COMMUNICATION SCIENCES
AND DISORDERS (M.S.)

https://chhs.unh.edu/communication-sciences-disorders/program/ms/communication-sciences-disorders

Description

The graduate program in Communication Sciences and Disorders prepares students for professional practice with individuals who face communication challenges across the life span in any practice setting. Students complete a combination of required and elective courses and clinical practicum to apply theory to practice. Students complete a variety of practicum experiences in the university clinic as well as educational, rehabilitative, and private practice settings to enhance applied learning. The Graduate Program of Study includes two full years of study, including two summers and J-term.

Requirements

All graduate students will complete a combination of required and elective courses and clinical practicum to earn a minimum of 63 credits total. Clinical practicum meets the requirements of the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, including a minimum of 400 clinical clock hours.

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<td>COMM 851</td>
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<td>Clinical Practicum (Minimum of 4 rotations)</td>
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<td>Autism Spectrum Disorders</td>
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<td>Special Topics</td>
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<td>Special Topics include: Language Acquisition, FMRI and the Human Brain, Social Communication Disorders</td>
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<td>COMM 899</td>
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Clinical Practicum

All students are required to complete a minimum of four practicum rotations and two externships during their graduate studies. UNH requires students to have 15 documented observation hours prior to the start of clinical work. Since the UNH CSD Graduate Program is a full-time program, we expect students to be available for clinical assignments when not in class.

In year 1, practicum assignments take place at the UNH Speech-Language-Hearing Center and the Clinic for Neurogenic Communication Disorders during the fall, spring, and summer sessions. In year 2, students complete one semester of diagnostic clinic at the UNH SLHC along with two externships at two different settings. Externships are available at a broad range of department-approved settings, including early intervention programs, education, rehabilitation, health care settings, and private practices.

Students are responsible for transportation to externship locations and other community learning experiences. Externship 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.

Capstone Experience

All graduate students are required to complete a capstone experience - either the Comprehensive Examination or a Master’s Thesis.

Comprehensive Examination (Non-thesis)

All students (except those writing a thesis) must pass a Comprehensive Examination designed to assess their mastery of and ability to integrate information from the two-year curriculum. Students will write for six hours, answering four integrated questions including one case study. To participate in the comprehensive examination students must be in their final semester of graduate studies, have no incomplete or unremediated course failures, be in their final semester for externship experiences, and have no unfilled clinical improvement plans. Students must pass all four questions to pass the comprehensive examination and be eligible to receive the master’s degree.

Thesis

Students may conduct research and write a thesis in lieu of the Comprehensive Examination. 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.

Additional Requirements

In addition to the academic and clinical requirements, the UNH Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders requires students to demonstrate certain essential skills needed to practice as a speech-language pathologist. These Essential Functions, as distinguished from academic standards, include communication, motor, cognitive, sensory, and behavioral-social abilities that are necessary for satisfactory completion of the curriculum and for professional practice. Some of these abilities should be in place when students begin the program, while others will be developed throughout the program.

Students accepting an offer of admission as well as students in the program are expected to demonstrate these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations to successfully complete degree requirements. 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.

### Degree Plan

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**Elective Course** 2

**Spring**

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**Total Credits** 63

### Accelerated Master’s

**Program Eligibility**

- Current UNH CSD student in good standing.
- Overall GPA of 3.5+
- Most eligible students would have completed KIN 706 Neurology, COMM 504 Basic Audiology, and all discovery requirements (approximately 90 credits, or 5-6 semesters of coursework toward the CSD major).
- Completed prerequisite coursework for COMM 741 Speech-Language Pathology I.
- Completed or enrolled in COMM 742 Speech-Language Pathology II.
- Approval from academic advisor and Accelerated Master’s program coordinator per completion of the Intent to Apply form by spring of the sophomore year.

The AM program is designed for and best suited to students who begin the CSD program as Freshmen (in Year 1). Students who transfer into the major may be eligible for the AM but will need individual review of their program status by the AM program coordinator.

1. After completion of their sophomore year, students must have a 3.5 overall GPA or higher in order to move forward declare an intent to apply to the Acceleration MS Program.
2. Students must enroll in an elective course the summer after their sophomore year.
3. If accepted into the Accelerated Program, students must be able to complete all of their requirements for graduation including the required number of credit hours including their required hours in their final year at UNH by December of their senior year as this is the time they will graduate from the UG program.
4. Once a student decides to apply to the Accelerated Program they should set up a meeting with the Graduate Coordinator, currently Donald A. Robin (don.robin@unh.edu) to review all of the requirements and discuss the program of study. You may email Dr. Robin or the Department of CSD (CSD.department@unh.edu) to set up an appointment.

* Eligibility does not ensure acceptance to the AM program.

**Recommended Course Sequence Bachelors/Accelerated Master’s Program**
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**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Demonstrate Appropriate Knowledge of Professional Practice
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Foundations of Speech-Language Pathology Practice
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Identification and Prevention of Speech-Language and Swallowing Disorders and Differences
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Evaluation of Speech-Language Disorders and Differences
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Intervention of Speech-Language and Swallowing Mechanisms
- Demonstrate General Knowledge and Skills Applicable to Professional Practice