Overview of Communication Sciences and Disorders

A Communication Sciences and Disorders degree will prepare students to pursue a master’s degree to work with individuals who have speech and language difficulty. Speech disorders occur when a person has trouble saying sounds. Language disorders occur when a person has trouble understanding or producing ideas, thoughts, or feelings.

A Speech-language pathologist is a professional who works to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders across the lifespan.

A Speech-language pathologist may work collaboratively with audiologists, teachers, doctors, psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, social workers, etc.

Speech-language pathologists are always in demand, with part-time, full-time, and “as need” bases opportunities may be available across the nation and in various work settings.

Speech-language pathologists find employment in many different research, education, and health care settings with many different populations.

Characteristics of Successful Communication Sciences and Disorders Majors

The Communication Sciences and Disorders curriculum, including general education and major courses, is thoughtfully balanced to develop these skills.

- Effective oral and written communication skills
- Ability to analyze and synthesize classroom information into clinical application
- Flexibility to adjust to changing situations in professional or clinical environment
- Excellent communication skills and empathy
- Organized, punctual, and respectful in all classroom and clinical environments

Expectations of Communication Sciences and Disorders Majors

Successful students make successful employees. Exhibit your work ethic as you navigate your curriculum and you will be ready for the job search process.

- Attend every class; Participate in class discussion;
- Maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.
- Successfully complete at least 12 credit hours each semester.
- Enroll in a balanced schedule to prevent unnecessary course withdrawal.
- Develop study habits that mirror work habits necessary for employment.
- Earn a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders, with career advancement plans to pursue graduate education for a certificate of clinical competency through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.