Communication Sciences and Disorders

Degree Offered

• Doctor of Philosophy

Nature of the Program

The Ph.D. degree program in Communication Sciences and Disorders provides a rigorous course of study along with mentored research and teaching experiences to enable students to become high-quality researchers and serve effectively as leaders in the discipline. Graduates of the program are prepared to assume careers as researchers and scholars at colleges, universities, hospitals, industrial settings, and research facilities. The program is not designed to provide an advanced clinical degree in either audiology or speech-language pathology. Rather, the Ph.D. degree will be conferred in recognition of the attainment of the highest academic excellence and productive scholarship. As doctoral programs are an integral step on a life-long journey of learning and scholarship, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has established the Ph.D. program in Communication Sciences and Disorders to support students in developing knowledge, judgment, skills, and attitudes to facilitate their growth and learning throughout their careers as researchers, scholars, and teachers.

The Ph.D. program in Communication Sciences and Disorders is a highly individualized experience that includes prescribed and selected coursework designed to meet the objectives of the program, ongoing participation in research and other scholarly activities, and the independent completion of a dissertation under the mentorship of a research advisor. As such, the time needed to complete the program will vary to ensure sufficient time for the building of adequate teaching and research skills and a creditable curriculum vitae. Some diligent and highly motivated students may be able to complete their work in less time, whereas others may require more time to achieve independence as a scholar and researcher.

Admissions

A Ph.D. Advisory Committee composed of one member from each of the major areas of study will screen the applications and make admissions decisions based on the following criteria, in consultation with the faculty in their area of emphasis. In particular, applicants must have the following:

1. An entry-level clinical degree for the profession of speech-language pathology (i.e., M.A. or M.S.) or audiology (i.e., M.A., M.S., or Au.D.)
2. A cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher (A=4.0) upon completion of a graduate degree
3. An official copy of the results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within the past 5 years.
4. A TOEFL score of at least 79 (internet version), 213 (computer-based), 550 (paper-based) or an IELTS score of at least 6.5, if English is not the applicant’s native language
5. An interview with the Ph.D. advisory committee that may include the writing of an essay on an assigned topic to be evaluated by program faculty
6. Three letters of recommendation, two of which must come from previous instructors or professors who can comment meaningfully on the applicant’s potential for Ph.D. study
7. A personal statement that addresses the applicant's professional goals within speech and language sciences and disorders or within hearing science and disorders.

Au.D./Ph.D. Option

Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) students who are attending WVU may apply to the Ph.D. program no earlier than the spring semester of the second year to begin the fall of the third year. This will be a competitive application process and is reserved for highly-qualified and motivated Au.D. students. The applicant must have requirements 2-7 listed above. Students who intend to enroll in two graduate programs simultaneously (dual enrollment) must obtain permission in writing from the dean.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Program

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Theoretical Foundations Core

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<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSAD 750</td>
<td>Information Literacy in Communication Sciences and Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSAD 752</td>
<td>Research Design in Communication Sciences and Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSAD 754</td>
<td>Teaching and Supervision in Communication Sciences and Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>C&amp;I 707</td>
<td>Theories, Models and Research of Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDP 640</td>
<td>Instructional Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDP 700</td>
<td>Psychological Foundations of Learning</td>
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<td>EDP 613</td>
<td>Statistical Methods 1</td>
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Research Core

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<tr>
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<td>Statistical Methods 1</td>
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RESIDENCY COMMITMENT

The Ph.D. degree program in communication sciences and disorders requires a full-time commitment. Each student who is accepted into the program works on a daily basis with faculty who will help to hone skills and to sharpen the research focus. Furthermore, each student will be expected to conduct research and pursue scholarship activities that will inform classroom teaching and lead to meaningful presentations and publications. Consequently, applicants are required to sign a statement confirming their commitment to full-time status before they may be admitted to the program.

CURRICULUM

Upon admission to the Ph.D. program, students enroll in a series of required courses in the doctoral core, in the research core, and in the area of specialization. Ph.D. students are expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 each semester. Upon completion of coursework, students must successfully complete written and oral comprehensive examinations to be eligible for candidacy.

Ph.D. students enroll in a minimum of six credits of research (CSAD 797), extending over at least two semesters, under the supervision of their mentor and/or other faculty researcher(s) working in related areas. Typically, the focus of the independent study will be on the development of independent research skills through involvement with ongoing or forthcoming projects in the mentor’s research program. Each student will be expected to present at one or more scientific meetings and submit one or more manuscripts for publication in relevant peer-reviewed journals before graduating. It is also expected that the student will submit at least one external grant before graduating.

In addition to the teaching and pedagogy courses listed in the course requirements, students are required to teach or co-teach at least one academic course before graduating. Teaching responsibilities also may include clinical supervision.

Major Learning Outcomes

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

The primary objective of the Ph.D. degree program is to assist students to develop in-depth mastery of subject matter in a narrow and specific area within the broad discipline of communication sciences and disorders and, simultaneously, to broaden one’s knowledge base in other fields related to the special area of interest, such as health, linguistics, education, and the physical, biological, and socio-behavioral sciences. With the intent to prepare high-quality researchers to serve as leaders in the discipline of communication sciences and disorders, graduates of the program will be prepared to assume independent careers as researchers and scholars at colleges, universities, and hospitals, as well to become key personnel at leading private and public research institutes. Specifically, the learning goals of the Ph.D. program in Communication Sciences and Disorders include:

- The development of independent research skills through sequential experiences that involve the planning and conduct (or implementation) of research projects, the writing of grants, and the dissemination of research findings through the presentation of papers at scientific and other professional conferences and publication in peer-reviewed journals in the discipline;
- The preparation of academicians equipped to teach the university students of tomorrow through guided coursework in educational methods and evaluation, instructional technologies including online course delivery, international and intercultural experiences, and classroom practice; and
• The acquisition of advanced knowledge and understanding of a specialized area with the ability to apply this understanding to research, teaching, and scholarship.