

**Master of Arts (MA)**

The Communication Disorder Program is a nationally accredited program whose graduates are highly sought after by employers throughout the nation. Each year, over 100 applications are received for 15 graduate spots.

Graduates of the CD program find immediate employment, pass the national Praxis exam on the first attempt, and qualify for state and national certification. Scholarships and graduate assistantships are available for both 1<sup>st</sup> year and 2<sup>nd</sup> year graduate students

**Communication Disorders Students will...**

- Complete a minimum of 50 graduate hours
- Conduct research and present findings at national or state conferences
- Obtain a minimum of 375 clinical therapy hours

**Career Planning**

Employment rates are typically 100%, with graduates accepting positions in Missouri and several states around the nation. Employment of speech-language pathologists is projected to grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations.

As the large baby-boom population grows older, there will be more instances of health conditions that cause speech or language impairments, such as strokes and hearing loss. More speech-language pathologists will be needed to treat the increased number of speech and language disorders in the older population.

Increased awareness of speech and language disorders, such as stuttering, in younger children should also lead to a need for more speech-language pathologists who specialize in treating that age group.

In addition, medical advances are improving the survival rate of premature infants and victims of trauma and strokes, many of whom need help from speech-language pathologists.

**Employment Opportunities of Recent Graduates**

- Paragon Speech Pathology Services, Blue Springs, MO
- Local School Districts: Cape Girardeau, Jackson, St. Louis and St. Charles Missouri; Kentucky; Illinois; Virginia
- Pathways Health Center for Children, Sarnia, Ontario
- National Healthcare Corporation, Milan, TN
- Life Care Center of St. Louis, MO
- St. Francis Medical Center; Cape Girardeau, MO
- Southeast Outpatient Rehabilitation, Cape Girardeau, MO

**Admission Requirements**

1. An undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders (or equivalent area) from a regionally accredited college or university
2. A minimum overall undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or a minimum GPA of 3.0 during the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate study
3. GRE scores (no minimum required)
4. Two letters of recommendation
5. Application with cover letter

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This is a guide based on the 2017-2018 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use DegreeWorks to monitor their progress.

**CURRICULUM CHECKLIST****50 Hours Required****Required Courses:**

- CD603 Adv Communication Disorders Clinical Practicum (3 enrollments) (9)
- CD612 Instrumental Analysis of Speech (3)
- CD620 Developmental Articulatory & Phonological Disorders (2)
- CD625 Research Methodology in Communication Disorders (3)
- CD630 Language & Cognitive Communication Disorders in Adults (2)
- CD634 Language & Cognitive Disorders in Infants and Preschool Children (2)
- CD635 Language, Cognitive & Social Communication Disorders in School-Aged Children (3)
- CD641 Voice Disorders (3)
- CD642 Fluency Disorders (3)
- CD643 Augmentative/Alternative Communication Systems (2)
- CD651 Neurogenic Speech Disorders (2)
- CD652 Swallowing Disorders (2)
- CD656 Craniofacial Anomalies and Resonance Disorders (2)
- CD669 Externship in Communication Disorders (2 enrollments) (6)

Choose One of the Following Options:

**Non-Thesis Option**

- CD683 Research in Communication Disorders (2 enrollments) (6)
- GR698 Master's Final Comprehensive Examination (0)

**Thesis Option**

- CD683 Research in Communication Disorders (3)
- CD695 Thesis (3)
- GR699 Master's Oral Examination (0)

**Additional requirement:\***

- CD510 Multicultural Issues in Communication Disorders (3)
- CD525 Aural Rehabilitation (3)

\* If the student did not have CD510 and/or CD525 or equivalent courses as an undergraduate, the student must take these courses as a graduate student.

**Degree Requirements**

The degree requirements in Communication Disorders are designed to meet the academic and clinical standards established by the Council for Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Completion of the degree requirements constitutes one component toward the establishment of the student's eligibility for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP).

It is the student's responsibility to confer with his/her academic advisor regarding recent changes (if any) in academic or clinical standards. Also, it is the student's responsibility to complete any additional requirements for the CCC-SLP beyond completion of the degree and to submit proper documentation of all required components.