

## Letter of Intent

My interest in speech and language pathology became apparent after years of working with children who had various learning disabilities. Seeing the children's challenges and frustrations led me to desire a career in Communication Sciences and Disorders. I intend to pursue a career in speech and language pathology, knowing that by combining clinical techniques with a humanistic approach, I can positively impact many people's ability to communicate.

**Commented [SX1]:** Why you want to be an SLP?

University of South Florida's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has an impressive legacy of providing its graduate level students with the excellent clinical and research opportunities that help them develop into professionals that are well prepared to render the best treatment to their clients. In addition, USF plays a primordial role in conducting research in literacy. As an undergraduate student, I am currently working on conducting research on the relationship between Spanish speakers and literacy. I feel that the university's high level of expertise in the field will provide me with an opportunity to expand my knowledge and understanding of literacy.

**Commented [SX2]:** Why you want to go to that university

Personally, I feel I embody the characteristics of a successful graduate student. I am responsible, disciplined, goal-oriented, and highly motivated. Due to the fact that I strive for excellence in all I do, I am responsible in all my endeavors. I possess the discipline and perseverance to reach my goals. I am also organized and have good critical thinking skills, traits necessary for successful completion of a master's level degree.

**Commented [SX3]:** Characteristics that make you good grad student (use specific examples)

My ultimate goal in attending graduate school is to learn the clinical techniques necessary in order to obtain licensure as a speech language pathologist. My goal is to use the knowledge and experience I attain in graduate school in order to become the best clinician I can be. I also plan to pursue a doctorate's level degree in speech and language pathology, with an emphasis on research in literacy.

**Commented [SX4]:** Goals

I was accepted in the honor's program at USF's Communication Sciences and Disorders department. I am currently partaking in research under the mentorship of Dr. Bahr, in which I will be studying the spelling errors of Spanish-speaking bilinguals. I am very interested in studying ways that can help bilingual students improve their literacy. I plan to continue pursuing this interest by completing a master's level thesis on the subject.

As an undergraduate student, I was awarded various scholarships that are a testament to my academic achievement. I have been part of the Dean's List every semester since I began my college career. I am a recipient of the Bright Futures Award, USF Scholars and Scholastic Achievement Award, and the AmeriCorp Education Segal Award. In addition, I have recently been inducted into the McNair's Scholars Program, which provides minority students support in conducting research and pursuing a doctorate-level degree.

I possess the skills that will make me an excellent addition to USF's graduate program. For instance, I am a bilingual speaker of Spanish and English. I feel that my knowledge of both languages will facilitate my ability to service the Hispanic population. In addition, I have years of experience working with children. I have been teaching Sunday School for eight years, in which I teach children ranging from three to fourteen years old. Moreover, in the last two years, I have been an AmeriCorp Volunteer. As a volunteer, I provide individual tutoring to students who are below grade-level in reading. I must complete 900 service hours a year, and I really enjoy witnessing how the students improve as a result of my efforts. I am also the founder of an after-school program entitled, "The Butterfly Project," which focuses on empowering inner city girls by teaching them about self-esteem and the value of education. The gratification I feel when helping others is immeasurable. My passion for helping people is the same that drives me to become a speech and language pathologist.

As an undergraduate student at USF, I will be committed towards excellence, implementing my passion, and experiences in order to contribute to the program's legacy of success.

**Commented [SX5]:** Present your accomplishments

**Commented [SX6]:** Keep bragging

**Commented [SX7]:** Why would you be a good addition to the program?