

**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders  
College of Arts and Sciences**

**Degree Programs**

B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders

M.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders

**Mission and Teaching Objectives**

The mission of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is to prepare well-educated pre-professionals, at the bachelor's degree level, and well educated entry level professionals at the master's degree level. The aim of the undergraduate pre-professional program is to prepare students to enter graduate professional education/training in speech-language pathology, audiology, speech and hearing science, or related discipline. The aim of the graduate professional education program is to prepare speech-language pathology clinicians to work competently and ethically in the field of communication disorders. The mission encompasses the goals of student academic preparation, clinical training, certification of clinical personnel, and public service. The objectives of the academic/clinical programs are:

1. recruit and retain outstanding undergraduate and graduate students;
2. provide quality educational and clinical experiences for all students through effective classroom, clinical, and off-campus clinical internship instruction; and
3. prepare students for careers in speech-language pathology for a variety of settings; i.e., hospitals, schools, private practice, rehabilitation facilities, community centers, and universities.

**Desired Outcomes for all Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Undergraduate Students**

By the time students graduate with a B.S. degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders, they are expected to be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding of the basic concepts in 12 subject areas: phonetics, normal speech and language development, speech science, audiology, aural rehabilitation, anatomy and physiology of the speech mechanism, neuroanatomical bases of speech and language, articulation/phonological disorders, language disorders, voice disorders, fluency disorders, and clinical methodology.
2. obtain a minimum of 25 clock hours of structured clinical therapeutic observation in the Oklahoma State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic as well as a variety of off-campus clinical facilities.

3. demonstrate understanding of basic clinical methodology through a clinical rotation in the Oklahoma State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic as an associate clinician assigned to a graduate student clinician under the supervision of a fully certified and licensed faculty clinician.

### **Methods that are Used to Evaluate Undergraduate Student Achievement**

1. Capstone courses

Two courses are considered capstone courses for undergraduate students in Communication Sciences and Disorders. CDIS 4022 (Clinical Methods) requires students to complete successfully clinical projects and course work examinations. The therapy materials project/presentation and the clinical assistant project/presentation prepare students for future direct supervised work with patients. In the clinical assistant project, each undergraduate student is paired with a graduate clinician and clinical supervisor and participates in the development and delivery of treatment for a patient in the OSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

The second capstone course is CDIS 4010 (Clinical Practicum). A cumulative grade point average in the major of 3.25 and advisor consent are required for enrollment. In this course, qualified undergraduate students, under the supervision of a faculty clinical supervisor are responsible for the development and delivery of treatment for one patient in the OSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

2. Graduating Senior Survey

An undergraduate survey, developed by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders will be given to each graduating senior to determine a) reasons for not applying for graduate study in CSD, b) adequacy of undergraduate preparation to graduate school, and areas of undergraduate program deficiency.

3. OSU Survey of Alumni of Undergraduate Programs

4. Other Indicators

Students complete course and instructor evaluations on each undergraduate course. These evaluations may indicate the need for changes in course parameters.

Informal feedback is obtained from OSU undergraduates attending other graduate programs and the faculty from these programs regarding aspects of their preparedness and competitiveness compared with undergraduate students from other institutions.

### **Desired Outcomes for all Communication Sciences and Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology) Graduate Students**

By the time students graduate with a M.S. degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology), they are expected to be able to:

1. search the clinical research literature and summarize findings that lead to the formulation of clinical diagnostic and treatment methodologies;
2. use contemporary clinical evaluative and therapeutic hardware, software, materials and techniques;
3. function effectively and ethically as clinical speech-language pathologists, evaluating, treating, and counseling patients who present pathologies associated with the major disorder groups: a) articulation/phonology disorders, b) language disorders, c) voice disorders, and d) fluency disorders;
4. develop sound research proposals that include a) developing research objectives and methods of data collection and analyses to meet those objectives, b) interpreting and drawing conclusions from the data analyses, and c) formulating a research report.

### **Methods that are Used to Evaluate Graduate Student Achievement**

1. OSU Survey of Alumni of Graduate Programs

Four questions are asked specific to the Communication Sciences and Disorders department. These questions are open-ended, asking for a narrative response.

- a. Compared to co-workers, what would you say were the primary strengths of your degree program?
- b. Compared to co-workers, what would you say needed strengthening in your degree program?
- c. Given your current employment, what additional skills/subjects would have been helpful?
- d. Students sometimes look back on their graduate education with new or different ideas after they have been out for a period of time. Has time and/or experience given you any new perspective on your graduate education?

2. Praxis Examination (National Examination for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists). Passing this examination is required for

the Certificate of Clinical Competence through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is recognized as the national credential qualifying the holder to practice in the profession.

3. Portfolio, Comprehensive Exams, and/or Thesis

To complete the requirements of the graduate program, graduate students either complete a portfolio and take comprehensive examinations or they complete a portion of the portfolio and a thesis.

4. Reviews of Externships

Graduate students typically complete two, eight-week clinical externships before graduation. These external clinical rotations are done in schools, hospitals, long term care facilities, rehabilitation centers, private practices, or community clinics. These facilities may be located in Stillwater, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, other locations in Oklahoma, out of state, or internationally. Students provide written feedback to the department regarding their externship experiences, including information on the supervisor, amount of supervision, professional involvement, population served, type of therapy, length and frequency of therapy, work schedule, site requirements, total clinical clock hours obtained, tests and materials used, and the strengths and weaknesses of the experience.

Additionally, externship supervisors are asked to comment on the student clinician's strengths and weaknesses and provide suggestions to the department regarding perceived gaps in the education/training program.

5. Annual re-accreditation of the program by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and site visit re-accreditation every four-six years.

6. Other indicators

Students complete course and instructor evaluations for each graduate course. CDIS 5013 Research Methods requires a research project for graduation; CDIS 5210 Clinical Practicum requires student participation in the diagnosis and treatment of patients both within and external to the Oklahoma State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. Student clinical competencies are reviewed and rated by the clinical supervisor both at mid-term and end-term. Additionally, Students complete written and oral exit interviews upon graduation.

### **How data will be Integrated into Curriculum Planning and Program Improvement**

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Assessment Officer will produce a draft report of the findings and provide this to the rest of the faculty for discussion. A final report will be approved by the faculty and provided to the OSU Office of University Assessment consistent with deadlines. The final report will enumerate specific measures by which the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders intends to respond to areas of excellence and areas of needed improvement identified in the report.