

SPEECH PATHOLOGY

University courses - Victoria

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Catholic College
Wodonga *Life in Jesus*



Introduction

This document has been developed to assist Year 10 - 12 students and their families in researching speech pathology courses in Victoria. Please check university websites for up-to-date information.

Disclaimer: Information has been taken from university websites and the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). Universities featured in this guide reserve the right to change course information, admissions, and entry requirements at any time and without notice. Note: photos in this document are stock images and aren't representative of students at the universities.

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Selection Ranks

Please use indicative ATARs and Selection Ranks as a guide as they may change for future intakes.



English prerequisite

EAL = English as an Additional Language. 'Any other English' includes English, English Language and Literature.



Undergraduate

This is usually your first course at university. For example - bachelor degree.



Graduate

This is study you do once you have graduated from a bachelor's degree. For example - master's degree.



Frequently asked questions

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST?

A speech pathologist, also known as a speech therapist, specialises in diagnosing and treating communication and swallowing disorders in individuals of all ages. They address a wide range of issues, including speech sounds, fluency, voice, language comprehension and expression, cognitive-communication, and oral feeding.

Speech pathologists work with those who cannot produce speech sounds clearly or fluently, have problems with their voice or resonance, struggle with understanding and expressing language, have cognitive communication impairments such as attention, memory, and problem-solving disorders, or have swallowing difficulties.

Their role involves conducting assessments to diagnose disorders, creating and implementing treatment plans, collaborating with families, educators, and other professionals to support the individual's communication needs, and providing strategies and resources to improve communication abilities.

Are there jobs?

According to [Speech Pathology Australia](#), there is a shortage of qualified speech pathologists in each state and territory. There has been an increase in the number of students studying speech pathology over the past several years in line with the increased numbers of places in uni courses.

A good exercise is to research jobs on employment websites such as [seek.com](#), and analyse how many jobs in Australia are being advertised and how many in your area. You will also get a good sense of businesses looking for speech pathology professionals.

WHERE CAN I WORK?

Speech pathologists can practice in a large range of settings. This means you can have a very flexible career and work in different places such as schools, hospitals, and prisons. You can even open your own business and run a private practice!

The following are examples of places speech pathologists work (taken from [Speech Pathology Australia](#)):

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health

Community health including home services

Disability service providers

Early intervention

Early childhood education and care

Education settings – preschools, schools etc.

Government and local councils

Health service settings – hospitals, rehabilitation centres and community clinics

Justice settings – youth justice centres, adult correctional settings and community justice services

Mental health and forensic mental health services

Private practice

Research institutes

Residential and community aged care services

Trauma services – developmental trauma, child protection and out-of-home-care services

Universities and university clinics.

Not ready for uni?

VET is an amazing way to start your speech pathology journey. You can study a variety of courses related to supporting people through studying at a registered training organisation such as a TAFE or through a traineeship. Not only will you engage in industry experience, you will be qualified to work in that industry while you study at uni.

While a VET course won't provide guaranteed entry into a Bachelor of Speech Pathology at a Victorian uni, it can boost your chances of gaining entry, depending on the qualification level, if the course is competency based or 'graded', and your secondary school results. You can search for courses via the [Victorian Skills Gateway](#) and for traineeships via a job search site such as [seek.com](#).

The following are three entry level courses you could consider.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

What is the course?

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.

Why should I consider early childhood?

This course is fantastic for people interested in working in paediatric speech pathology, or speech pathology in an education setting such as a school or early learning centre.

ALLIED HEALTH

What is the course?

Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance (Speech Pathology).

Why should I consider allied health assistance?

You will be qualified to work as a speech pathology assistant and will gain an excellent introduction to the rehabilitation industry.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

What is the course?

Certificate III in Individual Support.

Why should I consider studying this course?

You can specialise in either aged care or disability. Both specialisations will prepare you to work with clients in these specialist fields.

How to become a speech pathologist

This information is for courses in Victoria.

STEP 1: Secondary school studies

Study VCE subjects such as Biology, Health And Human Development, Psychology, English Language, Physical Education, and Mathematics. Achieve a competitive ATAR.

STEP 2: complete an accredited speech pathology degree

Complete an accredited undergraduate or graduate entry degree at one of the following universities:

La Trobe University
Australian Catholic University
The University of Melbourne
Victoria University
Federation University
Deakin University (from 2025)

You will need to meet English language requirements, inherent requirements (e.g., communication skills), and academic entry requirements for course admission.

You may also be required to get or prove you have certain immunisations and get a Police Record, and Working with Children, and NDIS Screen checks.

STEP 3: Registration

Apply for membership with Speech Pathology Australia.

STEP 4: Obtain Certified Practising Speech Pathologist status

Apply for Certified Practising Speech Pathologist (CPSP) status. To be eligible for this, speech pathologists must meet specified recency of practice (RoP) and continuing professional development (CPD) requirements. There are two levels of certification – Provisional Certification and Full Certification. Read about CPSP certification [here](#).

STEP 5: Renew your registration each year

Renew your registration each year and ensure you meet the registration standards (i.e., continuing professional development hours).

What ATAR will I need?

When it comes to the ATAR, there are three ways Year 12 leavers can gain direct entry into a speech pathology degree in Victoria: achieving a selection rank above the lowest rank for the relevant intake, achieving above the guaranteed ATAR, or receiving a place in the ACU Guarantee program.

SELECTION RANK

Universities use the 'selection rank' when assessing course applications.

The selection rank is your ATAR plus any adjustment factors taken into consideration by the university (e.g., equity and academic adjustments).

Adjustment factors are added to your combined study scores (VCE aggregate) and your ATAR is re-ranked.

Your selection rank will be different for each course at each university as each institute uses their own adjustment programs.

You won't know what your selection rank is, but you'll need to achieve a rank above the 'lowest selection rank' for the relevant intake year.

Learn about the selection rank and ATAR profiles via this [video](#).

GUARANTEED ATAR

The following universities have a 'guaranteed ATAR' program.

The guaranteed ATARs for speech pathology listed below are relevant for the 2024 intake and may change for the 2025 intake.

La Trobe University

[Aspire Community Contribution Program](#)

Bendigo campus – 65

Melbourne campus – 80

[Regional Benefits Program*](#)

Bendigo campus – 80

Federation University

[Early Offer Program](#)

All campuses – 85

*Note – this program is only available to eligible applicants.

NO ATAR

Australian Catholic University offers the Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) at the Melbourne campus.

They have an early entry program called '[ACU Guarantee](#)'.

Successful applicants can receive a conditional 'ATAR free' offer for the course through this program.

The University calculates a selection rank using your Year 11 grades. The selection rank can be boosted through providing up to three personal statements.

The conditions of the early offer program are successfully completing Year 12, achieving course prerequisites, and ordering your VTAC preferences correctly.

Applications open 22 July and close on 16 September 2024.

Course Summary

This page lists the speech pathology courses you can apply for at Victorian universities.
The rest of the document will give information about the courses at each university.

LA (Lowest ATAR)

Lowest ATAR to receive entry into the course excluding any adjustment factors for the 2024 January intake (VTAC applicants).

LSR (Lowest Selection Rank)

Lowest selection rank inclusive of ATAR + adjustment factors to receive entry into the course for the 2024 January intake (VTAC applicants).

L/N

Lowest ATAR for the 2024 January intake not published.

UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY

University	Course	Campus	LA	LSR
La Trobe University	Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)	Bendigo	65.85	77.00
		Melbourne	80.10	88.80
	Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) (First Nations Australian Entry)	Bendigo	L/N	L/N
Australian Catholic University	Bachelor of Speech Pathology	Melbourne	78.75	84.25
Victoria University	Bachelor of Speech and Language Sciences / Master of Speech Pathology	Footscray Park	70.10	82.50
Federation University	Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)	Ballarat - Mount Helen Gippsland Berwick Flexible delivery - Ballarat and Gippsland	Minimum ATAR - 75	

GRADUATE ENTRY

University	Course	Campus
La Trobe University	Master of Speech Pathology	Melbourne
Victoria University	Master of Speech Pathology	Footscray Park
Federation University	Master of Speech Pathology	Ballarat and Gippsland
Deakin University	Master of Speech Pathology	Geelong (starting in 2025)

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Hone your professional skills with 1,000 hours of clinical placement.

La Trobe is the longest standing provider of speech pathology education in Victoria.

Students enrolled at the Bundoora (Melbourne) Campus will carry out a number of their placements in the La Trobe Communication Clinic.

Learn from world-renowned specialists in transgender voice, stuttering, children's speech and language, aphasia and acquired brain injury.

Undergraduate and graduate entry courses. Both courses have been designed to meet the accreditation standards of Speech Pathology Australia.



Our ability to communicate clearly and enjoy food or drink are things we can take for granted. But people of all ages can experience difficulties with these seemingly simple tasks, and the effects can be devastating. Speech pathologists don't just help correct these issues, they improve quality of life. Launch your career in this rewarding field of health with La Trobe's Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours).

UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY

Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)

Clinical experience is a major component of our program. You will get practical experience in external agencies such as hospitals, community health centres, schools, early childhood centres and private practice.

Students enrolled at the Bendigo campus will carry out most of their placements in the Bendigo area and regional Victoria, however some opportunities exist for these students to be able to carry out placements in metropolitan Melbourne.

Students enrolled at the Bundoora (Melbourne) Campus will carry out a number of their placements in metropolitan health services and other non-health agencies and in the La Trobe Communication Clinic.

GRADUATE ENTRY

Master of Speech Pathology

La Trobe offers a Speech Pathology qualification at the graduate level at the Melbourne campus. Below is the entry pathway:

Step 1

Complete an Australian bachelor degree, master by coursework, or graduate diploma (or equivalent to the above) and achieve a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of at least 70. Or complete an Honours year (subsequent to a bachelor level degree) and achieve a minimum H2A grade.

Step 2

Apply for the 2-year Master of Speech Pathology. If successful, complete a 4-week bridging program at La Trobe University.

UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY

FIRST NATIONS AUSTRALIAN ENTRY

This is an alternative entry into the Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) for applicants who are First Nations Australian. Choose the 'First Nation Australian' tagged course via VTAC.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) at the Melbourne campus has provisional accreditation from Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) and the course at the Bendigo campus has provisional accreditation with conditions. The Master of Speech Pathology degree has full accreditation.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply via the [Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre](#). Applications will open for Year 12 students on 29 July 2024.

COURSE INFORMATION

Click [here](#)

Course	Prerequisites – Units 3 and 4	Campus
Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)	Minimum study scores of 30 in English (EAL) or 25 in any other English; and 25 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Health And Human Development, Physical Education, Physics, or any Mathematics.	Bendigo Melbourne
Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) (First Nations Australian Entry)	As above	Bendigo
Master of Speech Pathology	Entry requirements, click here .	Melbourne

PATHWAYS

The following are examples of pathways into the Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours). Note – there is no guaranteed pathway course into the degree.

Via a La Trobe University Diploma course

STEP 1: Diploma in Health Sciences

Complete the 1-year Diploma at La Trobe University, Melbourne campus.

STEP 2: Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)

Apply for the 4-year speech pathology degree.

Via a La Trobe University bachelor degree

STEP 1: Bachelor degree

Complete at least the first year of one of the following 3-year degrees:

Health Science (Melbourne, Bendigo, Online)
Biomedicine (Melbourne)
Biomedical Science (Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo).

STEP 2: Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)

Apply for the 4-year speech pathology degree.

SELECTION RANK ADJUSTMENTS

If eligible, La Trobe will add adjustment factors to your VCE aggregate to recalculate your ATAR and boost your [selection rank](#) for entry into their courses. For example, your ATAR might be 60 but after adjustment factors are added, your selection rank might be 72.5. Adjustment factors are calculated from initiatives such as the following. Note - if you're eligible for multiple initiatives, the maximum aggregate adjustments you can receive is 20.

Subject adjustments

Applicants can receive a maximum of 12 adjustments for high achievement in eligible Units 3 and 4 subjects. In the 2024 intake, the eligible subjects were: Health And Human Development, any Mathematics, Physical Education, any Science, and LOTE. Adjustments for the 2025 intake will be advertised via [VTAC](#) from 29 July 2024.

Priority Access Program

A maximum of 15 adjustment factors are awarded to applicants who fall within any of the following categories: priority school (5), priority campus (5), regional school (5).

Read about the program [here](#). Note – the Priority Access Program is undergoing a review for the 2025 intake.

Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)

Applicants can receive adjustment factors for disadvantage that has impacted their education. Applicants can apply for this scheme via the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) between 29 July – 11 October 2024 after creating their VTAC account and adding course preferences.

Elite Athlete ATAR Adjustment

Applicants can receive up to 5 aggregate adjustments. Click [here](#) for information.

Rural and Regional Student Access Scheme (RRSAS)

Students residing in an area classified as RA2 or higher are eligible for the following adjustments:

Regional students applying to courses at the Melbourne (Bundoora) campus will receive 5 aggregate points.

Regional students applying to courses at Bendigo, Albury Wodonga, Mildura and Shepparton will receive 10 aggregate points.

Click [here](#) for information.

GUARANTEED ATAR PROGRAMS

The following programs provide a guaranteed ATAR for Speech Pathology. Note: the ATARs listed below are relevant for the 2024 intake and may change for the 2025 intake.

La Trobe Aspire Early Entry Program

Applications for the [Community Contribution](#) stream of the Aspire Early Entry Program will open on 15 April and close on 6 September 2024. Selection is based on a statement about your community service, volunteering, or leadership. Successful applicants will unlock the following 'Aspire ATARs' for the Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours).

Bendigo: 65
Melbourne campus: 80

Regional Benefits Program

This [program](#) is for students who study at a regional school and is applicable to the Speech Pathology degree at the Bendigo campus. The guaranteed ATAR is 80.

You will be automatically considered for the program once you apply for the course/s via VTAC or UAC.

FIRST YEAR SUBJECTS

The following are the first-year subjects for the 2024 intake. They may change for the 2025 intake.

Semester 1

Human Biosciences A
Foundations of Professional Communication
Understanding Health and Wellbeing
Foundations in Speech Pathology

Semester 2

Human Biosciences B
Research and Evidence in Practice
Health and Wellbeing of People with Developmental Disabilities
Elective.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

The course has full accreditation with Speech Pathology Australia.

Undertake industry placements each semester, starting in first year.

Take advantage of international community engagement opportunities in countries such as Chile in South America or Nepal in Central Asia.



Help those who have difficulty communicating or swallowing. You'll combine speech pathology studies with professional practice education to become adept in all aspects of communication, including: speech, language, cognition, reading, stuttering, voice and multimodal communication - including the use of signs and technology-based communication aids.

BACHELOR OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY

Our speech pathology program will prepare you to assess and diagnose difficulties with speech, language, voice, fluency, multi-modal communication and swallowing, and enable you to provide intervention and support that is person-centred, culturally sensitive and evidence-based. You'll recognise the dignity of the human person and your responsibility towards the common good, and have opportunities to put your values, knowledge and skills into action with professional practice and community engagement activities in Australia and overseas.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

As part of your course, you will be placed in a range of organisations to integrate the theory you learn with practical workplace experiences (placements). In the fourth and final year, clinical placement is a major part of the course. You'll combine community engagement opportunities with theoretical units and professional practice placements at partner institutions such as clinics, health centres, aged-care facilities, or education offices.

FIRST YEAR SUBJECTS

The following are the first-year subjects for the 2024 intake. They may change for the 2025 intake.

Semester 1

Psychology for Allied Health.
Indigenous Health and Culture.
Linguistics and Phonetics for Speech Pathology.
Introduction to Speech Pathology Practice.

Semester 2

Anatomy and Physiology for Speech Pathology.
Foundations of Speech Pathology Practice.
Self and Community.
Communication, Swallowing and Development Across the Lifespan.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PROGRAM

If you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander through VTAC, you will be invited by ACU to take part in an interview. You may receive an offer based on your potential to succeed. Click [here](#).

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Bachelor of Speech Pathology is accredited with Speech Pathology Australia.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply via the [Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre](#). Applications will open for Year 12 students on 29 July 2024.

COURSE INFORMATION

Click [here](#)

Course	Prerequisites – Units 3 and 4	Campus
Bachelor of Speech Pathology	Minimum study scores of 30 in English (EAL) or 25 in any other English; and 25 in at least one of Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. Note – science bridging programs are available.	Melbourne

PATHWAY EXAMPLES

The following are two pathway options if you haven't met the requirements for direct entry into the course. Note - there is no guaranteed pathway course into the degree.

Via an ACU enabling course

STEP 1: University pathway

Complete the 40-week Foundation Studies Program at the ACU Melbourne campus or online. Achieve a GPA of at least 6.28 (85% or above).

STEP 2: Bachelor of Speech Pathology

Apply for the 4-year Bachelor of Speech Pathology.

Via a higher education pathway

STEP 1: Bachelor degree

Complete at least the first year of a health science degree such as Exercise and Sport Science at ACU or another university.

STEP 2: Bachelor of Speech Pathology

Apply to transfer into the Bachelor of Speech Pathology at ACU. The GPA from your studies will be converted to an ATAR and you will complete for entry.

SELECTION RANK ADJUSTMENTS

If eligible, ACU will add adjustment factors to your VCE aggregate to recalculate your ATAR and boost your [selection rank](#) for entry into their courses. Adjustment factors are calculated from initiatives such as the following. Note - if you're eligible for multiple initiatives, the maximum aggregate adjustments you can be awarded is 12.

ACU Subject Program

Applicants can receive up to 5 adjustment factors for high achievement in eligible Units 3 and 4 subjects. In the 2024 intake, the eligible subjects were Biology, Chemistry, any English, Health And Human Development, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics, Physical Education and Psychology. Eligible subjects for the 2025 intake will be advertised via [VTAC](#) from 29 July 2024.

Elite Athlete and Performers Program

Eligible applicants will receive up to 5 adjustment factors.

Schools Relationship Program, Campus Program, and Regional Schools Program

Eligible applicants will receive a maximum of 5 adjustment factors across these three access schemes.

Special Entry Access Scheme

Applicants can receive adjustment factors for disadvantage that has impacted their education. Applicants can apply for this scheme via the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) between 29 July - 11 October 2024 after creating their VTAC account and adding course preferences.

Read about the above programs via this [link](#).

Youth Ministry

Applicants who studied Youth Ministry in Year 12 at school are eligible for 5 adjustments.

EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM

The [ACU Guarantee](#) is a program that uses an alternative selection rank for entry into most courses.

A selection rank is calculated from your Year 11 academic results and can be boosted by several factors such as completing up to three personal statements and living in a rural/regional area.

Successful applicants will receive a conditional offer for the Bachelor of Speech Pathology and will no longer require an ATAR or study scores for entry into the course.

To receive a formal offer, applicants will need to complete Year 12, meet course prerequisites, and preference the course in their VTAC account correctly.

Applications for the program will open on 22 July and close on 16 September 2024.

EXAMPLE

Meet John

John wants to maximise his chances of getting an offer for the Bachelor of Speech Pathology so he does the following:

ACU Guarantee

He completes the application for the ACU Guarantee program in July 2024 and uploads his Year 11 grades. He completes 2 personal statements to boost his selection rank.

Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)

He formally applies for the Bachelor of Speech Pathology via VTAC and places the Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science as a back-up course. Applications open 29 July 2024.

Special Education Access Scheme (SEAS)

He also completes an application for the Special Education Access Scheme via VTAC so he is eligible for equity adjustments towards his selection rank.

John receives an offer via the ACU Guarantee Program and no longer requires an ATAR for selection. He places the course first on his VTAC preference list and receives his formal offer via VTAC in December.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Australian-first dual-degree taught with the VU Block Model.

Develop your skills in treating patients in realistic clinical scenarios in the on-campus health science simulation labs.

Complete extensive supervised professional practice in a range of real workplace settings including education, health and community contexts, starting in the first year.

Undergraduate and graduate entry courses. Both courses have been designed to meet the accreditation standards of Speech Pathology Australia.

The courses are in the qualifying phase of accreditation.



As a speech pathologist, you'll play a crucial role in enabling communication and/or speech and improving swallowing disorders to enhance quality of life for those experiencing these difficulties, as well as support their families and broader community.

DUAL DEGREE

Bachelor of Speech and Language Sciences / Master of Speech Pathology

This Australian-first dual degree taught with the VU Block Model will prepare you to support those with communication and/or speech and swallowing challenges.

The course combines the practical and theoretical study of communication and swallowing disorders with human development, biomedical sciences, human rights and principles of social justice to enable you to graduate as a well-rounded practitioner.

During your degree you will have the opportunity to complete extensive supervised professional practice in a range of real workplace settings including education, health, and community contexts, starting in the first year.

GRADUATE ENTRY

Master of Speech Pathology

Victoria University offers a Speech Pathology qualification at the graduate level. Below is the entry pathway:

Step 1

Complete an Australian bachelor degree, or equivalent, in a health or bioscience related discipline with evidence of the inclusion functional anatomy and neurology of the speech system (bridging subjects are available). Achieve A minimum GPA of 4.5 out of 7.0 or a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of 60%. Meet assumed knowledge requirements.

Step 2

Apply for the 2-year Master of Speech Pathology.

UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY

VU MOONDANI BALLUK ABORIGINAL ADMISSION PROGRAM

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students may be able to apply for speech pathology via this [program](#). Fill out the application form [here](#) and Moondani Balluk staff will contact you with information

FIRST YEAR SUBJECTS

The following are the first-year subjects for the 2024 intake. They may change for the 2025 intake.

Semester 1

Psychology 1A
Anatomy and Physiology 1
Introduction to Speech Pathology
Interpersonal Skills and Communication

Semester 2

Anatomy and Physiology 2
Working in Human Services Organisations
Introduction to Public Health and Wellness
Inclusion and Diversity in Physical Activity

HOW TO APPLY

Apply via the [Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre](#). Applications will open for Year 12 students on 29 July 2024.

COURSE INFORMATION

Click [here](#)

Course	Prerequisites – Units 3 and 4	Campus
Bachelor of Speech and Language Sciences / Master of Speech Pathology	Minimum study scores of 30 in English (EAL) or 25 in any other English; and 20 in two of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Health And Human Development, any LOTE, General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics, Physics, Sociology or Texts And Traditions. Note: prerequisites are yet to be confirmed for the 2025 intake.	Footscray Park
Master of Speech Pathology	Entry requirements, click here .	Footscray Park

PATHWAYS

The following is an example of a pathway into the undergraduate entry speech pathology degree if you haven't met the requirements for direct entry into the course. Note – there is no guaranteed pathway course into the degree.

Via a VET Pathway

STEP 1: Diploma or Advanced Diploma

Complete a relevant Australian Advanced Diploma or Diploma (or equivalent) in the Health, and / or Community Services pathways or similar.

STEP 2: Speech Pathology degree

Apply for the Bachelor of Speech and Language Sciences / Master of Speech Pathology.

Via a higher-education pathway

STEP 1: first year of a bachelor degree

Complete at least two semesters of an Australian Higher Education award (or equivalent) in Health Sciences, Social Sciences, Education or similar.

STEP 2: Speech Pathology degree

Apply for the Bachelor of Speech and Language Sciences / Master of Speech Pathology.

Via a higher-education pathway at Victoria University (second year entry)

STEP 1: first year of a bachelor degree

Complete at least two Higher Education semesters in one of the following courses at Victoria University:

- Bachelor of Health Science
- Bachelor of Applied Movement Sciences/Master of Physiotherapy
- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery
- Bachelor of Human Nutrition

STEP 2: Speech Pathology degree

Apply for the Bachelor of Speech and Language Sciences / Master of Speech Pathology. If your WAM is competitive enough, you may be able to gain entry into the second year of the course.

SELECTION RANK ADJUSTMENTS

If eligible, Victoria University will add adjustment factors to your VCE aggregate to recalculate your ATAR and boost your [selection rank](#) for entry into their courses. Adjustment factors are calculated from initiatives such as the following. Note - if you're eligible for multiple initiatives, the maximum aggregate adjustments you can be awarded is 20.

Subject adjustments

Applicants can receive up to 20 adjustments for high achievement in eligible Units 3 and 4 subjects. In the 2024 intake, the eligible subjects were: Biology, Chemistry, English as an Additional Language (EAL), English other than EAL, Health And Human Development, any LOTE, any Mathematics, Psychology, Sociology and Texts And Traditions. Eligible subjects for the 2025 intake will be advertised via [VTAC](#) from 29 July 2024.

Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)

Applicants can receive adjustment factors for disadvantage that has impacted their education. Applicants can apply for this scheme via the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) between 29 July – 11 October 2024 after creating their VTAC account and adding course preferences.

Location adjustment

Applicants may receive adjustments based on their location or where they went to school. Apply via SEAS and tick yes for Category 1.

Elite Athlete ATAR Adjustment

Applicants can receive up to 5 aggregate adjustments. Click [here](#) for information.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

The course has been designed to meet the accreditation standards of [Speech Pathology Australia \(SPA\)](#) and is currently in the qualifying phase of accreditation. VU will seek accreditation of the award courses prior to the first cohort of students graduating to enable graduates to be eligible for membership with Speech Pathology Australia, in line with the SPA accreditation process for new courses.

EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM

Applications for the [VU Guaranteed](#) program will open later in the year. Selection is based on answers to four questions. Successful applicants will receive 5 aggregate adjustments towards their selection rank. Year 11 and 12 students can apply for the program.

EXAMPLE

Meet Noah

Noah is keen to study speech pathology at VU as he believes the [VU Block Model](#) of learning will best suit his learning style. He wants to maximise his chances of getting an offer for the course so he does the following:

Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)

He formally applies for the speech pathology dual degree via VTAC. Applications open 29 July 2024. He places the Bachelor of Health Science at VU on his VTAC preference list as a back-up course in case he doesn't receive an offer for speech pathology.

VU Guaranteed

He is successful in his application for the VU Guaranteed program. This gives him 5 adjustments towards his selection rank.

Special Education Access Scheme (SEAS)

He completes an application for SEAS via VTAC, so he is eligible for equity adjustments towards his selection rank. He is eligible for Category 1 (Personal Information and Location) and Category 3 (Disability or Medical Condition). He uploads a supporting statement from his GP to meet the evidence requirements for category 3.

Outcome

Noah received a competitive ATAR and met the entry requirements for the Bachelor of Speech and Language Sciences / Master of Speech Pathology. His selection rank was higher than the lowest rank for the December round and he received a formal offer for the course via VTAC.

FEDERATION UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate and graduate entry courses.

Both courses have been designed to meet the accreditation standards of Speech Pathology Australia.

The undergraduate entry course is in the qualifying phase of accreditation and the graduate entry course is in the provisional stage.

1000 hours of clinical placement in the Bachelor degree.

Focus on interprofessional practice.



Speech pathologist's study, diagnose and treat communication and swallowing disorders, including difficulties with speech, language, fluency and voice.

UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY

Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)

Throughout the degree you will develop knowledge and core practical skills in anatomy and neurophysiology behind communication and swallowing impairments, science of speech and hearing, linguistics, language and healthcare. You will also learn how to identify and implement appropriate therapeutic treatments and management options.

You will study foundation subjects in year 1 and 2 and specialise in one of two streams in year 3 and 4: Professional or Research. Both streams enable you to work as a Speech Pathologist in Australia

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

This program includes prescribed professional practice placements of 1000 hours. Students may be required to undertake such placements away from the Gippsland or Ballarat campuses, at their own expense.

GRADUATE ENTRY

Master of Speech Pathology

Federation University offers a Speech Pathology qualification at the graduate level. Below is the entry pathway:

Step 1

Complete an Australian Bachelor degree, or equivalent, in a cognate discipline (e.g., health science, nursing, education).

Step 2

Apply for the 2-year Master of Speech Pathology. Entry into this course is competitive with only a limited number of places available at each campus. Applicants will be ranked on the basis of past academic performance.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

The speech pathology courses have been designed to meet the accreditation standards of Speech Pathology Australia and are currently in the provisional phase of accreditation. Federation University will seek accreditation of the award programs prior to the first cohort of students graduating. To view accreditation progress, please visit the [Speech Pathology Australia](#) website.

UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY

FIRST YEAR SUBJECTS

The following are the first-year subjects for the 2024 intake. They may change for the 2025 intake.

Semester 1

Language Acquisition.
Anatomy and Physiology for Speech Pathology 1.
Introduction to Speech Pathology.
Acquired Language and Speech Impairment 1

Semester 2

Phonetics, Phonology, and Oral Communication.
Anatomy and Physiology for Speech Pathology 2.
Lifespan Development and Communication.
Health and Healthcare in Australia.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply via the [Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre](#). Applications will open for Year 12 students on 29 July 2024.

COURSE INFORMATION

Click [here](#)

Course	Prerequisites	Campus
Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)	Units 3 and 4, a study score of at least 30 in English. Units 1 - 4: a study score of at least 25 in one of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, any Mathematics, Health And Human Development or Physical Education.	Mount Helen (Ballarat) Gippsland Berwick Flexible delivery – Ballarat And Gippsland
Master of Speech Pathology	Entry requirements, click here .	As above

PATHWAY

The following is an example of a pathway into the undergraduate speech pathology degree if you haven't met the requirements for direct entry into the course.

Via a higher-education pathway at Federation University

STEP 1: first year of a bachelor degree

Complete the first year of one of the following courses at Federation University:

Bachelor of Physiotherapy
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy
Bachelor of Education
Bachelor of Nursing

STEP 2: Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)

Apply for the speech pathology degree. You will be considered for entry into the degree based on your academic performance. The minimum academic requirement is results at a credit level.

SELECTION RANK ADJUSTMENTS

If eligible, FedUni will add adjustment factors to your VCE aggregate to recalculate your ATAR and boost your [selection rank](#) for entry into their courses. For example, your ATAR might be 60 but after adjustment factors are added, your selection rank might be 68. Adjustment factors are calculated from initiatives such as the following.

Subject adjustments

Applicants can receive up to 5 adjustments for high achievement in eligible Units 3 and 4 subjects. In the 2024 intake, the eligible subjects were: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Eligible subjects for the 2025 intake will be advertised via [VTAC](#) from 29 July 2024.

Access and Equity Scheme

Applicants can apply for this scheme via the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS). Applicants apply for SEAS after creating their VTAC account and adding course preferences. Across all of the SEAS categories Federation University will award a maximum adjustment of 15 aggregate points per applicant. Applications will open on 29 July and close on 11 October 2024.

The following are examples of adjustments and the maximum aggregate per category:

Category 1: Personal Information and Location

- Indigenous applicants: 15
- Living or school postcode: 10
- Under-represented school: 10
- First in family to attend uni: 5
- Non-English speaking background: 5

Category 2: Financial Disadvantage

- Up to 10 adjustments

Category 3: Disability or Medical Condition

- Up to 10 adjustments

Category 4: Difficult Circumstances

- Up to 10 adjustments.

GUARANTEED ATAR

The [guaranteed ATAR](#) for the Bachelor of Speech Pathology at FedUni is 85.

EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM

Applications for the [Early Offer](#) program are now open and will close on 1 December. Selection is based on an online application and successful applicants will receive a conditional offer for the course.

To receive a formal offer, applicants will need to complete Year 12, meet course prerequisites, achieve an ATAR of at least 85, and preference the course in their VTAC account correctly.

EXAMPLE

Meet Sarah

Sarah is keen to study the Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) at FedUni. She wants to maximise her chances of getting an offer so she does the following:

Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)

She formally applies for the Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) via VTAC and places the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy and the Bachelor of Nursing at FedUni as back up courses. Applications open 29 July 2024.

Early Offer Program

She is successful in her application for the Early Offer Program. She now knows she will be guaranteed entry into the course as long as her ATAR is at least 85 and she meets the course prerequisites.

Special Education Access Scheme (SEAS)

She completes an application for SEAS via VTAC, so she is eligible for equity adjustments towards her selection rank. She is eligible for Category 1 (Personal Information and Location) and 2 (Financial Disadvantage). She uploads a recent copy of her mother's Family Tax Benefit to her SEAS account to meet the evidence requirements for Category 2.

Outcome

Sarah didn't receive an offer for speech pathology, but she received one for occupational therapy at FedUni. She will complete the first year of the degree and try and get high enough grades to gain entry into speech pathology.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Graduate entry degree.

The course has full accreditation with Speech Pathology Australia.

400 hours of supervised clinical work at various health-care and educational facilities in metropolitan and rural areas in Victoria.

Students may be considered for PhD studies.

The Master of Speech Pathology is internationally recognised.

You will have access to unique onsite clinical experiences, including the FEES clinic (swallowing assessment) – the only one of its kind at any university in Melbourne.



The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology at University of Melbourne offers the Master of Speech Pathology degree, which is a two-year full-time course. Completion of this degree qualifies you to work as a speech pathologist.

MASTER OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY

The University offers an accredited speech pathology qualification at the graduate level. The first year of the course provides the scientific background in anatomy and physiology, articulatory and acoustic phonetics, linguistics, speech and language disorders, clinical practice and processes. The second year builds on the specialised knowledge acquired in first year, develops clinical skills and introduces students to research methods in the field.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The course consists of formal lectures, seminars, practical work and student presentations along with substantial clinical component. Students will be scheduled for approximately 400 hours of supervised clinical work during the two-year course at various health-care and educational facilities in metropolitan and rural areas in Victoria.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

In your final year, you will be assigned to a research project under the supervision of a member of staff. This will equip you with invaluable research skills and experience of a manuscript for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal. Students who demonstrate an aptitude for research may be considered for PhD studies.

STEPS TO STUDY THE MASTER OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY

STEP 1:

Complete an undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline (e.g., Science, Biomedicine, Linguistics, Phonetics, Education, Psychology), or equivalent. Suggested bachelor degrees at the University are: Science, Biomedicine, and Arts. Achieve strong grades.

STEP 2:

Apply for the 2-year Master of Speech Pathology.

COURSE INFORMATION

Click [here](#).

Course	Prerequisites	Campus
Master of Speech Pathology	Selection criteria, click here .	Parkville