due Dates

Due dates are detailed in Table 20.

Table 20
Due Date for Submitting an Application to the Non-Clinical/Research
Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Due Date
McGill University	January 15
Université Laval	Summer, Winter, Fall
University of Alberta	Any time for Canadian applicants; May 1 or September 1 for international applicants
University of Toronto	February 1 and September 15
University of Western Ontario	February 8 (late considered)
Université de Montréal	Summer, Winter, Fall

Specific Issues

The University of Alberta accepts applications from graduates of universities outside of Canada. As well, the university offers a MScSLP – clinical/professional degree with thesis option.

Program Description

Program Length

Table 21 shows that program length varies considerably from university to university, as well as from part-time or full-time student status.

Table 21
Expected Length, in Months, for Completion of the Non-Clinical/Research Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology by Full-time and Part-time Students

University	Expected Length for Full-time Student	Average Length for Part-time Student
McGill University	20	
Université Laval	24	
University of Alberta	24	48 maximum
University of Toronto	24	
University of Western Ontario	24	
Université de Montréal	12	18-24

Graduation Requirements

Table 22
Graduation Requirements for the Non-Clinical/Research Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Mandatory Courses	Research Project	Clinical Practicum	Comprehensive Literature Review	Thesis (Optional)	Thesis (Required)	Comprehensive Exam
McGill University	✓					✓	
Université Laval	✓	✓				✓	
University of Alberta	✓					✓	
University of Toronto	✓					✓	
University of Western Ontario	✓					✓	
Université de Montréal	✓					✓	

Seats Available

Table 23
Seats Currently Available in the Non-Clinical/Research Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology (Year 1)

University	Seats
McGill University	Open-ended
Université Laval	Unlimited
University of Alberta	Unlimited
University of Toronto	Open-ended
University of Western Ontario	Unlimited
Université de Montréal	Open-ended

First Year Admissions

Table 24
Number of First Year Admissions in the Non-Clinical/Research Master's Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology (Year 1)

University	Admissions	
	Full-time	Part-time
McGill University	1	
Université Laval	1	
University of Alberta ⁴	6	3
University of Toronto	2 ⁵	
University of Western Ontario	2	
Université de Montréal	1	n/a
Total	13	3

Number of Applications

Table 25
Applications in 2009 - 2010 Year to the Non-Clinical/Research Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Applications
McGill University	
Université Laval	1
University of Alberta ⁶	9
University of Toronto	2
University of Western Ontario	2
Université de Montréal	1
Total	15

Number of Recent and Projected Graduates

Table 26
Number of Recent and Projected Graduates from the Non-Clinical/Research Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology

University	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
McGill University	1	1	
Université Laval			
University of Alberta ⁷	4	3	4
University of Toronto	1	1	2
University of Western Ontario	1	1	0
Université de Montréal	1	2	2
Total	8	8	8

⁴ These numbers reflect students in rehabilitation science; not all have a focus in speech-language pathology.

⁵ 2009-2010

⁶ These numbers reflect rehabilitation science applications in total, not just those with a speech-language pathology focus.

⁷ *ibid*

Time of Year for Graduation

Table 27
Time of the Year Students Normally Complete all Non-Clinical/Research
Master's Degree Programs in Speech-Language Pathology Requirements

University	Time of Year
McGill University	Spring
Université Laval	Spring
University of Alberta	Varied
University of Toronto	Spring
University of Western Ontario	Summer
Université de Montréal	Varied

PhD Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology, Rehabilitation Science or Interdisciplinary Studies

University programs offering doctoral degrees in speech-language pathology vary considerably. They are profiled in Table 28.

Table 28
Indicate whether your PhD program is in...

University	Speech-Language Pathology	Rehabilitation Science	Interdisciplinary Studies	Other
Dalhousie University			✓	
McGill University				✓
Université d'Ottawa		✓		
Université Laval				✓
University of Alberta		✓		
University of British Columbia				✓
University of Toronto	✓			
University of Western Ontario	✓	✓		
Université de Montréal				✓

Table 29 reflects the titles of PhD degree programs, as they are offered by the eight universities.

Table 29
Other Titles of PhD Degree Programs in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Other Titles of PhD Degree Programs
Dalhousie University	Interdisciplinary Studies
McGill University	Communication Sciences and Disorders
Université d'Ottawa	Rehabilitation Sciences
Université Laval	Experimental Medicine
University of Alberta	PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences — students may concentrate in any one of a number of professional disciplines, including SLP or audiology, or they may come from a non-clinical background. S-LP faculty may supervise PhD students in Rehabilitation Sciences.
University of British Columbia	Audiology and Speech Sciences
University of Toronto	Speech-Language Pathology
University of Western Ontario	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences (Speech & Language Science) and Health & Rehabilitation Sciences (Rehabilitation Science)
Université de Montréal	Sciences biomédicales (option orthophonie)

Minimum Entry Requirements

As illustrated in Table 30, the “previous degree” requirement varies from university to university.

At the Université d’Ottawa, applicants to the PhD program in rehabilitation sciences must have a master’s degree in health sciences or in a related discipline (e.g., education, health administration, psychology).

At the University of Alberta candidates for admission to PhD program in Rehab Science must have a Master’s degree in a rehabilitation discipline OR a related field, OR the equivalent of an honours baccalaureate degree in rehabilitation or a related field.

At the University of Western Ontario, the bachelor’s and master’s degrees may or may not be in speech-language pathology.

Table 30

For the PhD Degree Program, the Candidate is Required to Have Previously Obtained One of the Following Degrees

University	Bachelor’s Degree not in Speech-Language Pathology	Bachelor’s Degree in Speech-Language Pathology	Clinical/ Professional Master’s Degree in Speech-Language Pathology	Non-Clinical/ Research Master’s Degree in Speech-Language Pathology
Dalhousie University				
McGill University	✓			
Université d’Ottawa				
Université Laval			✓	✓
University of Alberta	✓		✓	✓
University of British Columbia			✓	✓
University of Toronto			✓	✓
University of Western Ontario				
Université de Montréal			✓	✓

Mandatory Pre-requisite Courses

Université Laval requires Statistics (Méthodes statistiques en recherche biomédicale) and ethics (Conduite responsable de la recherche).

At the University of Alberta, candidates must have a master’s degree in a discipline of rehabilitation or a related field (engineering, ergonomics, kinematics, public health, psychology, nursing or medicine), or the equivalent of an honours baccalaureate degree in rehabilitation or a related field.

Research Experience

Dalhousie University and the universities of Alberta and British Columbia require research experience. At Dalhousie, the master’s degree experience can fill the requirement.

At the University of Alberta, students who have not completed a Master's thesis are required to complete an "in lieu of thesis" research project prior to advancing to candidacy.

Minimum GPA Requirement

Minimum GPA requirements are detailed in Table 31.

Table 31
Minimum GPA Requirement for Entry Into the PhD Degree Program

University	Requirement
Dalhousie University	3.7
McGill University	3.0
Université d'Ottawa	B+
Université Laval	No minimum specified
University of Alberta	3.0
University of British Columbia	A average, see Table 32
University of Toronto	3.3
University of Western Ontario	2.7
Université de Montréal	3.0

Table 32 further defines the requirements for entry into the PhD program.

Table 32
Other Minimum Requirement for Entry Into the PhD Degree Program
in Speech-Language Pathology

University	Other
Dalhousie University	Interdisciplinary PhD candidates must achieve the entrance requirements specific to the program as mandated by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
McGill University	Admission is also contingent upon the availability of a doctoral supervisor.
Université d'Ottawa	None reported
Université Laval	Students have to identify their research topic and their supervisor. The supervisor must have an accreditation by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
University of Alberta	Admission is also contingent upon the availability of a doctoral supervisor on the academic staff.
University of British Columbia	First-class (A) average based on relevant graduate and senior undergraduate courses, with first-class standing in at least 18 credits of graduate work; <i>or</i>
	Bachelor's degree with 1 year of study in a Master's program, with 12 credits of first class average, of which 9 credits must be at the 500-level or above and at least 9 credits must be of first class standing (at UBC, 80% or higher); <i>or</i>
	Current enrolment in the School's M.Sc. programs in Audiology or Speech-Language Pathology with 12 months of study in the M.Sc. program completed.
University of Toronto	Admission is contingent upon securing a supervisor.
University of Western Ontario	Admission is also contingent upon the availability of a doctoral supervisor
Université de Montréal	Admission is also contingent upon the availability of a doctoral supervisor. The supervisor must have the appropriate accreditation by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Information/Documentation Required

In general, letters of recommendation are required from an academic source. Letters of reference are also accepted from individuals who are knowledgeable about the applicant's academic achievements, research capabilities, and potential. Language proficiency tests are required only if necessary.

At Dalhousie University, applicants must submit all information required by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Funding is required for all PhD candidates and the Faculty of Graduate Studies manages all admissions. Interdisciplinary PhD candidates must achieve the entrance requirements specific to the program as mandated by the Faculty of Graduate studies.

McGill University and Université Laval ask all candidates to submit a statement of research goals and interests.

Université d'Ottawa requires at least two confidential letters of recommendation from professors who have known the applicant and are familiar with the student's work; an up-to-date curriculum vitae including a list of relevant publications; a statement of purpose indicating the reasons for PhD study, career goals, interests in the proposed research area; the identification of a professor (member of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) who is willing and available to act as thesis supervisor.

The University of Alberta requires a formal statement of research goals and interests for the doctoral program; admission is contingent upon the availability of a doctoral supervisor on the academic staff.

The University of British Columbia asks for an up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV); a Statement of Research Interests with detailed research plan; an indication of the intended research supervisor; completion of online application process at: <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/online/>.

Table 33
Information/Documentation Required for a Complete Application to the PhD Degree Program

University	Transcripts	Letters	Application Fee	Personal Statement	GRE or other Qualifying Test	Language Proficiency	Other
Dalhousie University	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
McGill University	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Université d'Ottawa	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓ ⁸	✓ ⁹
Université Laval	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
University of Alberta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
University of British Columbia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
University of Toronto	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
University of Western Ontario	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Université de Montréal	✓	✓	✓				

⁸ If not English or French

⁹ Curriculum vitae and letter from professor in the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies stating he/she agrees to act as supervisor.

Other Program Entry Issues for the PhD Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

Dates for Application Submission

Table 34
Due Date for Submitting an Application to the PhD Degree Program

University	Due Date
Dalhousie University	October 15/January 15/March 15
McGill University	January 15
Université d'Ottawa	February 1 (late considered)
Université Laval	Anytime
University of Alberta	Anytime for Canadian applicants; May 1 or Sept 1 for international applicants
University of British Columbia	Anytime
University of Toronto	February 15 or September 15
University of Western Ontario	February 7 (late considered)
Université de Montréal	Fall, Winter, Summer

Dalhousie University has an affirmative action admission policy.

Program Description

Length in Months

Table 35 details the length in months normally required for the completion of the PhD program. However, this may vary according to previous degrees obtained (University of Alberta), variations between students (University of British Columbia), time to complete the thesis (University of Western Ontario).

Table 35
Length, in Months, for the Completion of the PhD Degree Program for Full-time and Part-time Students

University	Full-time Students	Part-time Students
Dalhousie University	48	n/a
McGill University	48	
Université d'Ottawa	48-60	n/a
Université Laval	48	
University of Alberta	36-48	72 maximum
University of British Columbia	60 ¹⁰	n/a
University of Toronto	48	n/a
University of Western Ontario	48	
Université de Montréal	48	

¹⁰ There is no expected length for completing a PhD at our university. The number is a typical duration based on average completion time by previous students.

Graduation Requirements

Table 36 details graduation requirements, with compulsory candidacy exam at the University of Alberta.

Table 36
Graduation Requirements for the PhD Degree Program

University	Research	Comprehensive Literature Review	Thesis/ Dissertation	Comprehensive Exam
Dalhousie University	✓	✓	✓	✓
McGill University	✓	✓	✓	✓
Université d'Ottawa	✓		✓	✓ ¹¹
Université Laval	✓		✓	
University of Alberta	✓		✓	✓
University of British Columbia	✓		✓	✓
University of Toronto			✓	✓
University of Western Ontario	✓	✓	✓	✓
Université de Montréal	✓	✓	✓	✓

Applications in 2009 - 2010

Table 37
Applications in 2009 - 2010 Year to the PhD Degree Program

University	Applications
Dalhousie University	0
McGill University	12
Université d'Ottawa	n/a
Université Laval	3
University of Alberta	6
University of British Columbia	n/a
University of Toronto	2
University of Western Ontario	4
Université de Montréal	2
Total	29

¹¹ Plus mandatory courses

Numbers of Recent and Projected Graduates

Table 38
Numbers of Recent and Projected Graduates from the PhD Degree Program

University	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Dalhousie University	0	0	0
McGill University	3	2	3
Université d'Ottawa	n/a	n/a	n/a
Université Laval			
University of Alberta	5	3	6
University of British Columbia	2		2
University of Toronto	1	3	5
University of Western Ontario			
Université de Montréal	2	2	0
Total	13	10	16

Attrition

One case of attrition from the PhD program was reported at McGill University and the Université Laval.

Time of Year for Graduation

Table 39
Time of the Year Students Normally Complete all PhD Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology Requirements

University	Time of Year
Dalhousie University	
McGill University	Summer
Université d'Ottawa	Varies
Université Laval	Varies
University of Alberta	Varies
University of British Columbia	Any time
University of Toronto	Fall or Spring
University of Western Ontario	Varies
Université de Montréal	Varies

Special Issues

McGill University, the Université d'Ottawa, and the universities of Alberta, British Columbia, Toronto and Western Ontario accept applications from graduates of universities outside of Canada.



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