

UNIVERSITY *of* MISSOURI HEALTH SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE AND DISORDERS

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Thank you for your interest in the MU Department of Communication Science and Disorders' Accent Modification and Pronunciation Program (AMP). You will find an application for the program along with this letter of introduction. Please return the application either by email to fritzd@health.missouri.edu or to the above address at your earliest convenience so that you may be considered for the next available opening. The purpose of this letter is to explain the application process as well as to provide some information about our AMP program. If you have further questions, please contact Dana Fritz, AMP Program Coordinator, at 573.882.3873 or at the above email address. Our department's website is: <http://www.shp.missouri.edu/csd>.

Our program has been described locally and regionally in the media, and, for your information, a link to example articles from the Associated Press and Columbia Daily Tribune are included: (<http://archive.columbiatribune.com/2006/may/20060520news018.asp>; <http://archive.columbiatribune.com/2008/mar/20080318news001.asp>). Our accent modification program also received a national diversity award in November, 2009 (http://www.asha.org/practice/multicultural/champions.htm?utm_source=asha&utm_medium=superfeature1&utm_campaign=diversity; <http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2009/10/12/accent-modification-program-honored-national-diversity-award>).

A Brief History and Statement of Purpose

The MU Speech and Hearing Clinic has been serving children and adults with communication disorders or differences on campus since the 1940s. Students and faculty interested in reducing or modifying their accents and improving communication have been served for many years under the leadership and teaching of Linda Day, CSD associate professor, and Barbara Brinkman, CSD clinical associate professor and MU Speech and Hearing Clinic director. The AMP program has begun to serve more clients in this area, specifically persons wishing to work on pronunciation and articulation of English phonemes (consonants and vowels), word stress, intonation and prosody. This is not a program aimed at persons wishing to improve English vocabulary skills primarily. English language courses are offered regularly through the Graduate School and the International Teaching Assistants Program.

Who Works Here

The MU Department of Communication Science and Disorders teaches and trains students in the field of speech-language pathology. These students are required to obtain 25 observation hours and 400 clinical clock hours before graduation. Graduate students and faculty members in our department are the clinicians for the Accent Modification and Pronunciation Program. Students are supervised by certified and licensed professionals throughout their training and will be serving participants individually or in small groups.



Our Program

We base our services on current research in the field of accent modification and addition as well as several publications (Speaking Clearly by Hahner, Sokoloff & Salisch, Well Said by Grant, Mastering Effective English Communication by Sikorski, among others). We also utilize the software program, Computer Speech Lab, to help clients produce sounds and phrases more like American-accented English. Sessions are tailored to individual needs, based on what is expected of them in terms of daily communication with peers, students or faculty mentors. Emphasis is placed on improving public speaking as well as person-to-person communication.

Schedule and Costs

The Accent Modification and Pronunciation Program will have openings for individuals or small groups in the early afternoon. Time slots will mostly likely be 12:00-12:50, 1:00-1:50 or 2:00-2:50 M/W or T/Th. Our clinic is open each semester and runs 12 weeks (and is closed during spring break and Thanksgiving break) for a total of 24 sessions per client in fall and spring semesters and 6 weeks in summer semester. The cost for the program is \$500 for fall or spring semester and \$250 for summer semester. In the past, these costs have been paid by individual clients or by MU departments to the MU Speech and Hearing Clinic in 303 Lewis Hall. This is NOT a course available for fee waiver. Please do not apply if you or your department is not able to pay the fee for this service. This fee can be paid in one lump sum at the beginning of the session or divided into two payments.

Overall Policies and General Information

Attendance is an important part of the AMP program. This is not only for the improvement of the accent modification clients, but also to insure the MU CSD students are able to complete their clinic hours in a timely fashion. Homework will be assigned after each session or on a weekly basis.

Our clinic is located on the third floor of Lewis Hall, near the intersection of Rollins and Providence Roads on the West side of campus. Please feel free to contact our department with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Dana Fritz

Dana Rissler Fritz, PhD, CCC-SLP
MU Clinical Assistant Professor
AMP Program Coordinator
Department of Communication Science and Disorders
School of Health Professions