

# SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY (MS)

## Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

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

Speech-Language Pathology (formerly Communicative Disorders) is a well-established program that provides its students with comprehensive academic coursework and robust clinical experiences. 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.

### Preparatory Program

Applications from students without a background in speech-language pathology will be submitted automatically to the *Preparatory Program*. The *Preparatory Program* is a full-time, two-semester sequence, beginning each year in the fall (e.g., August).

### Core Program

Applications from students who currently hold a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology or who have completed prerequisite coursework will be submitted automatically to the *Core Program*. The *Core Phase* is a full-time, six-semester sequence beginning each year in the summer (e.g., June).

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 (i.e., certification).

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 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, any elective coursework, or courses required to complete ASHA certification requirements.

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

### Summative Assessment

In order to graduate, students must either pass an eight-hour written comprehensive examination (across two days) or successfully defend a thesis. The comprehensive examination or thesis defense must be

completed at least five weeks prior to the completion of the graduate program.

### 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 **Preparatory Program** with a fall semester start is always the preceding February 1st. The application deadline for the **Core Program** with a summer semester start is always the preceding February 1st.

Application to the Preparatory Program and the Core Program is now completed via CSDCAS or the Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application System. Applications must be completed and submitted through the CSDCAS Portal (<https://csdcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>). The completed application must be in place by February 1st of the admission year. Application materials received after the listed deadline will not be considered.

- A separate application to UofL's Graduate School **IS NOT** required.
- A fee to UofL's Graduate School **IS** required and will be communicated to each applicant via email once the application is processed in CSDCAS.

### Admission Criteria

- CSDCAS Application: Applicants should select either Preparatory Program or Core program.
- *Minimum* undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- The GRE is no longer 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.
- Applicants must provide three letters of recommendation.
- A formal interview may be required of some applicants. The interview will focus on each applicant's interpersonal/communication skills, resilience, compassion, ethics, and cultural competence.
- A resume is required for admission.

- Each applicant must provide a personal statement/essay of less than 1,000 words.

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/>)

### Speech-Language Pathology MS Degree - Core Program

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Year 1 Summer</b>		
CMDS 572	Anatomy and Physiology for Communication Sciences	4
CMDS 600	Research Methods in Speech-Language Pathology	2
<b>Year 1 Fall</b>		
CMDS 612	Early Childhood Language Assessment & Intervention	3
CMDS 602	Advanced Speech Sound Disorders	3
CMDS 620	Motor Speech Disorders	3
CMDS 663	Voice Disorders	3
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology <sup>1</sup>	0.5
<b>Year 1 Spring</b>		
CMDS 652	School-Age Language Assessment and Intervention	3
CMDS 690	Dysphagia	3
CMDS 667	Aphasia	3
CMDS 669	Cognitive-Communication Disorders	3
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology <sup>1</sup>	0.5
<b>Year 2 Summer</b>		
CMDS 696	Augmentative/ Alternative Communication	3
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	2
<b>Year 2 Fall</b>		
CMDS 665	Fluency Disorders	3
CMDS 694	Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing	3
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	3
<b>Year 2 Spring</b>		
CMDS 668	Professional Issues in Audiology and Speech Pathology	3
CMDS 658	Interprofessional Education and Practice	1
CMDS 611	Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	5
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>54</b>

Spring or Fall CMDS 611 Practicum in Year 1 for 1 unit and will not be required to complete the practicum in both terms.

## 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
CMDS 464	Normal Speech and Language Development	4
CMDS 474/574	Multicultural Issues in Communicative Disorders	3
PSYC 571	Special Topics in Psychology ((undergraduate students only))	3
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
CMDS 430/630	Aural Rehabilitation for the Speech-Language Pathologist	3
CMDS 463/563	Clinical Phonetics	3
CMDS 471/571	Functional Neuroanatomy	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).

<sup>1</sup> Year 1 students take the CMDS 611 Practicum in Spring OR Fall for a total of 1 unit. However, to ensure that the minimum total hours align with the hours required for the degree, the course is reflected at 0.5 hours for each term in Year 1. Students will be assigned to either