COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS (MS)

Master of Science in Communicative Disorders
Unit: School of Medicine (http://louisville.edu/medicine/) (GM)
Department: Communicative Disorders (http://louisville.edu/medicine/degrees/speechpathology/)
Program Website (http://louisville.edu/medschool/surgery/communicative-disorders/slp/)
Academic Plan Code(s): CMDSMS

Program Information
Communicative Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology) at the University of Louisville is a well-established program that provides challenging academic coursework and clinical experience to master’s degree candidates. Communicative Disorders is a Division within the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery and Communicative Disorders in the School of Medicine. The graduate program offers a unique opportunity to pursue a Master of Science degree to students with and without undergraduate degrees in speech-language pathology. The program includes two options or phases: the Preparatory Phase and the Core Phase.

Preparatory Phase
Applications from students without a background in speech-language pathology will be submitted automatically to the Preparatory Phase of the program. The Preparatory Phase is a full-time, two-semester sequence, beginning each year in the fall semester.

Core Phase
Applications from students who currently hold a bachelor’s degree in speech-language pathology will be submitted automatically to the Core Phase of the program. The Core Phase is a full-time, five-semester sequence beginning each year in the fall semester.

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) accredits the program. Graduating students will be eligible to apply for the Certificate of Clinical Competence by ASHA if all requirements are fulfilled.

The program has cooperative arrangements with numerous schools, agencies, hospitals, and practice groups in the Kentuckiana region.

Degree Requirements
Candidates for the Master of Science degree in Communicative Disorders (Speech-Language pathology) must complete at least 54 credit hours at the graduate level, exclusive of credits related to the completion of an (optional) master’s thesis and courses required to complete ASHA certification requirements.

Please refer to the section on Academic Standing (http://catalog.louisville.edu/graduate/general-policies-procedures-requirements/) in this catalog entitled “Academic Probation” concerning program dismissal/retention in the program.

Pass/Fail Option
In general, students in the program may not choose the pass/fail option. Certain courses may be offered with this option at the discretion of the faculty.

Comprehensive Exam
Students will complete an eight-hour written comprehensive examination (across two days) during their last semester of study. The completion and defense of a thesis/research project is encouraged but optional. The aforementioned written comprehensive exam is not required for thesis/research project students (outside the defense of their research).

The comprehensive examination/defense must be completed at least five weeks prior to the completion of the student's graduate program. The student is responsible for becoming familiar with the consequences of failure of the written examination. This information is available in the student academic policy manual.

Clinical Practicum
The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association requires a minimum of 400 clock hours of supervised clinical practicum in speech-language pathology to be eligible for certification; 325 hours at the Graduate level. All students must have completed a minimum of 25 hours of observation. If these hours were obtained at the undergraduate level, they are not repeated.

Certain prerequisites and standards apply to the clinical practicum component of the program, including minimum coursework requirements, mandatory readings, observations, case report formats, and grading criteria. This information is available in the program office and it is the student’s responsibility to become acquainted with these requirements prior to enrolling in clinical practicum.

Falling below a 3.0 GPA in practicum for two consecutive semesters may result in recommended dismissal from the program. Practicum assignments are made at the discretion of the faculty; however, student input is welcomed.

Admission Requirements
The application deadline for the fall semester is always the preceding February 1st.

The Preparatory Phase and the Core Phase share the following admission criteria and application process, including the application form.

Admission Criteria
- Graduate application (http://louisville.edu/graduate/futurestudents/apply-materials/application/)
- Minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- Completion of the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) is not currently required.
- All applicants for whom English is a second language must also submit official TOEFL scores of 79 or higher on the internet-based test, 213 or higher on the computer-based test. English proficiency can also be met by submitting official IELTS scores of at least 6.5 overall band score from the academic module exam or official Duolingo overall score of 105. Students holding a bachelor’s or advanced degree from an accredited institution in the United States may be exempt from this requirement.
Tuition Information
For more information on tuition at the University of Louisville: louisville.edu/finance/bursar/tuition (http://louisville.edu/finance/bursar/tuition/)

How to Apply
The Preparatory Phase and the Core Phase use the same application form. Applications from students with undergraduate degrees in speech-language pathology will automatically be considered for admission to the Core Phase of the program. Applications from students without undergraduate degrees in speech-language pathology will be considered for admission to the Preparatory Phase of the program.

Students apply to the program using the University of Louisville, Graduate School: louisville.edu/graduate/apply (http://louisville.edu/graduate/apply/).

Communicative Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology) MS Degree - Preparatory Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMDS 470/570</td>
<td>Clinical Observation in Speech Pathology and Audiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUDI 605/ CMDS 405</td>
<td>Introduction to Audiological Techniques and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMDS 464</td>
<td>Normal Speech and Language Development</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMDS 474/574</td>
<td>Multicultural Issues in Communicative Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 571</td>
<td>Special Topics in Psychology ((undergraduate students only))</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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Investigation
The Master of Science in Communicative Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology) (CMDSMS) program prepares students to meet the requirements for certification and/or licensure. If you plan to pursue professional licensure or certification you should first determine your state’s criteria for examination and licensure to see how/if our program meets those requirements prior to enrollment. We recommend that you also contact your state’s licensing board directly to verify that the requirements have not changed recently and to answer any questions especially those regarding additional requirements beyond the degree.

More information about certification or licensure is available at the following website: https://louisville.edu/oapa/licensure-information (https://louisville.edu/oapa/licensure-information/) (you may search by school or by the name of the program then click on 'View Details' to display the information).