

# DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS



“The Communication Disorders Department has helped positively shape the person I have become while at Truman by offering small class sizes, dedicated professors, undergraduate research opportunities, and a close-knit student support system. The professors genuinely care about the success of their students, which is reflected in the time they devote to preparing for class, supervising the clinic, and mentoring students.”

**Michelle Krahenbuhl, Class of 2015**  
 Pursuing at Truman: **Communication Disorders; Clinical Practicum**  
 Study Abroad: **Costa Rica (Summer 2013); Mexico (Faculty-led Communication Disorders program, May 2014)**  
 Pursuing after Truman: **Graduate program in speech-language pathology**  
 Hometown: **Blue Springs, MO**

## Improving Lives by Improving Communication

Explore the nature of typical and atypical speech. Taking classes from Phonetics to Audiology, you will study speech, language, and hearing. From your first semester, you will spend time observing in our Speech & Hearing Clinic. As a teaching clinic, it provides experience for students and services for clients from throughout the region.

The program's highest priorities are teaching and advising, ensuring that you receive individualized attention throughout your education. From the start, you will have a Communication Disorders professor as your advisor. With 140 students in the major, you will be a part of a tight-knit learning community.

The options for getting involved are limitless. Join the Communication Disorders Association. Take advantage of research opportunities, from applying for grants to joining a volunteer student research group that studies new technologies in clinical use. Study abroad in Mexico with your peers during the May interim and get experience in your field.

Prepare for a life that makes a difference.

[COMDIS.TRUMAN.EDU](http://COMDIS.TRUMAN.EDU)

### PURSUING COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| BA<br>BS<br>DEGREES OFFERED | MAJOR OFFERED<br><b>Communication Disorders</b> |
|                             | MA DEGREE OFFERED                               |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>140</b><br>approximate number of students pursuing the major | <b>40</b><br>approximate number of students pursuing the graduate program |
|---|---|

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>8</b> full-time faculty members | <b>1</b> part-time faculty member |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

**56%** have doctorate, remaining faculty members have master's and are certified SLPs

DEPARTMENTAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION  
 CoDA - Communication Disorders Association

## Faculty

- 9 faculty members (8 full-time and 1 part-time).
- 56% of faculty have doctorate degree; remaining 44% have a master's degree and are certified Speech Language Pathologists.
- Active within professional organizations.

## Curriculum

- Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science offered.
- Master of Arts in Communication Disorders.
- Clinic or non-clinic option as an undergraduate.
- Clinical Practice senior capstone option involves direct clinical experience with a client.

## Research

- Explore the use of new technologies or the impact of early intervention in a faculty-led research group.
- Pursue opportunities through undergraduate research stipends and the McNair Scholars program.
- Present at Truman's annual Student Research Conference and professional meetings such as the Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association convention.

## Study Abroad

- Travel to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico with fellow students and professors during May interim.
  - Work directly with children who have disabilities and reinforce your Spanish skills.
- Truman grants you access to over 500 study abroad opportunities in more than 60 countries.

## Facilities

- The Speech and Hearing Clinic services are provided at no cost to individual clients. This clinic helps over 1,000 people per year within a large geographic area.
- All therapy rooms have direct observation and video recording capabilities.



“The Communication Disorders Department provides an opportunity for students to not just learn about the field, but to connect with faculty who are invested in their growth and development as future community leaders.”

**Ilene Emlinger**  
 Associate Professor of Communication Disorders



- The extensive collection of clinical technology, assessment, and therapy materials is current and available for everyday use.
- The Truman-RiteCare Early Literacy Lab provides extra opportunities to explore the speech-language-literacy connection.

## Student Organizations

- **Communication Disorders Association (CoDA):** Wanting additional preparation for your career? Join this pre-professional organization for those pursuing a degree in Communication Disorders.

## After the Degree

- 85-90% of Communication Disorders students pursue graduate studies.
- Join our excellent graduate program in speech-language pathology, leading to a Master's degree in Communication Disorders. Begin your transition to graduate study at Truman in the final semester of your senior year by taking a graduate course and clinical practicum or choose from a variety of excellent graduate programs across the country.
- Find another calling if you like — other Communication Disorders alumni have pursued graduate study in education, other healthcare-related careers, and service professions like counseling.