

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

Undergraduate Mission

The mission of the communication disorders undergraduate program is to mentor students of strong academic ability and character and to establish in them a commitment to lifelong learning and interest in the complex and diverse process of communication. Through the program's emphasis on typical and atypical speech, language, and hearing, students gain knowledge, skills, and values that foster their individual growth as well as a passion for contributing to society and improving the lives of others.

Faculty

The CMDS program has 8 full-time faculty members. Our faculty are active teacher-scholars who work collaboratively with students in and out of the classroom. Faculty are committed to serving the profession at the local, state and national levels. Faculty currently serve, or have recently served as executive officers, members of executive boards, and on committees of state and national organizations including the Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Individual faculty members have received Honors from MSHA and honors and awards within the University for excellence in both teaching and advising.



Students

The CMDS program includes approximately 140 undergraduate students. In addition to the Undergraduate degree, the CMDS program offers the Master's of Arts degree in Communication Disorders. The Graduate program has approximately 30 students and is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Reasons to Major In CMDS

- **Individual attention:** Teaching and advising are the program's highest priorities. All CMDS undergraduate students have an academic advisor who is a CMDS faculty member. CMDS majors receive preferred registration for major required classes, so that they can graduate on time.
- **Undergraduate clinical opportunities:** Truman offers a Clinic or Non-Clinic option to CMDS majors. Although many universities have discontinued undergraduate clinic opportunities because of their high cost in faculty time and resources, it is our position that this is an essential experience for students before they commit to a graduate program and finishing their professional credentials. The Clinic option includes 25 clock hours of observation, the opportunity to be a Clinical Assistant spring of junior year, and at least one semester of Clinical Practicum during the senior year.
- **Working with talented peers in a supportive environment:** In the CMDS program, students become accustomed to doing their best work among a group of highly motivated peers, in an atmosphere that encourages collaboration and mutual support. Most CMDS majors are members of Truman's chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association, known locally as the Communication Disorders Association.



- **Broad experience in liberal arts and sciences:** According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the best way to prepare for advanced study and a career in communication disorders is to obtain an excellent background in liberal arts and sciences. This is exactly what the undergraduate experience at Truman provides. 85-90 % of CMDS undergraduate students plan to obtain at least a master's degree. An undergraduate degree in CMDS prepares students for further education in a variety of health and education related fields.
- **Choice of B.A. or B.S. degrees:** The CMDS program offers both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Sciences degrees. Both degrees are equally valued by potential graduate schools and employers.
- **Successful graduate school preparation:** Truman CMDS majors enjoy a very high admission rate to their first choice of graduate programs. Many of them continue on in our own graduate program after establishing close working relationships with the faculty and opportunities to explore areas of personal interest at the undergraduate level. Truman graduates routinely obtain early admission and financial support at many prestigious communication disorders programs across the country.
- **Research opportunities:** Many CMDS students take advantage of the undergraduate research opportunities provided at Truman. Within the program we have an ongoing volunteer student research group (open to students at all levels) that explores the clinical uses of new technology. In addition, CMDS students are frequent recipients of Undergraduate Research Stipends and McNair Scholar research opportunities. Students majoring in CMDS participate annually at Truman's distinguished

Research Conference. Undergraduate students present regularly at the annual convention of the Missouri Speech Language Hearing Association, which is a signal honor more common for master's or doctoral students.

- **Satisfaction with results:** Alumni surveys and contacts consistently indicate high satisfaction with the undergraduate and graduate preparation received at Truman.

Facilities and Equipment

- **The clinical facilities at Truman are attractive and well-designed** for instruction. All therapy rooms have direct observation and recording capability. Truman's clinic houses an unsurpassed collection of traditional therapy materials, tests, and clinical computing resources available to students all day every day.
- **The Speech and Hearing Clinic is equipped with tele-communication technology** that allows for the delivery of remote speech and language services with other telehealth facilities across the state.
- **The Truman State University RiteCare Early Literacy Lab** provides space for the remediation and prevention of literacy problems in children who are at risk.
- **Our primary classroom** includes state-of-the art instructional technology.

