

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

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* or 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, seven-semester sequence, beginning each year in the Fall Semester.

Core Phase

Applications from students who currently hold a bachelors' 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 more than thirty schools, agencies, hospitals, and practice groups in the Kentuckiana region.

Degree Requirements

Candidates for the Master of Science degree in 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 or oral 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 pathology to be eligible for certification. Twenty clock hours must be in the student's minor area and 325 of the 400 hours must be at the graduate level. All students must have had 25 hours of observation. If they 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 dismissal from the program. Practicum assignments are made at the faculty's discretion. All practicum work done outside of the main program must be given prior approval by the clinical director.

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

- *Minimum* undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- Successful applicants have a combined GRE range score of 290-300 for both the Verbal and Quantitative sections using the new GRE conversion tables beginning November 1, 2011 (as outlined by the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology)
- IELTS Exam (if necessary) *The Graduate Council supported and approved a minimum of 6.5 on the IELTS*, International English Language Testing System, as way for graduate applicants to demonstrate English proficiency
- 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>), you can follow this link louisville.edu/graduate/apply

- A formal interview may be required of some applicants

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.

Prerequisite Coursework (http://louisville.edu/medicine/degrees/speechpathology/files/copy_of_RequiredPrerequisiteCoursework.pdf)

Applicants should also consult general graduate admissions and graduation requirements in the University of Louisville Graduate Catalog for further information.

Average Admissions Information

We are frequently asked about the credentials of students who have been admitted to our program. The class beginning Fall 2017 were admitted with the following credentials:

Core Students: MEAN GPA: 3.76 | MEAN GRE Score: 297 | MEAN QUANTITATIVE Score: 147 | MEAN VERBAL Score: 151 | MEAN WRITING Score: 3.86

Prep Students: MEAN GPA: 3.66 | MEAN GRE Score: 306 | MEAN QUANTITATIVE Score: 148 | MEAN VERBAL Score: 152 | MEAN WRITING Score: 3.92

Tuition Information

For more information on tuition at the University of Louisville: 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, Graduate Admissions: louisville.edu/graduate/apply.

Program Requirements

The graduate program offers a unique opportunity to pursue a Master of Science degree to students *with* and *without* undergraduate degrees degree in speech-language pathology. The program includes two options or phases: phases. the *Preparatory Phase* or 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, seven-semester sequence, beginning each year in the Fall Semester.

Core Phase

Applications from students who currently hold a bachelors' 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.

Speech Language Pathology MS Degree - Core Program

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
Fall		
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	1
CMDS 612	Early Childhood Language Assessment & Intervention	3
CMDS 620	Motor Speech Disorders	3
		Hours
		16
Spring		
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech Pathology (Clinical Methods) ²	1
CMDS 652	School-Age Language Assessment and Intervention	3
CMDS 663	Voice Disorders	3
CMDS 669	Cognitive-Communication Disorders	3
CMDS 690	Dysphagia	3
CMDS 696	Augmentative/ Alternative Communication	3
CMDS 699	Research Project ⁴	1
		Hours
		17
Summer		
CMDS 667	Aphasia	3
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech Pathology	1
		Hours
		4
Year 2		
Fall		
CMDS 694	Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing	3
CMDS 658	Interprofessional Education and Practice	1
CMDS 665	Fluency Disorders	3
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech Pathology	3
CMDS 699	Research Project ⁴	2
		Hours
		12
Spring		
CMDS 668	Professional Issues in Audiology and Speech Pathology	3
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech Pathology	5
CMDS 610	Topics in Audiology and Aural Rehabilitation	1
CMDS 699	Research Project ⁴	1
		Hours
		10
		Minimum Total Hours
		59

Code	Title	Hours
Electives		
CMDS 606	CMDS Independent Study	1-5
CFCC Standard IV-A Coursework (As Needed) ³		
CMDS 618	Counseling and Interviewing (online course)	3

¹ Students must enroll in CMDS 611 (Fall 1) if planning on completing a research project.

² All other students will enroll in CMDS 611 (Spring 1) if choosing the non-research project option.

³ CFCC Standard IV-A. The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of the biological sciences, physical sciences, statistics (math-based), and the social-behavioral sciences.

⁴ Students will enroll in CMDS 699 (Spring 1 and subsequent semesters) until the project is completed/defended.

Speech Language Pathology MS Degree - Preparatory Program

Code	Title	Hours
Fall Semester		
CMDS 570	Clinical Observation in Speech Pathology and Audiology	1
CMDS 571	Functional Neuroanatomy	3
AUDI 605	Introduction to Audiological Techniques and Rehabilitation	3
PSYC 571	Special Topics in Psychology (undergraduate students only) ¹	3
PSYC 609	Topical Seminar in Psychology (graduate students only) ¹	3
Spring Semester		
CMDS 564	Normal Speech and Language Development	4
CMDS 563	Clinical Phonetics	3
CMDS 630	Aural Rehabilitation for the Speech-Language Pathologist	3
Electives		
CMDS 606	CMDS Independent Study	1-5
CFCC Standard IV-A Coursework (As Needed) ²		

¹ This course will meet on the Belknap Campus twice weekly.

² CFCC Standard IV-A
The applicant must have demonstrated knowledge of the biological sciences, physical sciences, statistics (math-based), and the social-behavioral sciences.