

Master of Arts (MA)

The Communication Disorder Program is a nationally accredited program whose graduates are highly sought after by employers throughout the nation. Graduates of the program pass the national Praxis exam, qualify for state licensure, meet ASHA certification requirements, and find immediate employment opportunities in both educational and medical settings.

Each year, over 100 applications are received and only 18 students are accepted to the program that offers comprehensive coursework, and a variety of clinical opportunities and research experiences. Scholarships and graduate assistantships are available for both first- and second-year graduate students.

Becoming Career Ready...

/ Graduate students complete a minimum of 49 graduate hours, conduct research and present findings at national or state conferences, obtain a minimum of 375 direct contact hours evaluating and treating clients with communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan.

Career Planning

Employment rates are typically 100%, with graduates accepting positions in Missouri and states around the nation. Employment of speech-language pathologists is projected to grow 27 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/speech-language-pathologists.htm>).

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults. As the large baby-boom population ages, more health conditions such as strokes, dementia, and hearing loss will result in an increased need for services by speech-language pathologists.

Besides evaluating and treating speech, language, and swallowing disorders, speech-language pathologists also provide training and education to family/caregivers and collaborate with other professionals to promote interprofessional practice in various educational and clinical settings.

Employers 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, Indiana
- 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
- Beginning Concepts, Jackson, MO
- ABC Pediatric Therapy, O'Fallon, IL
- The Speech and Language Center, Columbia, MO
- Innovative Rehabilitation Corporation, Jackson, MO
- MU Children's Therapy, Columbia, MO
- EBS, Memphis, TN

Admission Requirements

1. Hold an undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders (or equivalent area) from a regionally accredited college or university

Note: Generally, individuals with undergraduate degrees from another discipline (e.g., nursing, education, biological sciences) may be required to complete prerequisite coursework to include content knowledge, skills, and experiences.

2. An 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 personal statement
6. Fifteen minute web-based interview

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This is a guide based on the 2020-2021 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 Degree Works to monitor their progress.

CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

49 Hours

Required Courses:

- ___ CD603 Adv Communication Disorders Clinical Practicum (3 enrollments) (9)
- ___ CD620 Developmental Articulatory & Phonological Disorders (2)
- ___ CD625 Research Methodology in Communication Disorders (3)
- ___ CD629 Neuroscience of Communication Disorders (2)
- ___ 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 (2)
- ___ CD643 Augmentative/Alternative Communication Systems (2)
- ___ CD651 Neurogenic Speech Disorders (2)
- ___ CD652 Swallowing Disorders (3)
- ___ 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 requirements:*

- ___ CD510 Multicultural Issues in Communication Disorders (3)
- ___ CD512 Speech & Hearing Science (3)
- ___ CD525 Aural Rehabilitation (3)

* If the student did not have CD510, CD512 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.