
FACULTY

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GRADUATE FACULTY
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DEGREES OFFERED

MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

The graduate program in Communication Disorders is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and has been offering the Master of Arts degree since 1967. ASHA explicitly recommends that the best preparation for graduate work in communication disorders is a strong undergraduate background in liberal arts and science. Building on such a background, the graduate program provides the specialized coursework and practicum experiences that prepare and qualify successful candidates for careers in speech-language pathology.

The chief components of the program are: 1) advanced coursework in the assessment and treatment of disorders of speech, language, and hearing; 2) advanced clinical practicum experiences with a diverse clinical population including children and adults in the Truman State University Speech and Hearing Clinic; 3) pursuit of topics of special interest through either a thesis or non-thesis (coursework and comprehensive exam) option; and 4) full-time, off-campus internships in two diverse clinical settings. The Truman graduate program in Communication Disorders is characterized by high academic and professional standards, close collaboration between students and faculty, and strong, broad-based professional preparation.

Students who wish to pursue graduate study in communication disorders should contact the Program Director in Communication Disorders (660-785-4669) for information. Students who have undergraduate majors in related fields of study such as English, linguistics, psychology, biology, or others are encouraged to obtain information early, so that an appropriate individualized program of study can be planned.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Master of Arts in Communication Disorders Program is to prepare speech-language pathologists who will serve all people with communication disorders. The Program provides students who have a strong foundation in liberal arts and sciences with advanced academic, research, and clinical opportunities designed to help them acquire professional knowledge, skills, and values consistent with excellence in the field.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

1. To recruit highly qualified students who demonstrate the academic potential, interpersonal skills, emotional stability, and commitment requisite for success in a clinically-oriented graduate program in communication disorders.
2. To ensure that all program graduates meet the rigorous requirements for obtaining a complete set of professional credentials: national certification, state licensure, and public school certification.
3. To prepare graduates who will be qualified to meet the ongoing state and national shortage of speech-language pathologists in rural and urban schools, medical centers, rehabilitation facilities, private practice, and other work settings.
4. To provide academic and clinical experiences, in accordance with program accreditation standards, that prepare graduates to provide comprehensive speech-lan-

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- guage pathology assessment, consultation, intervention, and rehabilitation services.
- To explicitly validate the concept of the clinician-researcher and encourage the possibility of doctoral study by providing research experience for all graduate students. In addition, to provide opportunities for students to form mentor relationships with faculty, collaborate closely with peers and faculty, and explore topics of individual interest through learning communities, special assignments, independent study, and/or selection of the thesis option.
 - To model and promote ethical principles and procedures in the conduct of clinical practice, academic achievement, and research.
 - To model and promote professional values that include a respect for diversity, the importance of lifelong learning, and the rewards of service to clients, the community, and the profession.
 - To provide special opportunities to explore a) emergent literacy in children at risk, b) the use of new technologies in communication disorders, and c) the role of speech-language pathologists in rural health and education settings.

SPECIAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The Communication Disorders program staffs and maintains the Truman State University Speech and Hearing Clinic. The clinic has individual and group therapy rooms, observation facilities, and modern closed-circuit TV and videotaping capabilities to facilitate supervision and observation by student clinicians and client family members. An audiological testing suite is available for complete hearing evaluations. The Kenneth M. McGuire Clinical Media Center houses the Clinic's extensive collection of diagnostic and therapy materials and is used by student clinicians as they prepare for therapy and complete other case management tasks. Student clinicians make use of the Clinical Computing Lab to explore and prepare clinical applications of computers for direct use with clients. Additional multimedia technologies readily available for use include interactive videodisc, CD-ROM, as well as both sound and video digitizing.

The Clinic is open throughout the academic year and summer semesters, serving a local and regional population of all ages. Members of the university community including students, faculty, staff and their families are also served by the Clinic. All Clinic services are provided under the supervision of faculty who are licensed by the Missouri State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts and certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The student must be recommended for admission to graduate study by the program's Admissions Committee and Dean (see requirements for admission in this catalog).
- The student must be admitted by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Program Criteria are:

- a minimum overall grade point average of 3.00.
- strong performance on the Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical Writing components of the GRE.
- excellent oral and written language ability.
- strong personal commitment to advanced study and service in communication disorders.

- No student will be permitted to transfer graduate level coursework toward a degree in Communication Disorders in which a grade lower than a "B" was achieved.

Note: Applicants should submit to the Graduate Office three letters of recommendation, GRE scores, a personal statement, and all transcripts.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Before graduation, the student desiring an MA in Communication Disorders must complete the following:

- The 39 credit hour Communication Disorders curriculum.
- The academic and clinic experience requirements for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP), Missouri Licensure, and Missouri state school certification. Application for school certification must be completed.
- The Department-generated Clinical Process Commentary (CPC) Activities.
- The nationally normed National Examination in Speech Pathology and Audiology (NESPA), of the PRAXIS series.
- The specified requirements of the Office of Graduate Studies pertaining to grade point average, transfer credit, residence, course number, time limitations, repeat courses, and examinations.

COMMUNICATION DISORDERS MAJOR

MASTER OF ARTS

Courses are listed by component category. An asterisk following the course number indicates that it is a major requirement.

Semester
Hours

Behavioral Science Component

CMDS 561G*	Advanced Speech Pathology	3
CMDS 562G	High Risk Infants	3
CMDS 563G	Special Topics-Dysphagia	2
CMDS 564G	Voice Disorders	3
CMDS 566G*	Diagnosis of Communication Disorders	3
CMDS 568G	Phonological Disorders	3
CMDS 578G*	Clinical Applications of Computers in Communication Disorders	3
CMDS 660G	Stuttering	3
CMDS 661G*	Language Disorders—Children	3
CMDS 662G*	Language Disorders—Adults	3
CMDS 663G	Oro-Facial Anomalies	3
CMDS 669G	Neurogenic Motor Speech Disorders	3
CMDS 671G*	Advanced Clinical Audiology	3
CMDS 672G	Seminar: Hearing Disorders	1-3
CMDS 679G	Seminar: Advanced Topics in Language Development and Language Disorders	1-3
CMDS 680G	Seminar: Speech Disorders	1-3

Practicum Component

CMDS 681G*	Advanced Clinical Practice	3
CMDS 682G*	Internship—Hospital/Clinic	4
CMDS 683G*	Internship—Public School	4

Students majoring in Communication Disorders must demonstrate clinically appropriate speech/language/hearing skills prior to enrollment in clinical practicum.

Education Component

This requirement must be met by all Communication Disorders Master's graduates from Truman. Normally, this requirement is met by completing ED 621G Psychology of

Reading. However, students who can demonstrate mastery of this material through coursework completed at another university may, with the consent of their advisor, substitute these credits with electives.

Clinical Process Commentaries

The Clinical Process Commentaries (CPC) consists of a sequence of major projects that:

1. emphasize strong ties between the academic and clinical curricula,
2. provide opportunity for formative and summative evaluation, and
3. provide opportunity for students to demonstrate depth of knowledge and expertise through both oral and written presentation.

The CPC will be required at two (2) different times in the course of graduate study, usually the second semester (spring) and the last semester (fall) prior to internship.

THESIS OPTION

Research Component

CMDS 689G* Research in Communication Disorders (Thesis)6

(See course description. A prerequisite 3.5 graduate GPA and CMDS faculty approval required.)

Clinical Hours Requirement

Students are required to complete a minimum of 400 clinical contact hours of which 325 must be completed at the graduate level. The curriculum is designed to qualify master's degree candidates for state teacher certification, Missouri Licensure, and the Certificate of Clinical Competence awarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Undergraduate Requirements for Non-Majors

Students who wish to earn a master's degree in Communication Disorders and have earned a bachelor's degree in some other major or from another institution must meet the requirements or equivalents of one course of not less than 2 semester hours from each of the following areas: Phonetics, Audiology, Aural Rehabilitation, Introduction to Communication Disorders, Language Development, Clinical Practice, Education or Psychology of the Exceptional Child, Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism, and Child Psychology or Child Development. The following Truman courses are recommended to satisfy these requirements:

CMDS 200	Introduction to Communication Disorders	3
CMDS 261	Phonetics	3
PSYC 332	Child Development OR	
ED 230	Early Childhood Growth & Development	3
CMDS 380	Principles of Clinical Management	3
CMDS 460	Language Development	3
CMDS 470	The Speech Mechanism	3
CMDS 472	Audiology	3
CMDS 473	Aural Rehabilitation	3
CMDS 474	Speech and Hearing Science	3
CMDS 477	Articulation and Phonology	3

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Observation Hours Requirement

A student clinician must observe a minimum total of 25 clock hours of assessment and management. This observation must precede clinical assignment with specific types

of communication disorders. The observation experience must be under the direct supervision of a clinical supervisor who holds the ASHA CCC.

Additional undergraduate courses may be needed to meet certification requirements, depending upon specific courses taken for an undergraduate degree from another institution.

GRE SCORES

Graduate Record Exam percentile rankings corresponding to mean scaled scores for incoming Communication Disorders students, fiscal year 2005:

- Analytical Writing: 51.67%
- Quantitative: 40.00%
- Verbal: 40.67%

Average GPA of incoming Communication Disorders students, fiscal year 2005: 3.46.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Students who do not meet prerequisites for a course can request permission to take a course by meeting with the faculty member teaching the course, who in turn will recommend to the Program Director that the student be enrolled in the class if appropriate.

**CMDS 560G – Professional Writing Seminar
1-3 hours**

This seminar will provide the student in Communication Disorders with intensive instruction in clinical writing in preparation for the clinical experience as well as future employment. The following areas of writing will be addressed: format of scientific writing, diagnostic reports, treatment plans, SOAP notes, professional correspondence, Individual Education Plans (IEP), and ethical issues in report writing. Prerequisite: CMDS 380. CMDS majors only.

**CMDS 561G – Advanced Speech Pathology
3 hours**

This course examines communication problems resulting from disorders of voice and fluency and from orofacial/craniofacial anomalies. Etiology, types, defining characteristics and associated problems will be examined within each area. Assessment and treatment options for each area will be discussed and implemented. Prerequisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in CMDS 474. CMDS majors only.

**CMDS 562G – High Risk Infants
3 hours**

Familiarizes students with the concept of high risk as it applies to infants. Factors which contribute to the high risk label being applied to an infant will be discussed. The developmental outcome of high risk infants during the pre-school and schoolage years will be presented. Assessment and intervention strategies, as well as available materials, will be outlined. Parental and family concerns will also be discussed relative to the special adjustments and needs of the high risk infant. CMDS majors only.

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CMDS 563G – Special Topics-Dysphagia**2 hours**

Diagnosis and clinical management of dysphagia in adults and children. Normal swallow and swallows of neurological origins will be studied using a variety of techniques. Multidisciplinary approach related to diets, inservice programs and counseling of patients and families. Prerequisites: CMDS 561 or CMDS 561G and CMDS 669G, or Director's permission. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 564G – Voice Disorders**3 hours**

Theories of voice production, emphasizing voice defects, related pathologies, and therapeutic procedures. Prerequisite: CMDS 561 or CMDS 561G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 566G – Diagnosis of Communication Disorders**3 hours**

Etiologies of communication disorders, emphasizing diagnostic procedures, interviews, history techniques, parental counseling, report writing, and referral. Prerequisites: Director's permission and (CMDS 200, CMDS 261, CMDS 380, CMDS 460, CMDS 470, CMDS 472, CMDS 473, CMDS 477), or concurrent enrollment in CMDS 681G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 568G – Phonological Disorders**3 hours**

An overview of phonological theory, evaluation, and treatment methods for disorders of phonology enabling the student to effectively design a therapeutic program. Prerequisite: CMDS 561 or CMDS 561G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 578G – Clinical Applications of Computers in Communication Disorders**3 hours**

This course presents an overview of the computer applications that are available to clinicians for diagnosis and remediation of persons who have communication disorders. Emphasis will be placed on applications which are used directly with clients in speech and language intervention. Prerequisite: Permission of the Director, and prior experience with special populations such as CMDS 480 Clinical Practice or CMDS 681G Advanced Clinical Practice.

CMDS 650G – Multidisciplinary Geriatric Healthcare Seminar**0.5 hours**

Study and practice of interdisciplinary healthcare model. Students will engage in a geriatric healthcare practicum with students from other disciplines such as Nursing, Osteopathic Medicine, Health and Exercise Science, and Psychology. Prerequisite: CMDS graduate student.

CMDS 660G – Stuttering**3 hours**

Current theories and treatment of stuttering. Emphasizes behavioral aspects and the communicative implications of the disorder. Prerequisite: CMDS 561 or CMDS 561G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 661G – Language Disorders–Children**3 hours**

Characteristics of children with specific language disabilities, and consideration of language delay versus language disorder; theoretical and practical approaches to evaluation and intervention with children who have language delays and

disorders. Emphasis on sociolinguistic view of language development and instruction, and multi-cultural awareness. Prerequisite: CMDS 681G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 662G – Language Disorders–Adults**3 hours**

Neurological disorders related to speech and language disorders; neurological background, historical and modern contributions, symptomatology, etiology, evaluation, and rehabilitation. Prerequisite: CMDS 681G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 663G – Oro-facial Anomalies**3 hours**

Types and degrees of palatal and facial deformities, emphasizing speech habilitation for persons with cleft palates. Prerequisites: CMDS 561 or CMDS 561G, and CMDS 681G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 667G – Research Methodology**3 hours**

Methods, rationale, and statistical knowledge necessary to complete research. Background necessary to read and interpret research in Communication Disorders and Special Education journals and related publications. Prerequisite: CMDS 681G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 669G – Neurogenic Motor Speech Disorders**3 hours**

Presenting symptoms, diagnoses, and clinical approaches for the management of the dysarthrias. Emphases given to traditional and innovative approaches of clinical management. Prerequisites: CMDS 470 and CMDS 681G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 671G – Advanced Clinical Audiology**3 hours**

Advanced audiological theory, techniques, and clinical procedures as related to differential diagnosis. Prerequisite: CMDS 681G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 672G – Seminar: Hearing Disorders**1-3 hours**

Analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of contemporary trends and research in audiology. Prerequisite: CMDS 671G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 679G – Seminar: Advanced Topics in Language Development and Language Disorders**1-3 hours**

Advanced literature dealing with development of language content, form, and use. Disorders of language in terms of their impact on learning disability and school performance. Prerequisite: Program Director's permission. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 680G – Seminar: Speech Disorders**1-3 hours**

Directed reading, research, or evaluation of current publications of individual interest. Prerequisite: CMDS 561 or CMDS 561G. CMDS majors only.

CMDS 681G – Advanced Clinical Practice**1-3 hours**

Clinical practice in application of advanced techniques for speech and hearing disorders. Prerequisites: must be accepted by the Communication Disorders Graduate Admissions Committee, and Program Director's permis-

sion. Students majoring in Communication Disorders must demonstrate clinically appropriate speech/language/hearing skills prior to enrollment in clinical practicum. CMDS majors only.

**CMDS 682G – Internship in Hospital/Clinic
4 hours**

The internship provides intensive, clinical, and administrative experience with a variety of clinical disorders under the direct supervision of a master clinician. Prerequisite: Students must have a 3.00 G.P.A. in the major prior to enrollment, and approval of the Communication Disorders faculty prior to enrollment. CMDS majors only.

**CMDS 683G – Internship in Public School
4 hours**

The internship provides intensive, clinical, and administrative experience with a variety of clinical disorders under the direct supervision of a master clinician. Prerequisite:

Students must have a 3.00 G.P.A. in the major prior to enrollment, and approval of the Communication Disorders faculty prior to enrollment. CMDS majors only.

**CMDS 688G – Independent Studies
1-6 hours**

Investigation of special problems in speech pathology, audiology, reading, special population, and related areas under faculty supervision. Prerequisite: Advance arrangement with instructor. CMDS majors only.

**CMDS 689G – Research in Communication Disorders (Thesis)
1-6 hours**

Advanced student writes a thesis on a subject of his/her choice as approved by the advisor under the direction of the departmental faculty. Prerequisite: A 3.5 graduate GPA and CMDS faculty mentor approval. CMDS majors only.

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