

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS: LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DISABILITIES (M.S.)

<https://chhs.unh.edu/csd/communication-sciences-and-disorders-ms>

Description

This option prepares students for professional practice in the diagnosis and treatment of language-based learning disorders in school age children. Students learn theory and practice in oral language as it relates to literacy acquisition and learning in the content areas. Practicum experiences in schools are available to enhance applied understanding. Upon graduating, students are equipped to meet the challenge of diagnosing and managing an array of language-based learning disabilities as team members alongside their professional colleagues in regular education, reading education, and learning disabilities. Those interested in obtaining dual certification in reading education and speech language pathology are encouraged to contact the Education Department.

Requirements

Regardless of option, students will complete a combination of core, required, and elective courses to earn a minimum of **61 credits**. See course descriptions for a list of all CSD graduate courses.

Required Core Courses for All Options

COMM 876	Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders I	1
COMM 880	Diagnosis of Speech and Language Disorders	3
COMM 890	Advanced Audiology for Speech-Language Pathologists	3
COMM 903	Therapy Process	2
COMM 910	Clinical Practicum (1 credit each semester years one and two)	4
COMM 911	Externship (4 cr. fall of year two, 4 cr. spring of year two)	8
COMM 914	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	3-4
COMM 917	Research Mthds Comm Sci Dis	3
COMM 915	Counseling Clients and Families with Communication Disorders	2
Total Credits		29-30

In addition to the academic and clinical requirements, the UNH Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders implemented an Essential Functions Policy on June 7, 2010. This policy identifies basic communication, motor, cognitive, sensory, and behavioral-social abilities that are necessary for completion of our master's program and professional practice. Some of these abilities should be in place when students begin the program, while others will be developed throughout the program.

Early each fall, the Essential Functions Policy will be reviewed with new students beginning our program. Students are expected to sign that they have reviewed and understand the policy and will follow the stated guidelines. For additional information about the graduate program, see the Handbook for Graduate Students and Practicum Manual (<http://chhs.unh.edu/sites/chhs.unh.edu/files/docs/csd/Practicum%20Manual.pdf>).

Language Literacy Disabilities Required Courses

COMM 875	Advanced Language Acquisition	3
COMM 900	Articulatory and Phonological Disorders in Children	3
COMM 901	Dysphagia	3
COMM 902	Stuttering	3
COMM 905	Motor Speech Disorders	3
COMM 906	Voice Disorders	2
COMM 908	Disorders of Language and Literacy I	3
COMM 909	Disorders of Language and Literacy II	3
COMM 912	Language Disorders Birth to Five	3

Elective Courses

Select two of the following:		6-8
COMM 891	Applied Neurology for Speech-Language Pathology	
COMM 904	Aphasia in Adults	
COMM 907	Advanced Seminar in Aural Rehabilitation	
EDUC 907	Foundations of Literacy Instruction	
COMM 913	Cognitive Communication Disorders	
COMM 916	Autism Spectrum Disorders	
COMM 920	Graduate Seminar	

Total Credits 32-34

Clinical Practicum

All students are required to complete four practicum rotations and two externships during their graduate studies. Practicum assignments take place at the UNH Speech-Language-Hearing Center (<http://chhs.unh.edu/speech-language-hearing>) (SLHC) and University-supervised satellite programs. Externships are available at a broad range of department-approved settings, including public and private schools, language-based preschool programs, early intervention programs, health care settings, and private practices. UNH requires students to have 15 documented observation hours prior to the start of clinical work.

During fall and spring semesters of year 1, students complete clinical work that directly and simultaneously corresponds to coursework. Clinical assignments are completed at the UNH SLHC as well as University-supervised satellite programs. During year 2, students complete two semesters of diagnostic clinic at the UNH SLHC along with two externships at two different settings. Students shall participate in at least one externship that corresponds to their selected option in order to develop clinical skills in their area of interest. Since the UNH CSD Graduate Program is a full-time program, we expect students to be available for clinical assignments when not in class.

Students are responsible for transportation to satellite programs, externships, and other community learning experiences. Practicum sites may require a physical, including a tuberculin test; proof of immunizations such as poliomyelitis, rubella and hepatitis; health insurance; and drug/urine testing. In addition, students are responsible for meeting the criminal record clearances established by the practicum site. Failure to pass required medical and other clearance checks could

render a student ineligible for a practicum assignment and thus unable to complete program requirements.

To learn more about the available externships please contact the CSD office.

Capstone Experience

The capstone experience is divided into two phases:

Phase I: Year--One Comprehensive Exam

Phase I is a comprehensive exam scheduled at the end of the first year of graduate study. For the year--one comprehensive exam, all students will write for three hours, answering three out of four integrated questions addressing content specific to the first year.

Phase II: Year--Two Comprehensive Exam or Thesis

Year--Two Comprehensive Exam (non-thesis)

All students except those writing a thesis must pass a year-two comprehensive exam designed to assess their mastery of the full two-year curriculum. Students will write for six hours, answering six out of eight integrated questions. Students who have selected either the Early Childhood Communication Disorders, Language/Literacy Disorders, or the Adult Neurogenic Communication Disorders options are required to respond to one question specific to their course of study during the year--two comprehensive exam.

Thesis

Students may choose to write a thesis in lieu of the year--two comprehensive exam. Upon completion of an original research project, students must defend the thesis in an oral examination and must gain approval of the thesis committee. In addition to required coursework, students must register for 6 credits of COMM 899 Master's Thesis.