

Timeline for the Speech-Language Pathology Part-time Distance Education Master's Degree Program and the SC-CREATE Scholarship Program

Dear Prospective Students,

SC-CREATE (or CREATE) is a scholarship funding program underwritten by the South Carolina Department of Education Office of Special Education Services for individuals employed full-time (any position, in or out of the classroom) by a SC public or charter school. CREATE scholarship recipients will continue to be employed full-time while completing a part-time master's degree program in speech-language pathology. Students who qualify for CREATE scholarship funds commit to working as a speech-language pathologist in the public schools for three (3) years after program completion.

CREATE underwrites 100% of course tuition and textbook costs for standard, regular graduate courses required for the master's program in SLP. You are responsible for all application-related and background coursework costs (see below). See this link for more information about CREATE: <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/projects-and-supports/create/>

Admissions to USC Columbia

If you are interested in CREATE, you should first apply to the USC MS-DE-Part-Time, Distance Education Speech-Language Pathology program by December 15 in the year preceding your desired summer semester start date. Additional information on the USC application process can be found here:

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/apply/graduate_applicants/application_requirements/comd_app_requirements/index.php

The application process in CSDCAS may take up to two (2) months to complete. Therefore, it is recommended that you begin this initial application process by requesting letters of recommendation and transcripts from all undergraduate programs attended by Oct 15.

You may apply to the graduate program if you do not have an undergraduate degree in speech-language pathology or a related major; however, if accepted, your first year in the program will consist of completing background courses. You are responsible for background course tuition and textbook costs, which are not covered by the CREATE scholarship program.

Once the graduate application process has been completed, acceptance letters are issued from mid-Spring throughout the Summer semester following application.

Upfront, Out-of-pocket USC Application Costs

The application process at USC is in partnership with the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD), who created a centralized application service for graduate programs in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology. Therefore, you are responsible for paying the CAPCSD fee of **\$139**. Currently, there is not an additional application fee charged by the USC Graduate School; however, you will need to check at the

time you submit your application here:

https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/apply/index.php.

Following acceptance, students will pay **\$1,225** (of the \$1,425) seat fee and sign a letter of intent to guarantee their place in the graduate program or face forfeiture of your seat. The remaining \$200 of this fee will be deferred to your first semester's tuition in Summer or Fall semester after admission.

NOTE: The CREATE program does not provide reimbursement for the CAPCSD fee or the seat fee.

Qualifying for CREATE scholarship funds

All individuals employed full-time by a SC public or charter school who are enrolled in a speech-language pathology graduate program are "eligible" for the CREATE scholarship program but must first "apply" for the SC-Create program. After submitting all documents outlined below, applicants "qualify" for, and receive, CREATE scholarship funds (applied to the student's college account). Follow these steps in this order to qualify:

1. Submit your online CREATE application through the link at the website:
https://scoes.formstack.com/forms/create_application
2. Wait for a "CREATE Next Steps" notice (within 3-5 business days).
3. Once you have completed all background coursework, request and submit a copy of your letter of unconditional acceptance to the SLP program at USC Columbia, provided by Dr. Jean Neils-Strunjas (see below).
4. Request and submit a copy of your POS (program of study), confirming you have completed all background coursework, provided by Dr. Jean Neils-Strunjas (see below).
5. Submit your Scholarship Loan Agreement. Download from this link at the website:
<https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/projects-and-supports/create/create-forms/scholarship-loan-agreement/>
6. Wait for a "CREATE Qualified" notice.

Note: The acceptance letter, POS, and Scholarship Loan Agreement are submitted directly to Dr. Joe Sutton, Program Director, CREATE at jsutton@edsc.gov.

Background Coursework

Individuals who have not yet completed the undergraduate Communication Disorders (COMD) background courses **OR** who do not have an undergraduate degree in COMD, speech-language pathology, or speech and hearing sciences, etc. must first complete all background coursework during the fall and spring semester of their first year and receive a final grade of B or better in each course to continue with the standard, regular graduate coursework required for the Master's in SLP program. Once more, students are responsible for the tuition and textbook costs for background courses, which are not covered by CREATE scholarship funds.

Individuals who have an undergraduate degree in COMD, speech-language pathology, or speech and hearing sciences, etc., do not have to take background coursework.

Receiving CREATE Scholarship Funds

Individuals who have completed background coursework, and those who hold an undergraduate degree in COMD, speech-language pathology, or speech and hearing sciences, etc. can begin receiving 100% CREATE funding for all standard, regular graduate courses required for the master's program in SLP.

Upon receiving a "CREATE Qualified" notice (all steps completed as outlined above), individuals will receive instructions on how to submit an online course scholarship request each semester for approval of scholarship funds and reimbursement for textbooks and Praxis II exam registrations. This includes working with your advisor to select the sections that are specific to CREATE students. These are the same courses all distance education students are enroll in, but specific sections will allow for the scholarship to be applied.

Once you are a part of the CREATE program, you must reapply each year by July 1st to confirm that you remain employed in a South Carolina public school and that your contact information has not changed.

For more information about SC-CREATE and the application process, please refer to the following links:

Information about SC-CREATE:

<https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/projects-and-supports/create/>

How to qualify/Steps to follow:

<https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/projects-and-supports/create/about-create/how-to-qualify/>

CREATE Credentials/Programs

<https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/projects-and-supports/create/create-how-to-qualify/>

CREATE Questions and Answers

<https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/projects-and-supports/create/about-create/create-questions-inquiries/>