COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS (COMM)

Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is devoted to helping people overcome disabilities of speech, language, and hearing. The study of Communication Sciences and Disorders may begin in the freshman or sophomore year. Students learn about speech, language, and hearing disorders in the classroom and are involved in clinical observation in the on-campus Speech-Language-Hearing Center and can participate in research projects. Students are encouraged to take elective courses in linguistics, human development, learning theory, early childhood, health administration, special education, and various aspects of rehabilitation.

As this is a pre-professional degree, students generally pursue graduate studies in speech-language pathology or audiology at colleges or universities offering graduate programs leading to a master’s or doctoral degree and to subsequent certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Certified clinicians find employment opportunities in hospitals, schools, community speech and hearing clinics, and private practice. Candidates for a degree must satisfy all of the University Discovery Program requirements in addition to satisfying the requirements of the Communication Sciences and Disorders major.

https://chhs.unh.edu/csd

Courses

Communication Sciences & Disorders (COMM)

COMM 401 - American Sign Language I
Credits: 4
This course provides an introduction to the vocabulary, finger spelling, grammar, phonology, syntax and semantics of American Sign Language. Emphasis is on applying language-learning principles through discourse. Introduction to Deaf Culture and its community will be explored. This course is taught in a language-immersion environment and taught primarily in ASL. One-hour lab required per week in conjunction with course. 4 credits and meets the language requirement for some majors.

COMM 405 - Introduction to the Deaf World
Credits: 4
This course addresses various aspects of the Deaf community, including the value of American Sign Language and the culture it reflects, professions within the Deaf community, legislation affecting Deaf people, educational approaches and controversies, activities and events relating to the population, and hearing-related issues.

COMM 420 - Survey of Communication Disorders
Credits: 4
The use of language to communicate is a uniquely human capability. Language is part of our cultural identities and can be expressed through many modalities such as speech, sign and writing. Disorders of communication have profound effects on an individual's ability to function and impact family, friends, learning and professional choices. It has been said that "life without communication is scarcely better than death." This course provides an overview of human communication disorders across the life span. The course includes information about the various types of communication disorders and how they are diagnosed and treated.

COMM 475 - Have you Heard: Fundamentals of Hearing Loss
Credits: 4
This course will provide an overview of hearing loss including current issues and technology. Areas of study will focus on the incidence of hearing loss, terminology and definitions, service delivery models, educational trends, accessibility regulations and the impact of noise. Information about the various professionals who work with individuals with hearing loss, and their respective roles, will also be provided. This 4 credit course is open to all undergraduates and it has no prerequisites.

COMM 502 - American Sign Language II
Credits: 4
This course is a continuation of ASL I with an emphasis on the advanced linguistic principles of ASL including vocabulary, grammar, the non-manual signals of ASL such as facial expression and shoulder shifting. Improvement of speed and accuracy in receptive and expressive skills are stressed. Assignments in and outside the classroom assist the student in learning about the Deaf community and culture. This course is taught in a language-immersion environment and taught primarily in ASL. One-hour lab required per week in conjunction with this course. For the online version of this course the lab component is completed on-line. 4 credits and meets the language requirement for some majors. Prereq: COMM 401.

COMM 504 - Basic Audiology
Credits: 4
Normal hearing process and pathologies of the auditory system. Hearing screening, pure-tone testing, and speech audiometry. Prereq: COMM 521 or permission.

COMM 521 - Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanisms
Credits: 4
Anatomy, physiology, neurology, and function of the mechanisms for the production and perception of speech.

COMM 522 - Language Acquisition
Credits: 4
This course is an introduction to typical language acquisition. The progression of language development is examined within a linguistic framework, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Theories of language acquisition overviewed. Prereq: COMM 524.

COMM 524 - Clinical Phonetics
Credits: 4
Application of the International Phonetic Alphabet to normal and clinical populations; use of broad and narrow transcriptions. Basic speech science, acoustic phonetics, and acoustic analysis of speech production.

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**COMM 605 - American Sign Language III**  
**Credits:** 4  
Builds upon the information covered in Introductory ASL I and II. Development of basic grammatical rules, vocabulary, manual alphabet/numbers, visual-gestural communication, and information related to Deaf Culture are covered. All lectures, laboratory activities, outside assignments build upon rudimentary competency in receptive and expressive use of ASL and develop fluency and competency. Class is conducted using ASL only. Prereq: American Sign Language I and II.

**COMM 610 - Voodoo Science**  
**Credits:** 4  
This course will allow students to develop an understanding of evidence-based practice in the modern health care arena. This course offers a unique opportunity to learn critical thinking skills, evaluate scientific inquiry and discern information that has evidence from that with no support. The ability to evaluate ideas, and in particular, distinguishing scientific evidence from fiction is critical to success in any scholarly discipline, different ideas, such as perpetual motion machines, cold fusion, homeopathy, the role of media in spreading voodoo and scientific misconduct will be explored. Many of these have started out as sincere attempts to understand various phenomena, but at some point were found to not be supported by evidence. Unfortunately, these ideas continued to be promoted for a variety of reasons including financial gain, professional name, or social prominence and as such became fraudulent. As part of this course, we will study evidence-based practice in health care in relation to Voodoo Science.

**COMM 634 - Conversational American Sign Language**  
**Credits:** 4  
Builds upon the information covered in Introductory ASL I and II. Development of basic grammatical rules, vocabulary, manual alphabet/numbers, visual-gestural communication, and information related to Deaf Culture are covered. All lectures, laboratory activities, outside assignments build upon rudimentary competency in receptive and expressive use of ASL and develop fluency and competency. Class is conducted using ASL only. Prereq: American Sign Language I and II.

**COMM 636 - Speech and Hearing Science**  
**Credits:** 4  
Physical, acoustical, and perceptual correlates of normal speech production and audition. Includes theoretical models with the generation, transmission, detection, and analysis of speech signals.

**COMM 705 - Introduction to Auditory Perception and Aural Rehabilitation**  
**Credits:** 4  
Research, testing, and clinical procedures of auditory perception, applied to the communicatively impaired. Prereq: COMM 704 or permission.

**COMM 723 - Observation Skills in Speech-Language Pathology**  
**Credits:** 2  
This guided observation course is designed to acquaint students with intervention and assessment while providing opportunity to begin to develop systematic observation skills. Students successfully completing this course will accrue a minimum of 25 observation hours. Cr/F.

**COMM 724 - Senior Capstone: Professional Issues in Speech-Language Pathology**  
**Credits:** 4  
Introduction to the profession of speech-language pathology; review of issues related to scope of practice; professional ethics, certification/licensure, and current challenges facing the profession. Discussion of employment opportunities for speech-language pathologists. Prereq: COMM 420, 504, 521, 522, and 604. Seniors only. Writing intensive.  
**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course

**COMM 725 - Cued Speech**  
**Credits:** 4  
This course covers the fundamentals of the Cued Speech system, its applications and research as well as its relevance to other communication options for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Various topics are covered, including CS and language development, reading, auditory and speech skill development, auditory processing, bilingualism, Down Syndrome, Autism, cochlear implants and transliteration.

**COMM #735 - American Sign Language IV**  
**Credits:** 4  
Builds upon the information covered in Introductory ASL I, II, and III. Development of basic grammatical rules, vocabulary, manual alphabet/numbers, visual-gestural communication and information related to Deaf Culture are covered. All lectures, laboratory activities, outside assignments build upon rudimentary competency in receptive and expressive use of ASL and develop fluency and competency. Class is conducted using ASL only. Prereq: American Sign Language I, II, and III.

**COMM 738 - Linguistics of American Sign Language**  
**Credits:** 4  
This course provides linguistic study of the major structural aspects of phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicology, and discourse in American Sign Language. Concepts of language variation, dialect, creolization, and bilingualism are studied. Taught primarily in ASL. Prerequisites/Proficiencies: COMM 402 - Elementary American Sign Language II Minimum grade of: C.

**COMM 740 - Treatment of Adults with Acquired Brain Injury**  
**Credits:** 4  
This "hands-on" interdisciplinary experience enables students to acquire clinical skills and professional competence in a community-based day program where they assist adults with acquired brain injury meet their physical, emotional, cognitive-linguistic, social, spiritual, recreational, and vocational needs. Permission required. CSD majors only.

**COMM 741 - Speech-Language Pathology I**  
**Credits:** 4  
Research, diagnosis, and therapy procedures as applied to articulation and language disorders. Prereq: BMS 507, KIN 706, COMM 521, and COMM 522.

**COMM 742 - Speech-Language Pathology II**  
**Credits:** 4  
Neurologic bases, diagnoses and treatment of communication disorders; emphasis on motor speech disorders and aphasia from young adulthood to geriatrics. Prereq: BMS 507, KIN 706, COMM 741, COMM 604.

**COMM 779 - Community Based Learning for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Studies**  
**Credits:** 4  
This internship will allow students in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Minor to expand their knowledge about the needs, challenges and experiences of deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The internship locations will be varied and matched, as closely as possible, to the student’s particular interests. Potential placement opportunities include a school for the deaf, a public agency or vocational setting which provides services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Prereq: COMM 401, COMM 475; permission. Cr/F.
COMM 795 - Independent Study  
Credits: 1-8  
Individual or group projects involving directed study of an area of communication sciences and disorders that students wish to explore in greater depth than is covered in the required curriculum. May be repeated to a maximum of 8 credits. Prereq: permission.

COMM 798 - Special Topics  
Credits: 1-4  
New or specialized topics not covered in regular course offerings. May be repeated for a total of 8 credits. Special fee on some topics.

COMM 799 - Honors Thesis  
Credits: 1-4  
Supervised research leading to the completion of an honors thesis required for graduation from the university honors program in major. Permission required.

Faculty

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