

Listening and Spoken Language Competencies Program Special Educators and Speech-Language Pathologists Utah State University

It is well documented that a critical shortage exists of appropriately-trained professionals who serve children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) who use listening and spoken language (LSL). To help address this need, the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education at Utah State University (USU) offers an online LSL Competencies program for currently-licensed special educators and speech-language pathologists to develop knowledge and skills to provide effective evidence-based LSL services to young children who are DHH.

Professionals serving children who are DHH must understand the impact of auditory access on language, literacy, and academic development and have the skills to ameliorate language delays associated with hearing loss. The LSL Competencies program trains professionals already working in the field to develop these specialized skills so they can provide intensive and individualized services to children who are DHH.

The LSL Competencies program is completed over three semesters, consisting of asynchronous online coursework and weekly practicum mentoring in the professionals' current work setting utilizing video conferencing technology for supervision. In addition, students meet online as a group 2-3 times per semester to discuss program components and to reinforce implementation of concepts, skills, and strategies for serving children who are DHH across a variety of settings.

Program Details

- There are 6 graduate-level classes, plus practicum (22 credit hours) required in the program of study. All classes are offered asynchronous online, which means students access course content from their computer and do not need to sign in to the computer at a specific time.
- The program takes 3 semesters to complete (fall, spring, and summer). Fall and spring semester classes run approximately 14 weeks each. Summer semester classes typically begin the 2nd week of May and run for 7 weeks. The program begins Fall semester.
- During the school year (fall and spring semesters), students complete the practicum requirements in their regular employment setting. The USU practicum supervisor connects with students on a weekly basis to provide support throughout the school year. This helps to facilitate theory to practice as students utilize the strategies learned in the coursework and apply them to children they are serving.
- Students meet as a group 3-4 times per semester using video conferencing technology to discuss program components and to reinforce concept implementation.
- The course content is most applicable to professionals who provide services to preschool or early elementary age children.

Course Descriptions

ComD 6340	Auditory Learning and Spoken Language for Children with Hearing Loss (3) (<i>Fall semester</i>)
ComD 6320	Language Learning and Literacy Acquisition in Children with Hearing Loss (3) (<i>Fall semester</i>)
ComD 6770	Audiology and Teachers of Children who are DHH (3) (<i>Spring semester</i>)
ComD 6350	Early Elementary and Itinerant Support for Children who are DHH using LSL (3) (<i>Spring semester</i>)
ComD 6730	Multiple Disabilities and Syndromes (2) (<i>Summer semester</i>)
ComD 7520	Introduction to Cochlear Implants (2) (<i>Summer semester</i>)
ComD 6700	Practicum (6) (<i>Fall and Spring semesters, 3 credit hours each</i>)

Funding

For the 2021 cohort, USU is pleased to offer financial support in the amounts of:

- \$2000 fall semester
- \$2000 spring semester
- \$1000 summer semester

***This is a non-degree seeking program. Upon completion of this program, teachers or SLPs with a Utah Educator License will be eligible for the LSL Competencies Endorsement to attach to their license. Outside Utah, state licensing structures vary from state to state. It is the responsibility of out-of-state students who are seeking official recognition of the Endorsement (or equivalent) to know their state licensing policies. We encourage students to contact their state licensing office to discuss and identify available options. Program completion is reflected on the USU transcript and students receive a LSL Competencies Certificate issued by the USU College of Education.*

To receive more information, please contact Dr. Lauri Nelson (lauri.nelson@usu.edu) or Liz Parker (liz.parker@usu.edu).