

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS (COMM)

WHAT IS COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS?

Communication Sciences and Disorders is the profession devoted to assessing and treating disorders, delays, or differences in speech, language, and hearing. In this program, students learn how the ability to communicate develops—including how the brain and speech and hearing mechanisms function to support the acquisition of speech, language, social communication, and cognition. You'll review an array of communication disorders that can affect individuals across the lifespan, learning about assessment and treatment. This pre-professional degree will prepare you to successfully enter clinical or research graduate programs in areas such as audiology, speech-language pathology, cognitive science, and education.

WHY STUDY COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS AT UNH?

As a student in the communication sciences and disorders (CSD) program at UNH, you will learn about speech, language, and hearing through a unique educational model that includes classroom instruction, clinical observation, and research. Students observe at the on-campus Speech-Language-Hearing Center and Clinic for Neurogenic Communication Disorders, premier diagnostic and intervention centers in New Hampshire. In addition, you have the opportunity to participate in research activities in our state-of-the-art research laboratories. For students interested, a limited number of internships are available each semester.

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.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders' **Accelerated Master's** program provides CSD undergraduates with the opportunity to earn graduate credits during their senior year, shorten the length of their graduate studies, and jumpstart their careers. Learn more [here!](#)

<https://chhs.unh.edu/csd>

Programs

- [Communication Sciences and Disorders Major \(B.S.\)](#)

Courses

Communication Sciences & Disorders (COMM)

COMM 401 - American Sign Language I

Credits: 4

This course provides an introduction to American Sign Language with emphasis on visual receptive and expressive use of language, as well as providing opportunities for other forms of visual communication such as facial expression, mime, and gesture. Participants develop their skills through videotapes, classroom participation, and readings that cover issues important to the Deaf community. An online language laboratory is required as part of this course.

Equivalent(s): ASL 435

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

COMM 420 - Survey of Communication Disorders

Credits: 4

This course provides an introduction of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) as it relates to the CSD undergraduate major and the professions of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Students will learn about foundational knowledge of the speech and hearing mechanism, language development, normal communication processes, diagnoses, and treatment across different communication disorders and lifespans. Given the importance of communication, the course information can be applied to various human service careers.

Equivalent(s): COMM 520

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

COMM 502 - American Sign Language II

Credits: 4

This course provides continued acquisition of American Sign Language with an emphasis on active language use to improve speed and accuracy. Advanced linguistic principles of ASL as well as the cultural considerations are presented. Comparison of ASL with signed languages from around the world will be explored. An online language laboratory is required as part of this course.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 401 with a minimum grade of D-.

Equivalent(s): ASL 436, COMM 402

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

COMM 504 - Basic Audiology

Credits: 4

This course provides an overview of the profession and practice of Audiology. Students will learn about the causes of hearing loss and the diagnostic process. The anatomy and physiology of the auditory system will be reviewed. The physical properties of sound will be studied, particularly as these relate to hearing loss.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 521 with a minimum grade of C and COMM 636 with a minimum grade of C.

Equivalent(s): COMM 704

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

COMM 521 - Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanisms**Credits:** 4

This course provides the fundamentals of anatomy, physiology, neurology, and function of the mechanisms associated with speech, language, swallowing, and hearing. Multi-media platforms, class and group discussions, and problem-based learning will be utilized. Students will gain the essential foundation and knowledge for assessment, treatment, and management related to communication and swallow disorders.

Prerequisite(s): BMS 507 with a minimum grade of D-.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**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.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 524 with a minimum grade of C and (LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D-).**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**COMM 524 - Clinical Phonetics****Credits:** 4

This course focuses on the application of the International Phonetic Alphabet to describe adult, child, and disordered speech production. Students will learn to use broad and narrow transcriptions of speech. Information on basic speech science, acoustic and articulatory phonetics, and acoustic analysis of speech production will be provided.

Prerequisite(s): LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D-.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**COMM 636 - Speech and Hearing Science****Credits:** 4

This course provides the student with information on the understanding and application of waveform analysis (acoustic and aerodynamic), basic processing of auditory information, and physiological and cultural bases of hearing and speech production/perception.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 521 with a minimum grade of C.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**COMM 703 - Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders I****Credits:** 1

Introduction to ethical and professional issues that professionals will encounter in various work settings including regulatory, billing practices, service delivery models, and the role of advocacy for client services. Accelerated Master's CSD majors only.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 723 with a minimum grade of D- and COMM 724 with a minimum grade of D-.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**COMM 705 - Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation****Credits:** 4

This course provides an overview of auditory perception and the re(h)abilitative process for individuals with hearing loss and auditory disorders. The principles of intervention, communication options, and vocational/educational resources will be studied. Students will learn about amplification systems and other technology used to improve audition, including hearing aids and cochlear implants.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 504 with a minimum grade of D-.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**COMM 711 - Brain and Behavior****Credits:** 3

This course is an overview to Neuroscience/Neurology as it applies to Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD). Neuroscience is a multidisciplinary field that combines biological, chemical and psychological perspectives to better understand neuron structure and function, thought, emotion, and behavior. It integrates research approaches of a variety of disciplines, ranging from cellular and molecular neurosciences to the psychology of cognition and perception. The focus will be limited to the brain and cognition and application to CSD. Accelerated Master's CSD majors only.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 723 with a minimum grade of D- and COMM 724 with a minimum grade of D- and COMM 742 with a minimum grade of D- and COMM 701 with a minimum grade of D-.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**COMM 721 - Speech Sound Disorders****Credits:** 3

Course provides students with detailed knowledge of speech sound disorders in children and adults with communication disorders. Current practices are discussed in relation to the early identification, screening, differential diagnosis, and possible etiology of speech sound disorders. Evidence-based practices across the life-span are critically reviewed related to different speech sound disorders and how different remediation approaches are needed depending on the specific problem demonstrated by a client. Accelerated Master's CSD majors only.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 723 with a minimum grade of D- and COMM 724 with a minimum grade of D- and COMM 701 with a minimum grade of D- and COMM 702 with a minimum grade of D-.**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**COMM 723 - Observation Skills in Speech-Language Pathology****Credits:** 2

This course is designed to provide opportunities to observe clients with communication disorders. Observations will include both assessment and intervention techniques. Students successfully completing this course will accrue observation hours that can be applied to the requirement for graduate studies.

Grade Mode: Credit/Fail Grading**COMM 724 - Senior Capstone****Credits:** 4

This course allows students to synthesize and apply their knowledge and skills of communication sciences and disorders. It is designed to foster a reflection of their undergraduate learning experience and further explores areas of professional pathways.

Attributes: Writing Intensive Course**Prerequisite(s):** COMM 420 with a minimum grade of C and COMM 522 with a minimum grade of C and (COMM 504 with a minimum grade of C or COMM 604 with a minimum grade of C).**Equivalent(s):** COMM 635**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading**COMM 740 - Treatment of Adults with Acquired Brain Injury****Credits:** 1-4

This course provides a "hands-on" interdisciplinary experience. Students will acquire clinical skills and professional competence in a community-based day program. This experience includes assisting adults with acquired brain injury to meet their physical, emotional, cognitive-linguistic, social, spiritual, recreational, and vocational needs.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

COMM 741 - Speech-Language Pathology I**Credits:** 4

This course provides foundational knowledge related to pediatric speech and language disorders, as well as exposure to principles of assessment and treatment in these populations. Students extend their knowledge of language development in the areas of morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics as well as their knowledge of how the speech mechanism works, to learn about communication breakdowns that may occur during childhood.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 522 with a minimum grade of D- and COMM 524 with a minimum grade of D-.

Equivalent(s): COMM 631, COMM 731

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

COMM 742 - Speech-Language Pathology II**Credits:** 4

This course provides the neurologic bases for understanding the communication disorders from birth to geriatrics, with an emphasis on motor, linguistic, and cognitive communication disorders. Introduction to common approaches to treatment for these disorders is also provided.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 504 with a minimum grade of C and COMM 521 with a minimum grade of D- and COMM 636 with a minimum grade of D- and KIN 706 with a minimum grade of D- and KIN 707 with a minimum grade of D-.

Equivalent(s): COMM 630

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

COMM 744 - Seminar in Advanced Child Language Acquisition**Credits:** 3

Young infants and children are in a process of continual learning. This course takes an advanced and interactive approach to understanding child language acquisition, exploring specific aspects of early language development as well as the interaction of different developmental processes. We will delve deeper into how language acquisition interacts with cognitive development, prosodic development and assessment, multilingual and multicultural populations, and populations that are developing along a different path.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 522 with a minimum grade of D-.

Equivalent(s): COMM 844

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

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.

Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

COMM 798 - Special Topics**Credits:** 1-4

New or specialized topics not covered in regular course offerings. Special fee on some topics.

Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

Special Fee: Yes

COMM 799 - Honors Thesis**Credits:** 1-4

This course is designed to provide undergraduate students with a culminating learning experience in their Senior year. The course focuses on decision making in relation to how bias and noise can lead to errors in decision making, ethical principles in healthcare emphasizing principles of making ethical arguments, and teaching students how to write peer review critiques of articles in CSD. The class will explore how to identify sources of error, how to measure them, and how to reduce them through systematic audits of noise and bias. The class will include case studies and examples from CSD (both audiology and speech-language pathology). Students will engage in reading peer reviewed articles from CSD and ethical decision making. Students are expected to engage in classroom discussion and be involved in formal writing on scholarly topics covered in the course. This information is intended to provide you with advanced knowledge of decision making, ethics, and evidence-based practice in CSD to prepare you for a career as an Audiologist or a Speech-Language Pathologist. It is designed to provide foundational information to prepare students for graduate school or other healthcare related activities. The course format will include lectures, small-group activities, quizzes, and weekly writing assignments. Students completing this course will satisfy the writing intensive within major requirement. The writing assignments will receive feedback and students are required to revise each paper accordingly in order to create a final portfolio that includes an introduction, the original paper and its revision, and a conclusion.

Attributes: Honors course; Writing Intensive Course

Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

Faculty

[Communications Sciences and Disorders Department Faculty](#)