

Communication Sciences & Disorders

Curriculum

The Communication Sciences and Disorders Department offers a Bachelor of Science degree, a pre-professional degree preparatory to various graduate professional degrees in the clinical sciences. The master's degree program is the minimal, entry-level requirement to obtain the full license in speech-language pathology (in the State of Oklahoma) and national certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Courses include anatomic, physiologic, acoustic, linguistic, and normal development as well as diagnostic and intervention theories for varied speech, language, and hearing disorders.

Communication Sciences & Disorders majors develop the following skills:

- Critical thinking skills
- Organizational skills
- Communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Computer skills
- Interviewing and investigational skills
- Acquisition of theoretical knowledge of normal bases and development of speech, language and hearing
- Acquisition of knowledge of speech, language and hearing disorders
- Acquisition of clinical knowledge
- Understanding of the profession and its ethical obligations
- Professional commitment beyond coursework
- Research

Get Involved

National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)

A complete list of student clubs and organizations can be found online at:
<https://campuslink.okstate.edu>

College of Arts & Sciences Career Services

213 Life Science East
Tel: 405 744 5658

For appointments and resources:
<http://cascareers.okstate.edu>

Job and Internship Websites

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
<http://www.asha.org>
<http://asha.jobcontrolcenter.com>
- Speech-LanguagePathologist.org
<http://www.speech-languagepathologist.org>
- American Academy of Audiology
<http://www.audiology.org/>
- Audiologist Jobs
<http://www.audiologistjobs.com>
- Military Audiology Association
<http://www.militaryaudiology.org/careers/>
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (National Institutes of Health)
<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/>
- National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)
<http://www.nsslha.org>
- Oklahoma Speech-Language-Hearing Association
<http://www.oslha.org/>
- Texas Speech-Language-hearing Association
<http://www.txsha.org>
- Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association
<http://www.showmemsha.org>
- Speech Pathology Jobs
www.speechpathology.com
- KidsPlay Therapy Centers
<http://www.kidsplaytherapy.com/careers.htm>
- Other Communication Sciences & Disorders Websites:
<http://www.slplib.com>

Speech-Language Pathologist

These professionals do everything from recognizing communication disorders to creating effective treatment plans. They also act as advisors for the teachers and families of the patient, to help them adjust to the presence of the communication disorder. Pathologists also engage in research projects to develop new ways of recognizing and treating disorders.

Audiologists

An audiologist works with people who have hearing difficulties, often selecting and fitting them with hearing aids. They also try to find ways to help those with hearing impairments rehabilitate. As well, they recommend ways to prevent further hearing loss.

Speech-Language Educator (Higher Ed)

Working as teachers at all college levels, speech-language educators seek to promote understanding about communication disorders. They teach how to recognize, diagnose, and treat specific disorders, as well as rehabilitation techniques and research techniques.

Clinical Supervisor

These professionals act as the organizers and managers of various types of clinics to keep them running effectively. They are in charge of hiring competent pathologists, as well as ensuring each patient receives the attention they need.

Special Education Instructor

Working at a public or private school, these educators see to the needs of those with communications disorders, helping them learn how to communicate to other teachers and peers. Instructors are often the only conduit by which students with communication disorders can communicate or learn in a traditional school environment.

Private Practitioner

Working out of their own offices or homes, these professionals act as therapists, consultants or clinicians to a small community of individuals. Practitioners often treat the members of their communities throughout their entire lives, from birth until adulthood.

Speech Therapist (SLP Assistant)

SLPAs are therapists that aid those with speech disorders in gaining the coordination or strengthening the muscles needed to properly pronounce sounds and words. Speech therapists work under the supervision of a speech-language pathologist using a variety of speech exercises, such as those used to eliminate a stutter or a lisp. (Requires associates or bachelor's degree)

Children's Hearing Specialist

The communication disorder equivalent of a pediatrician, these specialists focus on the disorders most commonly found in children. They also provide advice on the prevention of communication disorders.

Types of Employers

- Hospitals
- Public and Private Schools
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Colleges and Universities
- Nursing Care Facilities
- Private Practice
- Research Laboratories
- Home Health Agencies
- Community Clinics
- Long-term Care Facilities
- Adult Day Care Facilities
- State and Local Health Departments
- Centers for Individuals with Disabilities

Certifications & Licensure

The benefits of certification in communication disorders are numerous. Certification is the public's guarantee that the individual treating them has been adequately reviewed by the national professional organization: the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Most employers will not hire speech pathologists or audiologists who are not certified. For this reason most graduate level programs in the field include certification with the degree. Certification also limits liability and accountability risks, thereby facilitating state licensure attainment.

To become certified by ASHA, applicants must pass a national exam after completing the criteria for their graduate degree. Moreover, they must have completed at least 350 hours of supervised clinical experience.

The ASHA certification exam is a written exam that covers the principles of research, ethical standards, and current regulations governing the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology. Students must also successfully complete a clinical fellowship under a certified mentor.