Communication Science and Disorders

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Communication Science and Disorders includes the study of normal language, speech, and hearing across the life span, as well as communication disorders that result from biological, environmental, and behavioral factors. Communication Science and Disorders includes the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.

Speech-language pathologists evaluate the speech and language of children and adults to determine whether problems exist in such areas as voice, articulation, fluency, and receptive or expressive language. They also plan and carry out programs for the treatment of these problems.

Audiologists evaluate hearing, identify hearing loss, and participate in the rehabilitation of persons with hearing impairments.

The professions of speech-language pathology and audiology require master’s or doctoral degrees. Acceptance to an undergraduate program does not guarantee acceptance to a graduate program. Refer to the Graduate Catalog for information about the MHS degree (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/schoolofhealthprofessions/communicationscienceanddisorders/mhs-communication-science-disorders/).

Faculty

Associate Professor J. C. Goodman** , S. A. Wagovich**
Assistant Professor R. Botezatu**, M. Dietrich**, E. S. Kelley**, M. Kuruvilla-Dugdale**, N. A. Smith**
Associate Clinical Professor D. R. Fritz*, L. B. Lawrence*, B. A. McLay*
Assistant Clinical Professor C. Baker, G. Hull, G. Nolan
Clinical Instructor L. M. Frye
Research Associate Professor Emerita L. S. Day*

Graduate

• MHS in Communication Science and Disorders (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/schoolofhealthprofessions/communicationscienceanddisorders/mhs-communication-science-disorders/)
  • with emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/schoolofhealthprofessions/communicationscienceanddisorders/mhs-communication-science-disorders-emphasis-speech-lang-path/)

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https://healthprofessions.missouri.edu/communication-science-and-disorders/degrees/master-of-health-science-csd/

About Communication Science and Disorders

The field of Communication Science and Disorders, or CSD, encompasses the related but distinct disciplines of speech-language pathology (SLP), audiology, and speech, language, and hearing sciences (SLHS). Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are professionals educated in human communication and its disorders. Speech-language pathologists diagnose and treat disorders such as delayed language development, stuttering, articulation, and voice problems. Audiologists specialize in the prevention, identification, assessment, and rehabilitation of hearing disorders. Speech, language, and hearing scientists are professionals concerned with exploring trends in the communication sciences, as well as developing strategies for improving or adding to the knowledge base within the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology.

MU established its first independent master’s and doctoral programs in speech-language pathology and audiology in the 1940s. The MU master’s degree program in speech-language pathology has been continuously accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology since 1966. An active local chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association is sponsored by the program.

The master’s degree prepares students for national certification in speech-language pathology and for professional clinical practice in both health care and educational settings. The doctoral degree involves a program of research and advanced study beyond the clinical master’s degree in preparation for a career in research and college teaching or administration.

Career Opportunities

A wide variety of work settings are available to speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Possibilities range from hospitals, clinics, and rehabilitation centers to schools, colleges and universities, government agencies, and private practice. Speech, language, and hearing scientists work primarily in colleges and universities, research labs and government agencies. Professional certification in speech-language pathology and audiology is awarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The master’s degree, which is the entry-level degree for speech-language pathologists, typically takes two years beyond the undergraduate degree. Additional prerequisite
coursework is required for students with undergraduate degrees outside the field. Students wishing to pursue a career in audiology will need to attend a program that offers a clinical doctorate in audiology (AuD), the entry-level degree for audiologists.

### Facilities and Resources

The department uses many cooperative facilities in Columbia, both on and off the MU campus, as clinical and scientific resources. Among these are the University Hospitals and Clinics, Rusk Rehabilitation Center, Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital, Adult Day Connection, Assistive Technology Evaluation Center, Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, and Columbia Public Schools.

Other cooperative facilities are available both within and outside the State. The department operates the MU Speech and Hearing Clinic, a diagnostic and treatment center serving individuals with communication disorders from the campus and the community, the MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool, and the Accent Modification and Pronunciation Program. In addition, there are many research opportunities for students in the laboratories of individual faculty where they may gain experience with sophisticated equipment for research and clinical evaluation in normal and disordered speech, language, and hearing. A master’s thesis option is available to students interested in conducting research.

### Funding

All graduate students are considered for available scholarships, fellowships, work-study grants, traineeships and graduate teaching and research assistantships.