

Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Introduction to the Master of Arts Program

The Master of Arts (M.A.) program in Communicative Sciences and Disorders is designed to prepare students to meet the academic and practicum requirements of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology. A supportive environment is provided for students throughout their academic and clinical training. Small classes facilitate individual instruction and attention for all students. Students are provided the opportunity to develop their research through the required completion of a pilot research project or by collaboration with faculty in their research. The course, "Readings in Speech/Language Pathology" provides students with an additional means for individualizing their graduate program.

The faculty of the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders is committed to quality teaching and professional service. Members of the program's faculty have received university awards for Distinguished Teaching, and faculty/course evaluations rate them consistently in the highest range.

Academic Program

The Master's degree program in Speech-Language Pathology is designed to provide the student with the knowledge base and clinical skills required for a professional career in the diagnosis and management of individuals with speech, language, and related disorders.

Depending upon the student's background, the typical master's degree program for a student with an undergraduate degree in Speech/Language Pathology requires a minimum of four full-time academic semesters plus one summer session. Students with undergraduate training in other fields may need additional course work to fulfill degree and national certification requirements. An individual plan of study is designed with each student, based upon their undergraduate background.

The M.A. program is accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The program in Communicative Sciences and Disorders is housed within the School of Science.

Clinical Training

Students engage in a wide range of diagnostic and therapy experiences under the direct supervision of faculty and ASHA certified clinical staff. These experiences include individual case management (assessment and treatment), group therapy, and diagnostic evaluations. Through its Speech, Language and Hearing Clinics, students are given the opportunity to serve children and adults with diverse communication disorders, such as articulation and language delays, hearing impairment, aphasia, voice disorders, and fluency disorders.

Further on in the clinical practicum experience, students are eligible for externship placement in the Greater Hampton Roads area. Placements may include public schools, hospitals, nursing care centers, rehabilitation centers and private clinics.

Financial Support

Students may apply for university or department financial aid programs. Departmental awards are based upon student eligibility and the availability of funds. University financial aid programs include: assistantships (teaching, research, laboratory or resident hall) and the College Work-Study Program. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is responsible for awarding all types of student financial assistance.

**DEGREE PLAN FOR MASTER OF ARTS
IN COMMUNICATIVE SCIENCES AND DISORDERS**

1st SEMESTER - FALL	Semester Hours
CDS 500 -Introduction to Professional and Technical Communication	3
CDS 600- Scientific Principles of Acoustic and Physiological Phonetics	3
CDS 621- Language Disorders in Children	<u>3</u>
	9
2nd SEMESTER – SPRING	
CDS 507 – Stuttering and Other Fluency Disorders	3
CDS 501 - Research Methods in CSAD	3
CDS 612 - Articulation and Phonological Disorders	3
CDS 618 – Advanced Clinical Practicum – Module 1	<u>1</u>
	10
3rd SEMESTER - SUMMER SESSION	
CDS 622- Family Intervention Strategies in CSAD	3
CDS 625 Motor Speech Disorders	3
CDS 618- Advanced Clinical Practicum – Clinic Only	<u>1</u>
	7
4th SEMESTER - FALL	
CDS 603 - Neurolinguistic Disorders in Adults	3
CDS 628- Diagnosis and Management of Swallowing Disorders in Neurologically Impaired Adults	3
CDS 618- Advanced Clinical Practicum (Module 2)	2
CDS 699- Independent Research I	1
CDS Elective	<u>2</u>
	11
5th SEMESTER – SPRING	
CDS 606 – Voice Disorders	3
CDS 618- Advanced Clinical Practicum (Module 3)	2
CDS 700- Independent Research II	2
CDS Elective	2
CDS Elective	2
CDS 702 – Master’s Comprehensive Examination	<u>1</u>
	12
TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED	49

The proposed curriculum plan includes 43 credits of required courses, 6 credits of electives and 25 credits of pre-requisite coursework. This plan is for full time students with a background in communicative sciences and disorders.

**Electives for the Graduate Program
In Communicative Sciences and Disorders**

Elective	Credit Hours	Semester offered
CDS 611 Contemporary Topics in Speech-Language Pathology	2	Spring
CDS 630 Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2	Fall
CDS 632 Craniofacial and Other Organic Disorders of Speech and Swallowing	2	Fall
CDS 633 Language and Literacy Disorders	2	Spring
CDS 634 Dialogues on Diversity	2	Spring
CDS 635 Clinical Practice in Medical Settings	2	Fall

PRE-REQUISITE COURSES
Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Students without an undergraduate degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders will be required to take all pre-requisite courses. Students admitted to program with an undergraduate background in the field will be required to repeat any of the pre-requisite courses in which they earned a grade of “B-” or less. The pre-requisite courses include:

FALL OFFERINGS	Semester Hours
CDS 224 - Phonetics	3
CDS 227 - Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CDS 310 -Clinical Observation	1
CDS 331-Introduction to Audiology	3
CDS 431-Neuroscience for Students in Communicative Sciences and Disorders	3
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	13
SPRING OFFERINGS	Semester Hours
CDS 228 - Articulation Development and Disorders	3
CDS 300 - Language Development among infants, toddlers and preschoolers	3
CDS 529 - Aural Rehabilitation	3
CDS 432 - Introduction to Speech Science	<u>3</u>
	12

In addition to the pre-requisite courses in the major, students desiring to earn a MA degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders must have also completed:

3 semester credits of a Life Science

3 semester credits of a Physical Science 3 semester credits of a Math

6 semester credits of a Social Science