



Thank you for your interest in the MU Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences' Accent Modification and Pronunciation Program (MU AMP). You will find an application for the program on our webpage (<http://umurl.us/amp>). Please return the application either by email to fritzd@health.missouri.edu 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 the MU AMP program. If you have further questions, please contact Dana Fritz, AMP Program Coordinator, at 573.884.7538 or at the above email address.

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, faculty and community members interested in improving their ability to be understood by American listeners have been served for many years by this clinic, and the current MU AMP program opened in 2006 and serves people 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, however improving grammar and social use of language is sometimes an area of focus based on individual preferences. This program is primarily focused on improving understandability. Our program's efficacy and outcomes have been studied and reported nationally, and our participants report an increased confidence when speaking in informal and formal situations. Our program was recognized as a Diversity Champion in 2009 by the American Speech Language Hearing Association.

Who Works Here

The MU Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences 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 MU AMP. Students are supervised by certified and licensed professionals throughout their training and will be serving participants individually, in pairs 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 software programs (i.e. PRAAT, WASP and Audacity) 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 and colleagues. Emphasis is placed on improving public speaking as well as person-to-person communication.

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 participants, but also to insure the MU SLHS students are able to complete their clinic hours in a timely fashion. Homework will be assigned after each session to extend communication practice.

The MU AMP program is located on the second floor of Lewis Hall, near the intersection of Rollins and Providence Roads on the west side of campus. Our sessions are usually held around the lunch hour twice per week (M/W or T/Th): 11-11:50am, 12-12:50pm, 1-1:50pm, 2-2:50pm. Costs are \$500 for fall or spring semester (24 sessions) and \$250 for summer semester (12 sessions). These costs can be paid by individuals, departments or employers. This is not a course available for fee waiver.

Please contact program coordinator Dana Fritz (fritzd@health.missouri.edu) if you have any other questions. If you want to be put on the waiting list for this program, there is no cost to apply and you can find the application at this link: <http://umurl.us/amp>.

Sincerely,

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