

# COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS (M.S.)

<https://chhs.unh.edu/communication-sciences-disorders/program/ms/communication-sciences-disorders>

## Description

The graduate program in Communication Sciences and Disorders prepares students for professional practice with individuals who face communication challenges across the life span in any practice setting. Students complete a combination of required and elective courses and clinical practicum to apply theory to practice. Students complete a variety of practicum experiences in the university clinic as well as educational, rehabilitative, and private practice settings to enhance applied learning. The Graduate Program of Study includes two full years of study, including two summers and J-term.

## Requirements

All graduate students will complete a combination of required and elective courses and clinical practicum to earn a minimum of **53 credits total**. Clinical practicum meets the requirements of the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, including a minimum of **400 clinical experience hours**.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>REQUIRED COURSES (minimum of 53 credits)</b>		
COMM 801	Principles of Assessment	2
COMM 802	Principles of Intervention	2
COMM 803	Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders I	1
COMM 804	Counseling Clients and Families with Communication Disorders	2
COMM 805	Research Methods in Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
COMM 811	Brain and Behavior	3
COMM 812	Dysphagia	3
COMM 821	Speech Sound Disorders	3
COMM 823	Voice Disorders	3
COMM 824	Motor Speech Disorders	3
COMM 831	Early Childhood Language Disorders	3
COMM 832	School-Age & Adolescent Language Disorders	3
COMM 833	Aphasia in Adults	3
COMM 843	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	3
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum (Minimum of 4 rotations)	1
Diagnostic Clinic (Fall or Spring of Year 2)		
COMM 872	Externship (Minimum of 2 rotations)	4
<b>ELECTIVE COURSES (minimum of 4 credits)</b>		
COMM 841	Cognitive Communication Disorders	2
COMM 842	Autism Spectrum Disorders	2
COMM 895	Special Topics	2
Special Topics include: Language Acquisition, fMRI and the Human Brain, Social Communication, Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Neural Bases of Cognition and Language in Aging and Acquired Brain Injury		
COMM 899	Master's Thesis	6

## Clinical Practicum

All students are required to complete a minimum of four practicum rotations and two externships during their graduate studies. UNH requires students to have 15 documented observation hours prior to the start of clinical work. Since the UNH CSD Graduate Program is a full-

time program, we expect students to be available for clinical assignments when not in class.

In year 1, practicum assignments take place at the UNH Speech--Language--Hearing Center and the Clinic for Neurogenic Communication Disorders during the fall, spring, and summer sessions. In year 2, students complete one semester of diagnostic clinic at the UNH SLHC along with two externships at two different settings. Externships are available at a broad range of department-approved settings, including early intervention programs, education, rehabilitation, health care settings, and private practices.

Students are responsible for transportation to externship locations and other community learning experiences. Externship sites may require a physical, including a tuberculin test; proof of immunizations such as poliomyelitis, rubella and hepatitis; health insurance; and drug/urine testing. In addition, students are responsible for meeting the criminal record clearances established by the practicum site. Failure to pass required medical and other clearance checks could render a student ineligible for a practicum assignment and thus unable to complete program requirements.

## Capstone Experience

All graduate students are required to complete a capstone experience - either the Comprehensive Examination or a Master's Thesis.

### Comprehensive Examination (Non-thesis)

All students (except those writing a thesis) must pass a Comprehensive Examination designed to assess their mastery of and ability to integrate information from the two-year curriculum. Students will be provided one case study and participate in an oral exam related to the case. To participate in the comprehensive examination students must be in their final semester of graduate studies, have no incompletes or unremediated course failures, be in their final semester for externship experiences, and have no unfilled clinical improvement plans. Students must pass oral exam to pass the comprehensive examination and be eligible to receive the master's degree.

### Thesis

Students may conduct research and write a thesis in lieu of the Comprehensive Examination. Upon completion of an original research project, students must defend the thesis in an oral examination and must gain approval of the thesis committee. In addition to required coursework, students must register for **6 credits** of COMM 899 Master's Thesis.

## Additional Requirements

In addition to the academic and clinical requirements, the UNH Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders requires students to demonstrate certain essential skills needed to practice as a speech-language pathology. These **Essential Functions**, as distinguished from academic standards, include communication, motor, cognitive, sensory, and behavioral-social abilities that are necessary for satisfactory completion of the curriculum and for professional practice. Some of these abilities should be in place when students begin the program, while others will be developed throughout the program.

Students accepting an offer of admission as well as students in the program are expected to demonstrate these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations to successfully complete degree requirements. Early each fall, the Essential Functions Policy will be reviewed with new students beginning our program. Students are

expected to sign that they have reviewed and understand the policy and will follow the stated guidelines.

## Degree Plan

All graduate students will complete a combination of required and elective courses and clinical practicum to earn a minimum of **53 credits**.

Clinical practicum meets the requirements of the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, including a minimum of 400 clinical experience hours.

First Year		
Summer		Credits
COMM 801	Principles of Assessment	2
COMM 802	Principles of Intervention	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>4</b>
Fall		
COMM 803	Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders I	1
COMM 805	Research Methods in Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
COMM 811	Brain and Behavior	3
COMM 821	Speech Sound Disorders	3
COMM 831	Early Childhood Language Disorders	3
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum	1
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14</b>
January Term		
COMM 804	Counseling Clients and Families with Communication Disorders	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>2</b>
Spring		
COMM 812	Dysphagia	3
COMM 824	Motor Speech Disorders	3
COMM 832	School-Age & Adolescent Language Disorders	3
COMM 833	Aphasia in Adults	3
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14</b>
Second Year		
Summer		
Elective Course (Optional)		
<b>Credits</b>		<b>0</b>
Fall		
COMM 843	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	3
COMM 872	Externship	4
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum (Assessment Clinic, taken Fall or Spring)	1
Elective Course		2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>10</b>
Spring		
COMM 823	Voice Disorders	3
COMM 872	Externship	4

Elective Course	2
<b>Credits</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>53</b>

## Accelerated Master's

### Program Eligibility\*

- Current UNH student in good standing
- Overall GPA of 3.5+ at the time of application (i.e., including grades from fall semester junior year), GPA must be based on a minimum of 3 semesters at UNH
- Completed a minimum of 86 credits earned/completed (i.e., not including credits in progress). Ideally, 89 credits is preferred.
  - The Graduate School requires that students complete 90 credits before enrolling in 800 level courses.
- Complete all CSD-required courses for Years 1 and 2 (see curriculum)
- Completed KIN 706 Neurology, COMM 504 Basic Audiology Intro to Audiology, and COMM 741 Speech-Language Pathology I.
- Enrolled in COMM 742 Neurological Foundations of Communication Disorders Across the Lifespan (and all its prerequisite coursework) and COMM 705 Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation for spring semester junior year

**\* Important: Eligibility does not ensure acceptance to the AM program.**

The AM program is designed for and best suited to students who begin the CSD program as Freshmen (in Year 1). Students who transfer into the major may be eligible for the AM program but will need to meet all the above criteria.

Timeline for AM program:

- **Prior to registering for Spring Year 2 courses:** Discuss interest in AM program with UG advisor to begin accelerating program (i.e., enroll in 20 credits in Spring, Year 2)
- **By the first day of classes in Fall of Year 3:** Declare eligibility (submit Intent to Apply to [csd.department@unh.edu](mailto:csd.department@unh.edu))
- **During Fall of Year 3:** Enroll in COMM 741 Pediatric Speech and Language Disorders: Foundations in Clinical Decision-Making (and COMM 723 Observation Skills in Speech-Language Pathology)
- **By the end of Fall of Year 3:** Meet 3.5+ GPA requirement
- **By the application due date:** Submit application to AM program
- **During Spring of Year 3:** Enroll in COMM 705 Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation and COMM 742 Neurological Foundations of Communication Disorders Across the Lifespan
- **By April 15 of Year 3, if offered admission to the AM program:**
  - Accept or reject offer of admission to AM program by emailing [csd.department@unh.edu](mailto:csd.department@unh.edu)
  - Complete and return documentation of intent to accept to the Graduate School
- **During Summer between Years 3 and 4:** Enroll in 2 800-level courses
  - COMM 801 Principles of Assessment
  - COMM 802 Principles of Intervention
- **During Fall of Year 4:** Enroll in 3 800-level courses + COMM 724 Senior Capstone (or COMM 799: Honors Thesis) (also: COMM 723 Observation Skills in Speech-Language Pathology if not already taken):

- *COMM 803 Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders I*
- *COMM 811 Brain and Behavior*
- *COMM 821 Speech Sound Disorders*

**By the end of the Fall Semester of Year 4: Complete 128 credits and graduate with a BS degree**

**Recommended Course Sequence Bachelors/Accelerated Master's Program**

**First Year**

<b>Fall</b>		<b>Credits</b>
COMM 420	Survey of Communication Disorders	4
PSYC 401	Introduction to Psychology	4
BMS 507	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

**Spring**

MATH 420	Finite Mathematics	4
LING 405	Introduction to Linguistics	4
PHYS 409	Investigating Physics	4
Discovery/Writing Intensive or Elective Course		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

**Second Year**

<b>Fall</b>		
COMM 521	Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanisms	4
COMM 524	Clinical Phonetics	4
COMM 401	American Sign Language I	4
PSYC 402	Statistics in Psychology	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

**Spring**

COMM 522	Language Acquisition	4
COMM 636	Speech and Hearing Science	4
PSYC 581	Child Development	4
Discovery/Writing Intensive or Elective Course		4
Discovery or Elective Course		2-4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18-20</b>

**Third Year**

<b>Fall</b>		
COMM 504	Basic Audiology	4
KIN 706 & KIN 707	Neurology and Neurology Lab	6
COMM 741	Pediatric Speech and Language Disorders: Foundations in Clinical Decision-Making	4
Discovery or Elective Course		4
COMM 723	Observation Skills in Speech-Language Pathology	2
(or other 2-credit elective)		
<b>Credits</b>		<b>20</b>

**Spring**

COMM 705	Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation	4
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COMM 742	Neurological Foundations of Communication Disorders Across the Lifespan	4
Discovery or Elective Course		4
Discovery or Elective Course		4

**Credits 16**

**Fourth Year**

**Summer**

COMM 801	Principles of Assessment	2
COMM 802	Principles of Intervention	2

**Credits 4**

**Fall**

COMM 811	Brain and Behavior	3
COMM 821	Speech Sound Disorders	3
COMM 803	Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders I	1
COMM 723	Observation Skills in Speech-Language Pathology	2

(if not taken in Third Year fall)

COMM 724 or COMM 799	Senior Capstone (Professional Issues in Speech Language Pathology W: Writing Intensive) or Honors Thesis	4
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Elective and/or Discovery Course 2-7

**Credits 15-20**

**Spring**

COMM 812	Dysphagia	3
COMM 824	Motor Speech Disorders	3
COMM 832	School-Age & Adolescent Language Disorders	3
COMM 833	Aphasia in Adults	3
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum	1

**Credits 13**

**Fifth Year**

**Fall**

COMM 805	Research Methods in Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
COMM 831	Early Childhood Language Disorders	3
COMM 843	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	3
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum	2
COMM 870	Clinical Practicum (Diagnostic Clinic Fall or Spring)	1

Fall Elective Courses 2-4

COMM 842	Autism Spectrum Disorders	
COMM 895	Special Topics	

**Credits 14-16**

**January Term**

COMM 804	Counseling Clients and Families with Communication Disorders	2
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**Credits 2**

**Spring**

COMM 872	Externship	
COMM 823	Voice Disorders	

COMM 870	Clinical Practicum (Diagnostic Clinic Fall or Spring)	
Spring Elective Courses		2-4
COMM 895	Special Topics	
Summer		
COMM 872	Externship	
<b>Credits</b>		<b>2-4</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>152-163</b>

## Student Learning Outcomes

### Program Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate Appropriate Knowledge of Professional Practice
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Foundations of Speech-Lang Pathology Practice
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Identification and Prevention of Speech-Language and Swallowing Disorders and Differences
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Evaluation of Speech-Language Disorders and Differences
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Intervention of Speech-Language and Swallowing Mechanisms
- Demonstrate General Knowledge and Skills Applicable to Professional Practice

## Disclosures

### Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures

The University of New Hampshire offers a number of academic programs designed to lead to professional licensure or certification in New Hampshire. However, completing a UNH degree/program does not guarantee professional licensure or certification. Eligibility may also depend on factors like years of work experience, professional examinations, passing a background check, and other criteria.

UNH does not guarantee that its professional licensure programs will satisfy the criteria of professional licensure boards in other states. Some states maintain different requirements for professional licensure or certification and requirements can change frequently. Federal regulations require the University to make public disclosure of certain information regarding professional licensure or certification programs, regardless of the modality the program is offered (i.e., in-person or online). The University provides guidance below but recommends students contact their state/territory licensing or certification board to ensure a program meets specific state/territory requirements.

Visit the Office of the Registrar's [website](#) for information about whether this program meets professional licensure requirements in your state.