

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**.

Code	Title	Credits
REQUIRED COURSES (minimum of 55 credits)		
COMM 801	Principles of Assessment	2
COMM 802	Principles of Intervention	2
COMM 803	Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders I	1
COMM 804	Counseling Clients and Families with Communication Disorders	2
COMM 805	Research Methods in Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
COMM 811	Brain and Behavior	3
COMM 812	Dysphagia	3
COMM 821	Speech Sound Disorders	3
COMM 822	Stuttering	3
COMM 823	Voice Disorders	3
COMM 824	Motor Speech Disorders	3
COMM 831	Early Childhood Language Disorders	3
COMM 832	School-Age & Adolescent Language Disorders	3
COMM 833	Aphasia in Adults	3
COMM 843	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	3
COMM 851	Advanced Audiology for Speech Language Pathologists	3
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum (Minimum of 4 rotations)	1-3
Diagnostic Clinic (Fall or Spring of Year 2)		
COMM 872	Externship (Minimum of 2 sessions)	1-4
ELECTIVE COURSES (minimum of 8 credits)		
COMM 841	Cognitive Communication Disorders	2
COMM 842	Autism Spectrum Disorders	2
COMM 895	Special Topics	2
Special Topics include: Language Acquisition, fMRI and the Human Brain, Social Communication Disorders		
COMM 899	Master's Thesis	6

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 incompletes 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 pathology. 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

All graduate students will complete a combination of required and elective courses and clinical practicum to earn a minimum of **63 credits**.

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**.

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Summer		
COMM 801	Principles of Assessment	2
COMM 802	Principles of Intervention	2
Credits		4
Fall		
COMM 803	Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders I	1
COMM 805	Research Methods in Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
COMM 811	Brain and Behavior	3
COMM 821	Speech Sound Disorders	3
COMM 831	Early Childhood Language Disorders	3
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum	1
Credits		14
January Term		
COMM 804	Counseling Clients and Families with Communication Disorders	2
COMM 823	Voice Disorders	3
Credits		5
Spring		
COMM 812	Dysphagia	3
COMM 822	Stuttering	3
COMM 832	School-Age & Adolescent Language Disorders	3
COMM 833	Aphasia in Adults	3
COMM 851	Advanced Audiology for Speech Language Pathologists	3
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum	1
Credits		16
Second Year		
Summer		
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum	1
Elective Course (Optional)		
Credits		1
Fall		
COMM 824	Motor Speech Disorders	3
COMM 872	Externship	4
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum (Diagnostic Clinic, taken Fall or Spring)	1
Elective Course		2

Elective Course		2
Credits		12
Spring		
COMM 843	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	3
COMM 872	Externship	4
Elective Course		2
Elective Course		2
Credits		11
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 705 Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation.
- 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 \(don.robin@unh.edu\)](mailto: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 \(CSD.department@unh.edu\)](mailto: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

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall		
COMM 420	Survey of Communication Disorders	4
PSYC 401	Introduction to Psychology	4
BMS 507	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	0-4
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing	4
Credits		12-16
Spring		
MATH 420	Finite Mathematics	0-4
LING 405	Introduction to Linguistics	4
PHYS 409	Investigating Physics	4
Credits		8-12
Second Year		
Fall		
COMM 521	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanisms	4
COMM 524	Clinical Phonetics	4
COMM 401	American Sign Language I	4
PSYC 581	Child Development	4
PSYC 402	Statistics in Psychology	4
Credits		20
Spring		
COMM 522	Language Acquisition	4
COMM 636	Speech and Hearing Science	4
Discovery or Elective Course		
Discovery or Elective Course		
Discovery or Elective Course		
Credits		8
Third Year		
Fall		
COMM 504	Basic Audiology	4
KIN 706 & KIN 707	Neurology and Neurology Lab	6
COMM 741	Speech-Language Pathology I	4
Discovery or Elective Course		
Credits		14
Spring		
COMM 610	Voodoo Science	4
COMM 705	Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation	4
COMM 742	Speech-Language Pathology II	4
COMM 724	Senior Capstone	4
Elective Course		
Credits		16
Summer		
COMM 702	Principles of Intervention	2
COMM 701	Principles of Assessment	2
Credits		4
Fourth Year		
Fall		
COMM 711	Brain and Behavior	3
COMM 721	Speech Sound Disorders	3

COMM 703	Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders I	1
COMM 723	Observation Skills in Speech-Language Pathology	2
Elective Course		
Elective Course		
Credits		9
Spring		
Graduate Coursework and Clinical Education		
Credits		0
Summer		
Graduate Coursework and Clinical Education		
Credits		0
Fifth Year		
Fall		
Graduate Coursework and Clinical Education		
Credits		0
January Term		
Graduate Coursework and Clinical Education		
Credits		0
Spring		
Graduate Coursework and Clinical Education		
Credits		0
Summer		
Graduate Coursework and Clinical Education		
Credits		0
Total Credits		91-99

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate Appropriate Knowledge of Professional Practice
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Foundations of Speech-Lang 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