

Communication Sciences and Disorders, B.S.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Science

Nature of the Program

The undergraduate program in Communication Sciences and Disorders is committed to the preparation of students interested in understanding the foundations of communication for typical and disordered speech, language, and hearing across the lifespan. Leading to the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree, this undergraduate program emphasizes education in liberal studies; anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanisms; development of speech and language skills; awareness of cultural diversity and its relationship to communication; phonetics; and a broad introduction to communication sciences and disorders.

Undergraduates with a BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders can pursue graduate school in speech-language pathology, audiology, public health care, public policy, education, and special education. Other options after the BS program include jobs as speech-language pathology or audiology assistants, hearing aid sales, in communications, in public affairs and policy for persons with disabilities, and in other education and health-related jobs related to advocacy and communication for persons with disabilities.

The demand for certified practitioners is continually increasing; consequently, job prospects remain very good. The undergraduate program and subsequent options in graduate study enable graduates to seek employment in a variety of settings and work with individuals of all ages as well as to pursue academic and research careers in the discipline of communication sciences and disorders.

ADMINISTRATION

CHAIR

- Jayne Brandel - PhD, CCC-SLP (University of Kansas)
Associate Professor

VICE CHAIRS

- Nancy Aarts - PhD, CCC-A (Northwestern University)
Associate Professor and Vice Chair, Audiology

FACULTY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Nancy Aarts - PhD, CCC-A (Northwestern University)
Vice Chair, Audiology
- Jayne Brandel - PhD, CCC-SLP (University of Kansas)
Chair
- Ashleigh Callahan - PhD, CCC-A (James Madison University)
- Alex Hollo - PhD, BCBA-D (Vanderbilt University)
- Kimberly Meigh - PhD, CCC-SLP (University of Pittsburgh)
Coordinator of Clinical Services

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Molly Abitbol - MS, CCC-SLP (Nova Southeastern University)
- Christa Babjack - MA, CCC-SLP (Western Michigan University)
- Christina Dastolfo-Hromack - PhD, CCC-SLP (University of Pittsburgh)
- Heather Forbes - PhD, CCC-SLP, BCBA-D (University of Kansas)
- Anna Gravelin - PhD, CCC-SLP (Bowling Green State University)
- Almara Hutchinson - MA, CCC-SLP (Radford University)
Coordinator of Clinical Education
- Megan Israelsen - PhD, CCC-SLP (Utah State University)
- Eric Johnson - PhD, AuD, CCC-A (Ohio State University, University of Utah)
- Kenneth Morse - PhD, AuD, CCC-A (Syracuse University)

- Tracy Toman - MS, CCC-SLP (West Virginia University)
- Leah Valensi - AuD, CCC-A (Syracuse University)

PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Mary Ellen Tekieli Koay - PhD
- Norman J. Lass - PhD
- Dennis M. Ruscello - PhD, ASHA Honors
- Kenneth O. St. Louis - PhD
- Charles M. Woodford - PhD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Leslie Graebe - MS
- Conrad Lundeen - PhD

TEACHING ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Karen B. Haines - MS
- Gayle B. Neldon - EdD

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Lynn R. Cartwright - EdD
- Cheryl L. Prichard - EdD

Admissions for 2026-2027

FRESHMAN ADMISSION

To be eligible for direct admission to the Communication Sciences and Disorders program, students must have an overall high school GPA of 3.0 or a 23 Composite ACT or 1150 SAT or 45 ALEKS placement score. Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis if the applicant's GPA or test scores are below the published requirements for automatic direct admission. Students who are not directly admitted are admitted to the Center for Learning, Advising and Student Success where they can work toward meeting eligibility.

Early Assurance Program

The Early Assurance Program (EAP) provides a pathway for well-qualified CSD first-time freshmen to enter the Master's of Speech-Language Pathology or Doctor of Audiology program following completion of a CSD baccalaureate degree and meeting all other requirements outlined below.

To qualify, students entering WVU from high school must:

- Be admitted to WVU as a Communication Sciences and Disorders major.
- Have a high school GPA of 3.7 or higher.
- Have an ACT score of 26 or higher or a SAT score of 1230 or higher.

EAP students who meet the following requirements will continue into the graduate CSD program of their choice (Master's of Speech-Language Pathology or Doctor of Audiology) following completion of their baccalaureate degree:

- Maintain 30 credit hours each academic year.
- Maintain an overall GPA of 3.3 or higher and a prerequisite GPA in CSD courses of 3.7 or higher (evaluated at the end of each academic year).
- Successfully complete all admission requirements (in effect at the time you apply) for their intended graduate program.

Students who do not meet the EAP criteria for continuation outlined above or who withdraw from the EAP program during their undergraduate studies, but who still meet the minimum admission requirements for the Master's of Speech-Language Pathology or Doctor of Audiology programs are encouraged to apply using the traditional application process.

TRANSFER ADMISSION

Students transferring must have an overall GPA of 2.8 to be considered for admission. This requirement applies to students who are external to WVU and current WVU students wishing to change their major. For more information, please contact us at somadvising@hsc.wvu.edu.

Major Code: 8360

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.8 is required in all coursework applied to the degree.		
University Requirements		36
Communication Sciences and Disorders Program Requirements		23
Communication Sciences and Disorders Major Requirements		61
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements 5, 6, 7, and 8		12
CSAD 191	First-Year Seminar	1
General Electives		23
Total Hours		36

Communication Sciences and Disorders Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum grade of C- is required for all coursework applied to the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program Requirements, except where noted.		
ENGL 101	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric (GEF 1)	3
ENGL 102	Composition, Rhetoric, and Research (GEF 1)	3
Select one of the following (GEF 2):		4
BIOL 101 & 101L	General Biology 1 and General Biology 1 Laboratory	
BIOL 102 & 102L	General Biology 2 and General Biology 2 Laboratory	
BIOL 115 & 115L	Principles of Biology and Principles of Biology Laboratory	
PHYS 105 & 105L	Conceptual Physics and Conceptual Physics Laboratory	
MATH 124	Algebra with Applications (GEF 3)	3
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology (GEF 4)	3
CS 101	Intro to Computer Applications (GEF 8)	4
Select one of the following (GEF 8):		3
ECON 225	Elementary Business and Economics Statistics	
STAT 211	Elementary Statistical Inference	
Total Hours		23

Communication Sciences and Disorders Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum grade of C- is required for all coursework applied to the Communication Sciences and Disorders Major Requirements, except where noted.		
A minimum GPA of 2.8 is required for all coursework applied to Communication Sciences and Disorders Major Requirements.		
Normal Human Development (select two from the following):		6
CDFS 110	Families Across the Life Span	
CDFS 210	Introduction to Parenting	
CDFS 211	Infant Development	
CDFS 212	Development in Early and Middle Childhood	
CDFS 412	Adolescent Development	
CDFS 413	Stress in Families	
CDFS 414	Adolescent Problems and Disorders	

CDFS 415	Family Interaction and Communication	
CDFS 430	Best Practices in Pre-K Movement	
COUN 303	Introduction to Helping Professions	
LING 411	Phonology	
LING 412	Syntax	
PALM 200	Medical Terminology	
PSYC 241	Introduction to Human Development	
PSYC 332	Multiculturalism in Psychology	
PSYC 342	Prenatal and Infant Development	
PSYC 343	Child and Adolescent Development	
PSYC 345	Adulthood and Aging	
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology	
SOC 221	Families and Society	
SOWK 330	Human Behavior in the Social Environment	
Abnormal Human Development (select one of the following):		3
CHPR 170	Health of the Individual	
COMM 308	Nonverbal Communication	
COMM 317	Communication and Aging	
DISB 380	Disability and the Family	
DISB 385	Disability and Society	
PHIL 331	Health Care Ethics	
PSYC 232	Sex Roles and Behavior	
PSYC 251	Introduction to Social Psychology	
PSYC 281	Introduction to Psychological Disorders	
PSYC 302	Behavior Principles	
PSYC 351	Topics in Social Psychology	
PSYC 364	Psychology of Adjustment	
PSYC 382	Exceptional Children	
PSYC 423	Cognition and Memory	
PSYC 424	Learning and Behavior Theory	
PSYC 425	Perception	
PSYC 474	Applied Behavior Analysis	
SOWK 147	Human Diversity	
SOWK 151	Introduction to Social Work	
SOWK 300	Social Welfare Policy and Services 1	
SOC 360	Sociology of Gender	
SPED 404	Special Education in Contemporary Society	
Major Area Courses		
CSAD 200	Introduction to Communication Disorders	3
CSAD 222	Phonetics and Phonology	3
CSAD 234	Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Hearing	4
CSAD 236	Language Science	3
CSAD 285	Introduction to Research in Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
CSAD 320	Speech Science	3
CSAD 330	Foundations of Clinical Practice in CSD	3
CSAD 334	Neuroscience in Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
CSAD 336	Language Acquisition 1	3
CSAD 340	Hearing Science	3
CSAD 426	Introduction to Speech Disorders	3
CSAD 442	Aural Rehabilitation	3
CSAD 342	Introduction To Audiology	3
CSAD 485	Professional Applications in Communication Sciences and Disorders	3

or CSAD 496	Senior Thesis	
Content/Practica Electives		9
CSAD 388	International Experience/Communication Sciences and Disorders	
CSAD 424	Language Disorders	
CSAD 436	Language Acquisition 2	
CSAD 440	Audiological Assessment	
CSAD 480	Clinical Applications in Speech-Language Pathology	
CSAD 482	Speech and Language Practicum	
CSAD 483	Audiology Practicum	
CSAD 493	Special Topics (up to 3 credits)	
CSAD 495	Independent Study	
CSAD 497	Research (up to 3 credits)	

Total Hours 61

SENIOR CAPSTONE

All students in the B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders program must complete a capstone experience before graduation. Majors will engage in a variety of written, oral, and analytical activities related to the field and will develop an oral/PowerPoint presentation which will be graded by faculty members.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CSAD 191		1 CSAD 222	3
CSAD 200		3 CSAD 234	4
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
BIOL/PHYS Requirement (GEF 2)		4 PSYC 101 (GEF 4)	3
MATH 124 (GEF 3)		3 GEF 5	3
General Elective		3	
		17	16

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CSAD 236		3 CS 101 (GEF 8)	4
CSAD 285		3 CSAD 330	3
CSAD 320		3 CSAD 336	3
STAT 211 or ECON 225 (GEF 8)		3 CSAD 340	3
GEF 6		3 Normal Human Development	3
		15	16

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CSAD 334		3 CSAD Elective	3
CSAD 342		3 GEF 8	3
GEF 7		3 General Elective	3
Normal Human Development		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CSAD 426		3 CSAD 442	3
CSAD Elective		3 CSAD 485	3
Abnormal Human Development		3 CSAD Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3

General Elective	2	
	14	12

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Outcomes

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is committed to the preparation of students interested in working with individuals with communication disorders. Upon completion of the Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders at West Virginia University, the student will be able to:

- Explain acoustic, psychoacoustic, and neurological principles of speech, language, and hearing as they relate to the anatomy of the speech, language, and hearing systems.
- Transcribe and analyze speech, language, and hearing across the lifespan to classify capabilities as typical or atypical.
- Identify basic concepts related to evaluation and treatment of communication and swallowing disorders during clinical observations.
- Communicate information regarding communication disorders in oral and written format while incorporating principles of evidence-based practice.