Students planning to apply for admission to undergraduate teacher education must have completed the Speech Prerequisite. The Speech Prerequisite is a brief speech, language, and hearing screening that can be completed in the Communication Disorders Clinic or by a licensed, certified Speech-Language Pathologist. Students completing the Speech Prerequisite at the Communication Disorders Clinic will receive a hearing screening in both ears and a brief assessment of language, articulation, voice, and fluency skills as measured through speech sound and conversational sampling. This process takes approximately 5 to 10 minutes, and the results indicate either that the student's speech, language, and hearing skills appear to be adequate or that there is a need for further evaluation. Students are encouraged to complete the speech prerequisite during their freshman year or during their first semester of enrollment at Appalachian State University.

Students who successfully complete the speech, language, and hearing screening will satisfy the Speech Prerequisite. Successful completion of the Speech Prerequisite will be entered into the Student Information System. Information concerning those who pass or fail the Speech Prerequisite is sent to the chair of the appropriate department. Students completing the screening off-campus must file written verification of speech, language, and hearing function with the Communication Disorders Clinic and the information will be distributed as described above. If a student is referred for further testing, the evaluation must be completed before the student is cleared on the Student Information System.

Students whose speech, language, or hearing is found to be suspect during the screening will be referred for a more in-depth evaluation. The results of the in-depth evaluation indicate whether the student's speech, language, or hearing skills are adequate or whether the student could benefit from intervention. Although the in-depth evaluation results may indicate the existence of a communication disorder, students will not be required or forced to follow through with treatment. Decisions regarding the student's ability to communicate effectively in the classroom are made by representatives of the student's program area based on observations and student performance. With the student's permission, a copy of the diagnostic report and intervention plan, if one is developed, will be placed in the student's advising folder.

Screening for the Speech Prerequisite is conducted as needed throughout the year, including summer sessions. Appointments may be made by contacting the Communication Disorders Clinic to make an appointment. Any student who misses the appointment without canceling, will not be able to schedule another appointment until the next semester.