

SPEECH PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR MAJOR

A major map is an active guide that helps students make intentional decisions throughout college. Students identify their stage (first year, middle, or final year) and focus on recommended actions for that period. Each semester, they select key academic, career, and involvement activities, track their progress, and discuss it with advisors or faculty. Over time, the map helps them stay on track, adjust goals as needed, and graduate with a degree and career-ready experience.

THE WHO...

- Critical Thinking
- Informed Major Selection
- Post-graduation Readiness
- Applied Problem Solving
- Leadership Skills
- Teamwork

THE WHY...

- Professionalism and work ethic
- Strong communication skills
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Leadership and teamwork
- Technology proficiency

THE WHAT...

- Preparing students for graduate work or employment as an assistant
- Employment Settings: Schools, hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, early intervention programs

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"When I first started my journey in communication sciences and disorders, I knew I wanted to help others but wasn't sure where that passion would take me. Through the major map, I was able to explore my interests, build relationships with mentors, gain hands-on experience in the Speech and Hearing Clinic, and develop the confidence and skills needed to pursue graduate school."

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

The Hilltop Advantage is a structured, student-centered approach that ensures every student graduates with not only a degree, but also meaningful experiences, career-ready skills, and a clear post-graduation plan.

TOP SKILLS

- Professionalism and work ethic
- Strong communication skills
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Leadership and teamwork
- Technology proficiency

ASPIRE - Experiential Major Map

	FIRST YEAR	MIDDLE YEARS	LAST YEAR	
A ACADEMIC MASTERY	- Begin introductory major and general education coursework - Establish a relationship with your faculty advisor - Maintain a 3.0 GPA - Earn a "C" or higher in prerequisite and general studies courses - Submit transcripts from previous institutions, if applicable	- Maintain a 3.0 GPA - Complete foundational major and general studies coursework - Apply to BS traditional track or 3+2 track by January 21 (sophomore year) - Continue major coursework and skills development - Complete SPA 368 Junior Seminar for career, graduate school, and professional preparation - Develop CV, letter of intent, and capstone research plan	- Complete major coursework - Maintain a minimal GPA of a 3.0 (traditional track) and 3.2 (3+2 track) - Completion of capstone research assignment - Complete practicum requirements (3+2 track)	ACADEMIC SUCCESS CHECKLIST - Make an appointment with your academic advisor - Visit faculty during office hours - Complete prerequisite courses and maintain admission standards - Apply to the BS SPA program when eligible
S SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS	- Pre-foundational survey self-assessment related to the knowledge and interest in the field of communication sciences and disorders - Cultural competence reflection survey	- Refine career goals in speech-language pathology or audiology - Explore graduate programs and attend graduate fairs - Complete SPA 400 (on and off campus) observation hours and clinical self-assessments - Develop clinical awareness through reflection and patient care experiences - Prepare a letter of intent through self-reflection and career planning	- Complete post-foundational self-assessment of knowledge and career interests - Participate in professional experiential learning opportunities - Complete program exit survey - Apply to graduate programs or pursue entry-level professional opportunities - Finalize career plans in communication sciences and disorders	
PI PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	- Complete CSD section of college 101 to receive foundational knowledge in the fields of speech pathology and audiology - Explore asha.org and westliberty.edu/csd to be sure this field is a good fit for future goals - Clinical competency: simulation	- Gain diagnostic knowledge through current evidence and practice - Apply classroom knowledge in clinical, research, and community settings - Develop professional skills through observation and supervised practice - Build professional communication, collaboration, and ethical decision-making skills - Demonstrate cultural responsiveness and person-centered care	- Gain hands-on experience with assessment, intervention, and treatment protocols - Strengthen critical thinking and evidence-based practice skills - Build relationships with faculty, supervisors, and professionals - Develop a portfolio for graduate school or career readiness	
RE RELATIONSHIPS & LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & WELL-BEING	- Join NSSLHA to build connections and serve the community - Attend campus events to connect with peers and faculty - Explore student organizations and campus resources - Learn about wellness, counseling, and academic support services - Develop time management, study, and self-advocacy skills	- Pursue a leadership role in NSSLHA - Join National NSSLHA to expand your professional network (optional) - Get involved in campus leadership (SGA, RA, or other organizations) - Utilize wellness, academic, and career resources - Strengthen leadership, communication, and collaboration skills	- Mentor first- and second-year students - Build professional relationships with alumni and industry professionals - Serve in leadership roles on student advisory boards or institutional committees - Prepare for financial wellness and career transitions - Develop a plan for lifelong work-life balance and personal well-being	

