

KIRSTY CROSBY

APPLIED SCIENCE/SPEECH PATHOLOGY

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English Language, Physical Education, Mathematical Methods, Chemistry, Youth Ministry, Biology Units 3+4 Early Advancement
- Year 12: English Language, Physical Education, Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Psychology

Why did you choose these subjects? I choose Chemistry and Mathematical Methods in Year 11 as I was considering doing medicine and they were both prerequisites. Other than those subjects, I chose all my subjects because I found them interesting.

What resources did you use to choose subjects? Senior School Subject Handbook, help from the College Career Adviser, and Mum.

What is your course like? I only get to choose three subjects for the whole course; all the other subjects are compulsory. The course goes for 4 years; the first year is general health science subjects. Second year becomes more specific to Speech Pathology. We learn in-depth about anatomy and physiology of the head and neck. We also learn about linguistics (with some content overlapping English Language), speech and hearing sciences, pharmacology and mental health.

In third year, we begin doing the masters component. In third year there is a subject (PBL-Problem Based Learning) where we get a case at the beginning of the week and as a group we have to try to figure out what the disorder is and important components to consider. We then have a lecture and skills class relating to the case and a final class where we go into more detail with our new knowledge. It's similar to the TV show 'House'. We also do a pediatric and adult placement.

Fourth year will be mostly placement, with some classes at the beginning of the year. We do subjects relating to research and using therapies that have been proven to work. In this we learn how to tell if something is bias or not, which is super important to make us good clinicians. The teachers are understanding that not many of us want to do research and that we'd rather learn about speech disorders so they incorporate speech pathology into these subjects and ensure that we understand its importance. Most of my subjects have both lectures (ranging from 1-3 hours) and workshops that are 2 hours long.

What do you love about your course? To me effective communication is the most important thing in life, without it we are unable to know what the other person is thinking or express how we are feeling. Knowing that I will be able to help people who are unable to communicate (or have difficulty communicating) to be able to be understood again and people to actually listen (as a lot of people who stutter will have people stop trying to talk to them as it is 'hard to understand' or takes 'too long') is why I love speech pathology so much. I know I can make a difference in people's lives. I also really like the layout of the subjects. The PBL subject is very interesting and helps me learn the content much better than the traditional lecture style classes.

How did your senior school subjects prepare you for your university course? One of the subjects I have just completed is a lot like Year 11 English Language, one last year was a lot like Psychology, and Biology and Physical Education helped me last year with my anatomy subject. Having some prior knowledge helps make it easier to learn at a university level. They also helped me determine what exactly I wanted to study by figuring out what aspects of each subject I liked.

Course information: Bachelor of Applied Science/Master of Speech Pathology, La Trobe University, <http://bit.ly/1NbU7H5>