



Fall 2016

Dear SLP Student:

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT! We are very pleased you have decided on the Speech- Language Pathology major at Buffalo State. All of us sincerely hope that you have found your academic and professional “home” and will continue on to graduate school, here or elsewhere, for your professional Master’s degree. All of you should now email your assigned Departmental adviser to schedule an initial appointment. I highly encourage you to meet with your adviser at least once a semester, and more often as needed. With your advisor, you will review information about course sequencing, ASHA certification requirements, scholarship and research opportunities, our student organization, and preparation for (gulp) graduate school, among many other topics. Please get to know your advisor on a personal basis. He or she will be your point person and ally throughout your program of study.

Let me clear about one important thing: this is a challenging program. To be successful, you will need to prioritize your studies and work harder academically than you have ever worked before. However, also know that the entire clinical and academic faculty and staff are here to offer support and guidance to help you achieve your goals. Speech-language pathology is a fantastic career. However, we know that to be effective and fulfilled as a speech-language pathologist, you really have to “know your stuff.” Here at Buffalo State, we will do whatever we can to give you the academic and experiential foundations you will need to be successful in any graduate program and professional setting. We also know from experience that some of you may not end up as a speech-language pathologist, but may choose to pursue a different career path down the road. Should this happen, your Departmental advisor will still be there to discuss alternative pathways with you.

Try to stay involved and informed. We highly encourage you to check your *buffalostate* email every day and to visit the Department’s webpage (<http://speech.buffalostate.edu/>) on a regular basis. Through email and the website, we will make every effort to keep you abreast of special events and policy changes that might be of interest to you. If YOU have suggestions for items you would like to see posted on our website, please don’t hesitate to contact our webmaster in the Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic (Mr. Brandon Hilt; [hiltbj@buffalostate.edu](mailto:hiltbj@buffalostate.edu)).

In closing, I want to emphasize that, in order to be admitted into our program, you have already proven yourself to be a strong and dedicated student. We want each of you to continue to be successful in school, to develop strong friendships that last a lifetime, and to have some fun along the way. (It is, after all, college.) My door is always open for questions, concerns, or just an informal chat. Please drop by and introduce yourself, and have a great first semester as an SLP major!

Yours truly,

***Susan Felsenfeld***

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