

**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 meet the requirements for licensure in the state of Missouri with potential opportunities to meet licensure requirements in other states if desired. Graduates pass the national Praxis exam, meet ASHA certification requirements, and find immediate employment opportunities in both educational and medical settings..

Each year around 75-100 applications are received, and the cohort size varies from 18-24 admitted students. The program 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 57 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 other states around the nation. Employment of speech-language pathologists is projected to grow 25 percent from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations. In the future, there will be more instances of health conditions that can cause speech or language impairments, such as strokes or dementia [Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Speech-Language Pathologists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/speech-language-pathologists.htm> (April 14, 2021).

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

# Communication Disorders

## Master of Arts (MA)

This is a guide based on the 2021-2022 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

#### 57Hours

##### Required Courses:

- CD603 Advanced Communication Disorders Clinical Practicum (3 enrollments) (9)
- CD608 Clinical Methods in Speech Language Pathology (2)
- CD616 Literacy Essentials for Speech Language Pathologists (3)
- 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 & 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)
- CD653 Pediatric Feeding & Swallowing (1)
- CD656 Craniofacial Anomalies & Resonance Disorders (2)
- CD659 Speech & Language Services for Special Populations (3)
- CD669 Externship in Communication Disorders (2 enrollments) (6)
- CD685 Professionals Issues in Communication Disorders (2)

##### Choose One of the Following Options:

###### Non-Thesis Option

- CD683 Research in Communication Disorders (2 enrollments) (3)
- GR698 Master's Final Comprehensive Examination (0)

###### Thesis Option

- CD695 Thesis (2 enrollments) (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.