

## **Sample 6-year plan for students who wish to combine the MA and PhD degree programs, with the option of an integrated CFY**

### Overview:

This suggested course sequence guidance for combined MA/PhD is a department-internal procedure designed to maximize program benefits and efficiency – the degree requirements are not changed for either the MA or the PhD Program; with the exception of the MA thesis, which can be overlapped with pre-candidacy research for the Ph.D., no classes apply to both degrees in terms of credit accumulation.

This is fastest schedule possible; it is not required that students finish in this timeline. Rather, this is intended to serve as a starting point for discussion between a student and their Program Planning Committee for the purposes of advising. It is one possible plan, but is not expected to be appropriate for all doctoral students.

Students **MUST** officially obtain the MA degree (after conclusion of the CFY) in order to meet ASHA requirements for certification. Having completed the work without the official degree (equivalency) does not suffice.

The sequence below presumes satisfaction of undergraduate pre-requisite classes, which may add between 1-2 semesters to this plan, depending upon applicable prior coursework, and potential for interleaving a small number of such courses into the plan below.

Students can opt to do their CFY after completion of their doctoral work, or to integrate their CFY with their doctoral program on a part-time basis. The sample plan below includes the option of an integrated CFY, but students should be aware that spending 50% of their time on a CFY will likely slow their progress towards their dissertation.

### **Fall year 1:**

Two MA classes (HESP 612: Fluency and HESP 616: Child Language) plus one PhD course. This likely will not be statistics, as seats are limited for first semester students doing regular registrations, but might include: Acoustic Phonetics (604) or 808 (psycholinguistics seminar or similar) + lab hours (889)

**Spring year 1:** Statistics course plus Research Design (HESP 724), plus HESP 602 (Neurological Bases of Human Communication), plus 889

**Summer year 1:** Independent study or minimum 1-credit lab registration. Possible additional statistics course if available; HESP 417 (Clinical methods; second summer session) if an equivalent course was not taken as part of the undergraduate program.

**Fall Year 2:** Diagnostics (HESP 702), plus MA/PhD elective or independent study or doctoral course/seminar, plus clinic, plus lab.

Winter semester year 2 or 3: Possible MA elective course

**Spring Year 2 :** Third statistics class, Aphasia (HESP 610), Articulation disorders (HESP 620) + clinic + pre-candidacy research proposal

**Summer Year 2:** Dysphagia (HESP 625), pre-candidacy research, and possible final semester of in-house clinic (*third semester of clinic can be either this summer, or subsequent fall*)

**Fall year 3:** Voice Disorders (HESP 624), doctoral courses (including 4th statistics course), and possible final semester of in-house clinic

**Spring year 3:** Begin outside placement, and continue doctoral coursework and research

**Summer year 3:** Aural Rehabilitation (HESP 635). By end of year 3, defend pre-candidacy research.

**Fall year 4:** Second outside placement, additional doctoral coursework

**Spring year 4:** Doctoral coursework; prepare for comps

**Fall year 5:** Possibly begin half-time (20 hrs) CFY<sup>1</sup>; comprehensive examination

**Spring year 5:** Possibly continue half-time CFY; prepare and defend dissertation proposal

Summer year 5: Possibly continue half-time CFY; Dissertation research

**Fall year 6:** Complete half-time CFY if applicable (may require work until Jan-Feb), work on dissertation research

**Spring year 6:** Defend dissertation

Note: While MA coursework is likely to all be within the department, doctoral coursework is likely to include courses from related departments; decisions on appropriate courses should be made in consultation with the student's Program Planning Committee (PPC).

---

<sup>1</sup> A 20 hr/wk CFY requires 18 months of work; adjust schedules for other CFY plans accordingly. Alternatively, CFY can be completed in 1 year following completion of the doctoral program; this allows students to graduate with their Ph.D. in the shortest possible amount of time.