

# 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/com-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 55 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 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 Exams

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 of the defense of their research).

The comprehensive examinations/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 on the written examinations. 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 had 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 a recommended dismissal from the program. Practicum assignments are made at the discretion of the faculty.

## 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.
- Three supportive letters of recommendation from two academic sources and one personal source. Please use the online recommendation form when completing the application for graduate

admission supplied by the Graduate School (<http://louisville.edu/graduate/futurestudents/apply-materials/application/>).

- A formal interview may be required of some applicants.
- A resume is required for admission.

Student, faculty, and staff in the program are treated in a nondiscriminatory manner without regard race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, or political affiliation. The institution and program comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders pertaining thereto.

## Tuition Information

For more information on tuition at the University of Louisville: [louisville.edu/finance/bursar/tuition](https://louisville.edu/finance/bursar/tuition/) (<https://louisville.edu/finance/bursar/tuition/>)

## How to Apply

The Preparatory Phase and the Core Phase use the same application form. Applications of students *with* Bachelor's degrees in speech-language pathology will automatically be considered for admission to the Core Phase of the program. Applications for students *without* Bachelor's 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) (<http://louisville.edu/graduate/apply/>).

## Communicative Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology) MS Degree - Core Program

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
CMDS 572	Anatomy and Physiology for Communication Sciences	4
CMDS 600	Research Methods in Speech-Language Pathology	2
CMDS 602	Speech Sound Disorders	3
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech Pathology	1
CMDS 620	Motor Speech Disorders	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech Pathology (Clinical Methods)	1
CMDS 612	Early Childhood Language Assessment & Intervention	3
CMDS 652	School-Age Language Assessment and Intervention	3
CMDS 663	Voice Disorders	3
CMDS 690	Dysphagia	3
CMDS 699	Research Project	1
<b>Hours</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech Pathology	2
CMDS 667	Aphasia	3
CMDS 669	Cognitive-Communication Disorders	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech Pathology	3
CMDS 665	Fluency Disorders	3
CMDS 694	Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing	3
CMDS 696	Augmentative/ Alternative Communication	3

CMDS 699	Research Project	2
<b>Hours</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
CMDS 668	Professional Issues in Audiology and Speech Pathology	3
CMDS 610	Topics in Audiology and Aural Rehabilitation	1
CMDS 699	Research Project	1
<b>Hours</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>54</b>

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Electives</b>		
CMDS 606	CMDS Independent Study	1-5
CMDS 618	Counseling and Interviewing (online course)	3
CMDS 691	Advanced Dysphagia	2

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

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
CMDS 470/570	Clinical Observation in Speech Pathology and Audiology	1
AUDI 605/CMDS 405	Introduction to Audiological Techniques and Rehabilitation	3
PSYC 571/609	Special Topics in Psychology (undergraduate students only) <sup>1</sup>	3
CMDS 474/574	Multicultural Issues in Communicative Disorders	3
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
CMDS 464/574	Normal Speech and Language Development	4
CMDS 463/563	Clinical Phonetics	3
CMDS 430/630	Aural Rehabilitation for the Speech-Language Pathologist	3

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).