

FAQ's

PennWest's [Online MSSLP](#) & [In-Person MSSLP](#) Programs

Credits & Cost

- The [Online](#) and [In-person](#) MSSLP programs are both 60 credits.
- Access information about tuition for the PennWest Online MSSLP program [here](#).
- Access information about tuition for the PennWest In-person MSSLP program [here](#).

Additional Requirements for Graduation from Online or In-Person MSSLP Program

- 2 externships averaging 32 - 40 hours/week
- Minimum of 400 clinical clockhours
- Comprehensive programmatic assessment
- Passing score on the [SLP Praxis Exam](#)

Pre-requisite Courses Related to ASHA Certification Standards

As accredited programs, students in the In-person and Online MSSLP programs must meet the following prerequisites:

1. Undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders or post-baccalaureate course of study in Speech-Language Pathology from an accredited institution.
2. Prerequisite courses related to certification standards ([more information can be found here](#)):

(1) **Biological Sciences**: Coursework must provide knowledge in areas related to human or animal sciences (e.g., biology, human anatomy and physiology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, human genetics,

veterinary science). Coursework dealing with plant ecology or botany (plant studies) is not approved.

(2) **Chemistry**: Coursework must provide knowledge in areas related to substances and compounds composed of atoms and molecules, and their structure, properties, behavior, as well as the changes that occur during reactions with other compounds.

-OR-

Physics: Coursework must provide knowledge in areas related to matter, energy, motion, and force. This knowledge contributes to better appreciation of the role of Physics in everyday experiences and in today's society and technology. Physical sciences including – but not limited to – meteorology, geology, astronomy, etc. are not approved.

(3) **Social/Behavioral Sciences**: Coursework must provide knowledge in area analysis and investigation of human and animal behavior through controlled and naturalistic observation and disciplined scientific experimentation.

(4) **Statistics**: Coursework must provide knowledge in areas related to learning from data and measuring, controlling, and communicating uncertainty.

Notes:

- Classes taken at the high school level are not eligible to meet this requirement with the exception of advanced placement (AP) courses that appear for credit on your college/university transcript.
- Internationally-educated applicants: Classes evaluated by your

credentialing evaluation agency as the equivalent of U.S. high school *will not be accepted*. All basic science classes must appear on your undergraduate or graduate academic transcript(s) and credential evaluation reports.

- Students who have not completed the above coursework may enroll in these courses at PennWest while completing the post-bac certificate program or may transfer credits from another institution of higher education.

Minimum Coursework Requirements for Applicants Who Completed Their Post-Bac Studies Outside of PennWest

Post-bac plans of study vary between institutions of higher learning. Applicants who have completed a post-bac program at an outside university must complete at least 3 credits of coursework in each of the following areas:

1. **Speech and Language Development**: Introduces students to normal language and speech development in children. Provides theoretical and practical frames of reference for students entering child-centered professions. Addresses foundations of language and speech acquisition, developmental processes of normal speech and language, and means of facilitating normal communicative abilities.
2. **Introduction to Audiology**: Investigates the nature of hearing disorders and the audiological, medical, social, psychological, and educational implications. Emphasizes hearing's impact on speech and language.
3. **Phonetics/Transcription Phonetics**: This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the description, classification, and transcription of the speech sounds in English. Phonetic and phonological principles will be emphasized in normal, dialectal, and

clinical speech and language contexts, particularly as these principles apply to speech-language pathology and audiology.

4. **Anatomy and Physiology of Speech & Hearing**: This course introduces basic gross and functional normal anatomy and physiology underlying the systems involved in speech, language, hearing, and swallowing.
5. **Speech Science**: Analyzes models of the speech mechanism. Emphasizes normal aspects of the physiology and acoustics of speech production.

Additional Undergraduate Requirements:

- Students must earn a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 for post-baccalaureate coursework for consideration for either of the MSSLP programs.
- Students must complete a minimum of 25 guided observation hours before beginning their MSSLP coursework. These hours may be completed virtually or in person but must be under the guidance of a CCC-SLP who has completed their supervision requirements.
- The following coursework is strongly recommended before beginning either of the MSSLP Programs:
 - ☐ *Neuroanatomy*
 - ☐ *Aural Rehabilitation*
 - ☐ *Clinical Observation Course*