SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY (MS)

Master of Science Degree

The Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology program at New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) is designed for students with an earned bachelor's degree in the field of communication disorders to advance their education and pursue their certificate of clinical competence in speech language pathology. The program courses are offered fully online to provide a unique opportunity for students to gain their clinical experience in their home communities, impacting the lives of people with communication needs across the lifespan. Some classes are offered in the evenings, synchronously through a virtual format, while others are offered asynchronously allowing students to study and complete their coursework, managing time to fit their needs. The program can be completed in as little as 30 months. There are two required immersion weeks, completed during terms 4 and 6, where students are required to be on campus and at approved clinical sites within and near Rhode Island.

Speech language pathologists impact clients across the lifespan in a wide variety of settings and treat a diverse array of disorders. The program is multifaceted, allowing students to gain knowledge and skills across multiple settings, practice environments and patient populations. Speech language pathologists work with pediatric and adult clients in settings including acute care, rehabilitation, educational, and private clinical environments. Clients may be impacted by articulation, language, voice, fluency, swallowing, cognitive, hearing, and/or social difficulties, requiring assessment and intervention that is individualized and evidence-based to maximize outcomes. The speech language pathologist further functions as an integral member of many interdisciplinary teams, working collaboratively with other members to effect change. They also play a key role in prevention of communication and hearing disorders.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will have attained the necessary clinical hours, experience, and knowledge to be eligible to sit for the Praxis Examination in Speech Language Pathology required to apply for the certificate of clinical competence (CCC) in speech language pathology through the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). Those who complete the program and pass the Praxis examination can complete their clinical fellowship year through ASHA, with successful completion leading to a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology (CCC-SLP).

Accreditation Status

The Master of Science degree (M.S.) distance education program in speech-language pathology at the New England Institute of Technology is an Applicant for Candidacy by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498- 2071 or 301-296-5700.

Curriculum

Course	Title	Quarter Credit Hours
Term I		
SLP 510	Introduction to Clinical Methodology in Speech Language Pathology	5
SLP 512	Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice	4
	Quarter Credit Hours	**9**
Term II		
SLP 520	Speech Sound Disorders in Children	3
SLP 521	Neurological Aspects of Communication Disorders	3
SLP 522	Language Disorders in Children 1 – Birth to 5 Years	4
	Quarter Credit Hours	**10**
Term III		
SLP 530	Clinical Methods 1	2
SLP 531	Augmentative Alternative Communication	3
SLP 532	Language Disorders in Children 2 – School Age	4
	Quarter Credit Hours	**9**
Term IV		
SLP 540	Clinical Methods 2/Clinical Immersion Week	2
SLP 541	Aural Rehabilitation	3
SLP 542	Fluency	3
	Quarter Credit Hours	**8**
Term V		
SLP 610	Language and Literacy	3
SLP 611	Cultural and Linguistic Diversity	3
SLP 612	Special Populations	3
	Quarter Credit Hours	**9**
Term VI		
SLP 620	Clinical Methods 3/Clinical Immersion Week	2
SLP 621	Motor Speech Disorders	3
SLP 622	Language Disorders in Adults	4
	Quarter Credit Hours	**9**
Term VII		
SLP 630	Introductory Outplacement 1 – Pediatric Setting	2
SLP 631	Dysphagia	3
SLP 632	Research Methodology	4
	Quarter Credit Hours	**9**

Term VIII

SLP 710	Introductory Outplacement 2 – Adult Setting	2
SLP 711	Voice	3
SLP 712	Capstone	4
	Quarter Credit Hours	**9**

Term IX

SLP 720	Seminar in Clinical Speech Language Pathology - Pediatrics	3
SLP 721	Interprofessional Education and Interprofessional Practice 1 - Pediatrics	2
SLP 722	Advanced Outplacement 1 – Pediatric Setting	2
	Quarter Credit Hours	**7**

Term X

SLP 730	Seminar in Clinical Speech Language Pathology – Adults	3
SLP 731	Interprofessional Education and Interprofessional Practice 2 – Adults	2
SLP 732	Advanced Outplacement 2 – Adult Setting	2
	Quarter Credit Hours	**7**
	Total Quarter Credit Hours	**86**

Legend

C = Number of lecture hours per week

L = Number of laboratory hours per week

T = Total Quarter Credit Hours where each lecture hour per week is one credit, every 2-4 laboratory hours are one credit depending on the expected amount of pre- or post-lab work.

Subject to change.

Program Mission, Goals, and Outcomes
Program Mission

The mission of the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology program is to prepare students to become competent entry-level speech language pathologists who are multifaceted clinicians, leaders in advocacy, interdisciplinary members in healthcare, education, and community programs. Through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction, and a variety of leveled fieldwork experiences in their home communities, students will gain strong clinical skills to build professional knowledge and ability to apply that knowledge serving individuals and populations to develop, enhance, or regain communication skills that will have an everlasting impact on their lives.

The distance education format of this program allows students to engage in clinical settings within their own communities, directly impacting the population of their community. Hands-on training provided through selective clinical experiences allow students to apply learned theory and evidence-based interventions taught within the curriculum.

Program Goals

1. Provide an educational experience embodied by the highest ethical standards, cultural respect of all humans, with a focus of educating students to attain their highest level of academic success.

2. Provide a program grounded in mutual support of one another whereby students will feel encouraged to achieve proficiency in all standards of education required to meet eligibility for ASHA certification.

3. Offer an online program of excellence geared toward theoretical evidence centered on student-learning and active student engagement in the teaching-learning process.

Student Outcomes

At the completion of the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology program, graduates will:

1. Engage as a leader in the role of a dynamic, well-rounded professional level practitioner prepared for contemporary practice.

2. Apply advanced knowledge and evidence-based clinical skills in all areas of prevention, assessment, and intervention in speech language pathology for a variety of populations across the lifespan.

3. Support cultural competency with respect to linguistic diversity and exemplary interpersonal, intrapersonal, and communication skills during all interactions.

4. Integrate advanced knowledge and innovative techniques in augmentative, alternative communication impacted by assistive technology into clinical practice.

5. Integrate principles of ethical decision-making and clinical judgement in practice and professional development.

6. Communicate effectively with all members of the team including the client.

Q&A and Technical Standards
Questions & Answers

1. When do my classes meet?

The Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology program is primarily an online program. Courses that include synchronous lecture/class meetings will have a set time, provided to the student at the start of the term, typically in the evening hours. Asynchronous components of courses will be completed by the student individually. Additional class meetings, group work, and lab times may be required but will be indicated in the syllabus and scheduled by the instructor at the start of the term. Two clinical immersion weeks will be required during the program: the second week of Term 4 and the second week of Term 6. These require attending in person at the New England Institute of Technology at the campus in East Greenwich, RI.

2. How large will my classes be?

The average size for a class is about 15 students; however, larger, and smaller classes occur from time to time.

3. How is taking an online course different from an on-campus course?

Online courses offer you flexibility in the scheduling of your class and study time. However, online courses also require self-discipline and self-motivation to do the work that is expected of the course. Despite this flexibility, you are required to login to your course regularly as described in the course syllabus. There are required weekly assignments with specific due dates (see course syllabus). There are also synchronous components of the class scheduled by the instructor that are outlined in the syllabus. You are required to attend these and participate to receive credit.

4. Do online courses take more time than on-campus courses?
Online courses require the same amount of work as an on-campus course. However, the time you spend in an online course will be different than in a traditional on-campus course. For example, less time will be spent on driving to and from campus and limited time that will be spent on campus during clinical/skills immersion.

5. How much time should I expect to dedicate to an online course?
NEIT's policy regarding the amount of work expected of a student is like all other colleges and universities. The number of credit hours assigned to coursework is related to the academic time a student is expected to spend in direct faculty instruction and out-of-class work, and reasonably approximates one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately ten weeks for one hour of credit; or at least an equivalent amount of work for other academic activities as established by NEIT including laboratory work, internships, practicum, studio work, and other academic work, such as study and exam preparation time, leading to the award of credit hours.

6. What are the entry requirements for the program?
A candidate for admission to the MS SLP program must meet the following criteria:

1. An earned baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university with an overall minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 with a focus on communication disorders would allow the most seamless admission without requiring pre-requisite coursework.

OR completed the required undergraduate credits (completed within the last 7 years):

1. 18 credit hours in basic human communication processes and audiology that includes: anatomy of the speech & hearing mechanism, phonetics, normal development of speech and language, speech science, hearing science, and audiology

If the undergraduate cumulative GPA is 2.5-2.9, a candidate with at least a 3.0 GPA in communication disorders coursework would be considered.

1. 3 credit hours in biological sciences (Biological Science must be human and/or animal biology.)
2. 3 credit hours in human neuroanatomy (Appropriate course titles include, but are not limited to, Human Neuroanatomy, Human Neuroscience, Physiological Psychology. A neuroanatomy/neuroscience course within a communication sciences and disorders department is acceptable.)
3. 3 credit hours in physical science (Physical Science may be either physics or chemistry. Courses covering physics and/or chemistry but not explicitly named as such may be used to fulfill the physical science requirement subject to program director approval.)
4. 3 credit hours in mathematics, not including statistics
5. 3 credit hours in statistics
6. 6 credit hours in the behavioral and/or social sciences (a course in Developmental Psychology/Child Growth and Development must be included)
7. College level coursework in biology, social and behavioral sciences, and physical sciences (that includes physics or chemistry). See ASHA guidelines: https://www.asha.org/certification/course-content-areas-for-slp-standards/
8. A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (out of 4.0).

9. If 2.9 or lower, a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (out of 4.0) in the undergraduate major of communication disorders, or communicative disorders coursework completed (as listed above) is required.
10. Documentation of 25 clinical hours of guided observation in speech language pathology per ASHA standards (see ASHA guidelines).
11. A personal statement discussing your experience in the field or with people with communication challenges, what is motivating you to seek your master's degree in speech language pathology, and any other relevant information that will show your passion for the field. (see your Admission's Officer).
12. Readiness to begin advanced level college work as determined by an assessment of skill levels in writing.
13. A current resume.
14. For international students: *Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 79 (out of 120), or International English Language Test System (IELTS) score of 6.5 (out of 9).*

7. How long should it take me to complete my program?
To complete your degree requirements in the shortest possible time, you should take the courses outlined in the prescribed curriculum. In this 10-term program a student may complete the requirements in as little as 30 months.

It is in the best interest of students to adhere to the prescribed curriculum without interruption. Students who are not enrolled for one or more terms or who are not successful in a course may find that the course/s they need may not be available every term and they will have to wait until the course is offered again. Students should check with their Student Success Coach for further details.

8. Is New England Tech accredited?
Yes. New England Tech is institutionally accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). Accreditation by NECHE is recognized by the federal government and entitles New England Tech to participate in federal financial aid programs.

9. Is the NEIT Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology Program Accredited?
The Master of Science degree (M.S.) distance education program in speech-language pathology is an Applicant for Candidacy by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498- 2071 or 301-296-5700.

Once accreditation is finalized, and before any student graduates from the program, graduates will be eligible to sit for the national Praxis Examination in Speech Language Pathology. After successful completion of this exam, the individual can pursue the certificate of clinical competence through the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA). In addition, most states require licensure to practice; however, state licensure is usually based on provisional licensure during the clinical fellowship process through ASHA. Because of the complex nature of licensing requirements and because these requirements can vary from state to state, as well as change periodically, we cannot list all the requirements for licenses available or required in all states. NEIT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CHANGES IN LICENSING REQUIREMENTS THAT ANY STATE, INCLUDING RHODE ISLAND, MAY IMPLEMENT AT ANY TIME. Each student is to take personal responsibility for determining the licensing requirements in the specific state in which he or she plans to work. Your instructor or department chair can give you help as needed.

Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to attain certification or state licensure. It is recommended that you investigate all applicable state requirements PRIOR to starting the graduate program.

10. Is the program entirely online?
The MS SLP courses are offered online, however, some of the courses require synchronous sessions, meaning classes will be conducted at a specified day and time. In addition, there are two clinical immersion weeks; week 2 of Term 4 and week 2 of Term 6, which require hands-on training in the classroom with an instructor or clinical provider. These experiences will take place at the NEIT campus in East Greenwich, RI, and the greater area.

11. What do clinical placements involve?
The objective of the clinical outplacement is to collaborate with and learn from clinicians in the field while implementing evidence-based care and treatment modalities for clients within their home community and obtaining the clinical hours required for program completion. The student and clinical site supervisors will enter into a contractual agreement that further defines the objectives of the outplacement based on the students' learning needs and professional goals. Students should expect to devote 2-3 days per week for introductory placements, and 3-4 days per week for advanced placements (full day time hours) to clinical outplacements. Students could need to attend up to 5 days to obtain the required clinical hours. Clinical outplacements take place in Terms 7, 8, 9 and 10.

12. Can I complete the placements at my current workplace?
No. Clinical outplacements will be obtained and coordinated by the clinical outplacement coordinator. Individual students may provide referrals or contact information for suggested placement options in their home communities, but the contract will be obtained and completed by NEIT.

Additional guidelines and individualized support are provided to all matriculated students and may be found in the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology student handbook.

13. When should I begin obtaining and submitting documentation for my clinical placements?
It is important that you start obtaining compliance documents before you plan to begin or immediately upon entering the MS SLP program. All compliance documents must be submitted at least one full term before you are scheduled to begin any clinical placement in the community.

14. What documentation is required for the clinical outplacements?

1. The following compliance documents must be on file with NEIT one full term before beginning any clinical placement in the community. Additional documents may be required depending upon the clinical outplacements.
   a. Current American Heart Association CPR certification for healthcare providers at the infant, child, and adult levels.
   b. Copy of Certificate of Malpractice Insurance.
   c. Certificate, *signed by a physician/provider*, confirming immunization against measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella, receive a booster dose of tetanus and diphtheria (Tdap) within the last ten years, 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine or a positive titer, and COVID 19 vaccination. (Other requirements may be determined by the clinical practicum sites).
   d. Physical Exam
   e. Criminal Background Check

15. Is a Criminal Background Check required for the MS SLP program?

All MS SLP students are required to have a criminal background check. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) requires all healthcare facilities which they accredit to perform criminal background checks on students. Prior to entering clinical outplacements, students will be required to undergo a criminal background check. In addition to the criminal background check required by JCAHO, some clinical sites may also require a national criminal background check. Any clinical site where children are served is also required to provide proof of a criminal background check. It will be necessary for students to sign a Consent and Disclaimer permitting NEIT to perform a criminal background check and a Release and Authorization permitting NEIT to disclose the results of the criminal background check to a clinical site where the student is being considered for placement. If a background check reveals any criminal convictions, the student may be disqualified from a clinical placement or employment in the field. Students assume the cost for all background checks. Some facilities may also require a drug screen prior to accepting a student for a clinical outplacement. NEIT makes no guarantee that once a student is matriculated, the student will be able to attend any clinical outplacement, sit for the national certification or gain licensure if the student has a prior criminal conviction. This is the student's responsibility to discover what they must do to manage a positive criminal background investigation.

16. Is the COVID-19 vaccination required for the MS SLP program?
The MS SLP program clinical affiliates have different COVID-19 vaccination requirements than the university's requirements. The clinical affiliates have a responsibility to their employees and patients to minimize the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, all clinical affiliates require MS SLP students to provide proof that they have received the COVID-19 vaccination along with one booster. If a student chooses not to be vaccinated the MS SLP program may not be able to assign a student a clinical site. This will prevent the student from completing the program. Clinical sites may have exemptions for their employees; however, most clinical sites do not accept exemptions from students as they are guests at their facility. If a clinical site has exemption requirements it is the student's responsibility to submit any required documents and follow the clinical affiliate's COVID-19 protocol. It is up to the clinical facility to grant or deny the exemption based on the documentation provided by the student. The university has no control over policies mandated by the clinical affiliates. Students may not know if their exemption is approved by a clinical site prior to the start of a term. If an exemption is granted, individuals may also be asked to complete regular COVID-19 testing, often on a weekly basis. Additional PPE protocols may also be required. The student will assume responsibility for any additional costs associated with the exemption protocols. Students may not be able to complete all of the clinical requirements at one clinical site. If a student needs to be assigned more than one clinical site, the student will need to apply for an exemption at each clinical site to which they are assigned. The failure to comply with the clinical affiliate's policies with regard to vaccination and/or exemption requirements will result in being dismissed from the MS SLP program. In the event the exemption is denied, the MS SLP student will be unable to attain the number of clinical hours required to complete the MS SLP program.

17. Can I transfer the credits that I earn at NEIT to another college?
The transferability of course credit is always up to the institution to which the student is transferring. Students interested in the transferability of their credits should contact the Office of Teaching and Learning for further information.

18. Can I transfer credits earned at another college to NEIT?
Transfer credit for appropriate master's level courses taken at an accredited institution will be considered for courses in which the student

has earned a "B" or above. An official transcript from the other institution must be received at admission.

19. Do I need to maintain a certain grade point average?
The graduate student must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) to remain in good standing. A minimum grade of B (83%) is required for all courses taken to complete the MS SLP Program. Students may repeat a course only once. If a minimum grade of B (83%) is not obtained a second time, the student will be subject to dismissal from the MS SLP program. A student who does not earn at least a B (83%) or a Pass (P) in any three courses throughout the program will be subject to dismissal from the MS SLP program. Please note that repeating a course may require waiting until the next time it is offered and delay advancement in the program, which may incur additional tuition and fees.

20. Is there a clinical practicum/capstone requirement?
Yes. To be eligible for graduation from New England Tech with an MS SLP degree, students must complete the clinical practicum courses and their respective clinical practicum hours as required by ASHA. The capstone project is completed during coursework in Term 8.

21. Will advisors be available to me?
Yes. Students will have an academic advisor who is a faculty member of the MS SLP program. In addition, students in the MS SLP program will be assigned a Student Success Coordinator from the Office of Professional and Graduate Studies.

The New England Tech Student Success Coordinator provides guidance, encouragement and support to students and is the primary point of contact for all student concerns and information about NEIT policies and procedures. From the individual student's perspective, the NEIT Student Success Coordinator is the student's college-wide advisor on all matters related to success at the university. A Student Success Coordinator assists students who are experiencing difficulties with their course work or who encounter problems that interfere with the successful completion of their program. Student Success Coordinators monitor students' attendance and academic progress and contact students as needed. The Student Success Coordinator's outreach to the students may include emails to students and, as needed, individual phone calls. Students may meet with their Student Success Coordinator for a degree audit and for assistance with course selection and registration. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations must self-identify, communicate their needs to their Student Success Coordinator and provide current and comprehensive documentation concerning the nature and extent of their disability. Accommodations must be requested at the start of each term, regardless of previous term status.

22. How many credits do I need to acquire my Financial Aid?
Students entering the MSOT program will be eligible for various forms of financial aid, including loans. See your financial aid officer for additional details.

23. What does my program cost?
The cost of your program will be as outlined in your enrollment agreement, along with your cost for books and other course materials. (See current Tuition and Fees for the MS SLP program)

24. Are there any additional costs/activities associated with this program?
Besides textbooks, the student will be required to have a complete physical exam, and immunizations or blood titer tests. Personal negligence and malpractice insurance is also required by affiliating facilities where internships are scheduled and must be in place throughout all clinical outplacements (beginning term 4 with the

immersion week). A course in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is required before the beginning of the 4th academic term through the American Heart Association (CPR -C, Healthcare Provider Course). Yearly renewal will be required thereafter. Applicants must provide a certificate, signed by a physician, confirming that they have been immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella, that they have received a booster dose of tetanus and diphtheria (Td) within the last ten years, and 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine or a positive titer before participating in clinical placements. Students who have not had the required vaccines must complete them at their own expense prior to participating in clinical immersion weeks and outplacements. Please see the MS SLP student manual for details regarding costs associated with clinical outplacements, including travel costs, health requirements and possible uniform requirements.

Additional fees associated with clinical outplacement tracking software, which may include CALIPSO, EXXAT, and simulated cases and other learning materials, will be included and outlined in the tuition.

There are fees associated with taking the national certification examination, the Praxis in Speech Language Pathology, and these fees are the responsibility of the student. The Praxis exam is not part of the college curriculum, but passing it is required in order to apply for certification through ASHA and state licensure.

Additional travel expenses may be required to participate in the clinical immersion weeks (on campus in East Greenwich, Rhode Island and the greater area during week 2 of term 4 and week 2 of term 6) are the responsibility of the student. Please see question #38.

25. What kind of employment assistance does NEIT offer?
The Office of Career Services offers students and graduates support in resume writing, interviewing skills, and the development of a job search strategy. Upon completion of their program, graduates may submit a resume to be circulated to employers who are seeking candidates with the skills and/or experience that matches the employers' requirements. In addition, the Office of Career Services contacts employers to develop job leads. Graduates seeking employment at the completion of their program will also be expected to participate fully in their job search. No institution can, and NEIT does not, guarantee employment or a specific starting salary to its graduates.

26. Where will job opportunities exist?
Employment opportunities are available nationally. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics predicts that "the employment of speech language pathologists is expected to grow 21 percent from 2021-2031, much faster than average of other occupations." Data indicated that in 2021, there were 159,800 jobs nationwide in speech language pathology.

27. Do I need special computer skills to take an online course?
You will need basic familiarity with your computer, for example: emailing, using the Web, and downloading and attaching documents. No special equipment is required – just a modern Windows or Mac computer (see specifications above), an office suite such as Microsoft Office, and a broadband internet connection.

NEIT online courses are designed to help acclimate you to the technology and build your skills and your confidence as you go. We provide 24/7 support via phone, email, or chat to help you with computer or online system issues.

Note: Tablet or Chromebook computers can be useful for doing course readings, are limited in accessing all material offered on the learning

management system used by the university. A desktop or laptop computer is needed to complete all coursework.

28. What are the hardware and software requirements for the program?

Type	Recommended Minimum
Operating System	Windows 10 or Macintosh OS X (10.14)
Processor:	2+ GHz
Memory:	4GB
Plug-ins:	Adobe PDF Reader, Flash Adobe PDF Reader, Flash, and others as required by specific courses
Players:	QuickTime, Java Player, Java
Browser:	Chrome, IE, Safari, Edge, Firefox (all latest versions)
Display:	1024x768
Software:	Office 365 (2016)
Internet Connection:	FiOS/DSL/CABLE DSL/CABLE
Email Account:	New England Tech student email account
Sound Card:	Required
Other (some programs):	•A webcam (the one built into your laptop or iPad should be fine) •A microphone (built into the computer or headset is handy). •A digital camera (the one on a smart phone is fine).

Online students must be capable of installing and maintaining their own computer's hardware and software. NEIT does not assist students with the setup of their computers.

Information about obtaining the software (if any) will be made available to you at the start of each course.

29. Where do I go for help with technical issues?
The Response Desk is available through email and the phone. Please realize the Response Desk can only help you with access to your online account. The Response Desk cannot help you with any software or hardware issues with your personal computer. Refer to the Office Hours document that is available in each of your Canvas courses for specific contact information as well as hours of operation.

30. How can I get help with my coursework when I need it?
There are several ways that you can get the help you need with your coursework. First, your instructor will be available to you through email, virtual office hours/meetings, and the phone; second, your Student Success Coordinator is also available through email, virtual office hours/ meetings and the phone; and finally, the Academic Skills Center will be available via email and the phone. PLEASE NOTE: It is important for both your personal and professional growth that you do all the work yourself. New England Tech has a strict Academic Integrity Policy that is part of every course syllabus.

31. How do I get help from other university departments?
At the beginning of each term, you will receive a list of contact information for every university service. The list includes where you can find each service such as the university catalog and URL, the name and contact information for the individual responsible for each service such as the telephone number and email address and the hours when each service is available. Examples of services include the Academic Skills Center, the Bookstore, the Career Services Office, the Financial Aid, Registrar's Office, Student Advisors from the Office of Student Support Services, Library, Student Accounts, Office of Teaching and Learning and the Response Desk. In addition, the student success coordinator will be available to assist you in identifying resources available to you.

32. How do I buy textbooks?
Students may purchase their textbooks either through the Bookstore or through online merchants. Your professor will provide the course syllabus to you prior to the start of class to allow you time to purchase the textbooks. Textbook information for all courses is available through the Bookstore prior to the start of the course. Please review the contact information for the Bookstore in the Office Hours document.

33. Are there attendance and participation requirements?
Yes. Students are required to be actively engaged for 80% of class time, which includes all course activities (e.g., discussion boards, assignments, synchronous meetings, etc.). Students who fail to do so may be subject to failure of the course. See the Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology student manual and each individual course syllabus for specifics regarding the attendance policies.

34. How will I submit my course assignments and take exams?
You will receive information from your professor about how to submit your assignments through the Canvas learning management system. You may be asked to take online or web-based quizzes and exams, submit papers online, engage in group work, or prepare a portfolio of your work online. Your professor will notify you of all testing and assignment submission requirements.

35. Will I have a course professor?
Yes, each professor has developed and will facilitate each course. Professors are essential to online learning at New England Institute of Technology. All professors are trained to teach online. In the online setting, professors devote as much time to communicating with the class as they do in the traditional classroom. They log in regularly to respond to questions, direct discussion and evaluate assignments. They will meet with students as outlined in the syllabus for the course, and as needed with individual students.

36. Will I interact with other students?
Yes. You will interact with other students in all your online courses. Through online discussions, email, and other group activities, you can develop an electronic peer network and participate in discussion forums and online study groups. Courses which include synchronous meetings will allow you to meet and work with your peers. Those peers will also attend immersion weeks with you, where you will meet and work together in person.

37. Is licensure required to practice as a Speech Language Pathologist?
All states require licensure to practice. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for board certification or attain state licensure.

Graduates of the MS SLP program will be eligible to sit for the national Praxis Examination in Speech Language Pathology. After successful completion of this exam, the individual can pursue the certificate of clinical competence through the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA). In addition, most states require licensure to practice; however, state licensure is usually based on provisional licensure during the clinical fellowship process through the ASHA. Because of the complex nature of licensing requirements and because these requirements can vary from state to state, as well as change periodically, we cannot list all the requirements for licenses available or required in all states.

It is the responsibility of each student to determine licensure requirements in the specific state in which the individual plans to practice. It is everyone's responsibility to understand, evaluate, and comply with all requirements relating to the practice as a speech language pathologist. Your professors or department chair can give you help as needed. Please see the ASHA website for further information for each state: https://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/

NEIT makes no representations or guarantees that completion of NEIT coursework or programs will permit an individual to obtain state licensure, authorization, endorsement, or other state credential.

Important note for prospective students: If you are considering an academic program that leads to professional licensure in your state, it is highly recommended that you first seek guidance from the appropriate licensing agency in your home state BEFORE beginning the academic program located outside your state. Please see the ASHA website for further information for each state: https://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/

38. Will I need to arrange travel/lodging for clinical immersion?
Yes, students travelling to East Greenwich, Rhode Island, for clinical immersion weeks will need to make travel and lodging arrangements. The clinical immersion weeks will be scheduled during week 2 of Term 4 and week 2 of Term 6. Students will be provided with more specific information regarding immersion weeks including the schedule and timeline overall at the start of the program during orientation, and in the term prior to the immersion week. During clinical immersion weeks, students may be required to travel within the surrounding area to participate in clinical experiences.

39. Does the MS SLP program have a dress code?
Appropriate attire will be required during your clinical outplacements and all attendance in professional settings required by the program (e.g., attending a community event as an assignment for a class). Specific dress codes will be provided to you prior to each clinical outplacement. It is understood that in a professional work environment, clothing must adhere to the standards of the profession and be practical to allow the individual to carry out his/her job responsibilities. Please see the MS SLP student manual for further information.

40. Are there any behavior standards for this program?
MS SLP students are expected to exhibit ethical and professional behavior. This will be assessed on a continual basis and will encompass not only grades but also adherence to classroom protocol, attendance, participation and preparedness for class, appearance, ability to work as a team member, and professional behavior during clinical observation weeks. Development of professional values and attitudes is inherent in the curriculum, and students will be expected to exhibit such behavior to assure a placement in a clinical setting. Please see the MS SLP student manual for further information.

day decision making related to professional conduct. The Code is partly obligatory and disciplinary and partly aspirational and descriptive in that it defines the professional's role. The Code educates professionals in the discipline, as well as students, other professionals, and the public, regarding ethical principles and standards that direct professional conduct." (https://www.asha.org/code-of-ethics/). Failure to uphold these standards may result in dismissal from any speech language pathology program.

Essential Abilities

NEIT has specified essential abilities (professional standards) critical to the success of students enrolled in the NEIT MS SLP program. Qualified applicants are expected to meet all admission criteria, and matriculating students are expected to meet all progression criteria, as well as these essential abilities (professional standards) with or without reasonable accommodation.

- **Essential judgment skills to include** the ability to identify, assess, and comprehend conditions surrounding client situations for the purpose of problem solving and coming to appropriate conclusions and/or courses of action.
- **Essential neurological functions to include** ability to use the senses of seeing, hearing, touch, and smell to make correct judgments regarding client conditions for the purpose of demonstrating competence to safely engage in the practice of speech language pathology. Behaviors that demonstrate essential neurological functions include, but are not limited to, observing, listening, understanding relationships, writing, and employing psychomotor abilities.
- **Essential communication skills to include** the ability to communicate effectively with fellow students, faculty, patients, and all members of the health care team. Skills include verbal, written, and nonverbal abilities consistent with effective communication.
- **Essential emotional coping skills to include** the ability to demonstrate the mental health necessary to safely engage in the practice of speech language pathology as determined by professional standards of practice.
- **Essential intellectual and conceptual skills to include** ability to measure, calculate, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate to engage competently in the safe practice of speech language pathology.
- **Other essential behavioral attributes to include** ability to engage in activities consistent with safe practice of speech language pathology without demonstrated behaviors of addiction to, abuse of, or dependence on alcohol or other drugs that may impair behavior or judgment. The student must demonstrate responsibility and accountability for actions as a student in the MS SLP program and as a developing professional speech language pathologist.

Professional Standards for Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology Program

Students enrolled in the NEIT's Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology program will be held to the American Speech Language Hearing Association Code of Ethics. The ASHA Code of Ethics "is a framework and focused guide for professionals in support of day-to-

Technical Standards

The field of speech language pathology can be both intellectually and physically challenging.

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ensure that qualified applicants can pursue program admission. However, all students must meet the essential skills and technical standards to perform functions required of the MS SLP

program and profession. Every student will be held to the same standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

General Physical Requirements

Students must:

- Possess the physical ability to tolerate sitting and/or standing for extended periods of time.
- Demonstrate safe body mechanics for lifting, pushing, and pulling.
- Navigate through various environments in a safe manner.
- Reach to operate and obtain items overhead.
- Use hands and arms to handle, install, position, and move materials, equipment, and supplies without assistance.
- Perform learned skills independently with accuracy and completeness.

Cognitive Ability

Students must:

- Process, synthesize, organize, and learn new material to plan and implement a variety of activities.
- Identify cause and effect relationships in clinical situations; synthesize data and draw sound conclusions.
- Problem solve independently using several variables at once.
- Imitate role modeling of professional skills and behaviors.
- Perceive events realistically, think rationally and clearly to function in routine and emergency situations.
- Prioritize, organize, and utilize time management skills to perform tasks.
- Follow written or verbal instructions in English.

Communication Skills

Students must:

- Read, write, speak, and report accurately and effectively in English to comprehend college level text books, written protocols, medical documentation, information necessary for documentation, evaluation, or directions on equipment.
- Communicate effectively with faculty, clients, staff, and other professionals using plain language or medical terminology as appropriate.
- Communicate effectively demonstrating appropriate articulation, fluency, voice, and language skills in English.
- Write legibly in English to record client evaluations, progress notes, and other documentation.
- Express thoughts clearly in one to one and large group settings.
- Give written or verbal instructions in English to direct others in their work and to carry out intervention and assessment.
- Demonstrate appropriate pragmatic skills to engage in effective conversations with communication partners.
- Possess communication skills that are demonstrative of the skills of a trained speech language pathologist.

Professionalism and Interpersonal Skills

Students must:

- Demonstrate professional and socially appropriate behavior; maintain cleanliness and personal grooming consistent with medical professional standards.
- Be able to interact appropriately with clients and all members of the interdisciplinary team.
- Possess the ability to exercise good judgment and make appropriate professional and procedural judgment decisions, adjusting to a variety of individuals and their unique needs.
- Modify behaviors according to feedback from supervisors, clients, and administrators.
- Maintain a professional attitude during all work performance.
- Adjust to changes in scheduling and demonstrate flexibility required to meet department or facility needs.
- Respect the integrity and dignity of all human beings and the right for all individuals to receive appropriate treatment.
- Identify one's own strengths and needs and request assistance when needed.
- Communicate accurately, sensitively, and effectively with clients and professionals from diverse cultural and social backgrounds. This includes expression and reception of non-verbal behaviors.

Auditory, Olfactory, and Visual Skills

Students must:

- Demonstrate sufficient visual skills to be able to observe and obtain information from all relevant sources required during client care. Vision must be acute enough to read small, printed language in test protocols, and adequate distant vision to respond to cues in the environment approximately 20 feet away.
- Demonstrate sufficient visual contrast sensitivity to interpret information on medical monitors and equipment including LED screens, etc.
- Demonstrate sufficient auditory skills to perceive spoken words, syllables and sounds for the purposes of assessment and intervention; perceive spoken words for interacting with others and perceive sounds in the environment.
- Demonstrate sufficient tactile skills as needed for physical assessment (e.g., swallowing, voice) and to perceive environmental cues (e.g., temperature).

Adaptive Ability

- Ability to maintain emotional stability and the maturity necessary to interact with members of the faculty, students, clinical staff, and clients in a responsible manner.
- Ability to tolerate the differences in all people.
- Ability to follow instructions and complete tasks under stressful and demanding conditions.
- Ability to adapt in a positive manner to new and changing situations with an open mind and flexibility.
- Ability to think clearly and act quickly and appropriately in stressful situations.

Degree Progress Checklist
Speech Language Pathology - MS
Degree Progress Checklists

- For students entering March 2025 or later