

Arnold School of Public Health
University of South Carolina

Communication Sciences and Disorders



www.sph.sc.edu/comd



**Arnold School of
Public Health**

Did you know? The Arnold School of Public Health is one of the largest educators of speech-language professionals in the nation! Speech-language pathologists provide assessment and intervention services for individuals with speech, language, and hearing disabilities that potentially impact academic performance, career opportunities, and socialization.

Because their work focuses on the full range of communication across the lifespan – from small children to the elderly – speech-language pathologists have many career opportunities. Today's speech-language pathologists work in public schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, community clinics, and private practices. The opportunities to improve a person's quality of life make this a particularly rewarding career.

The curriculum in Communication Sciences and Disorders provides broad-based instruction in the areas of typical and disordered communication development. The department's master's program prepares individuals to be clinical scientists for the clinical practice of speech-language pathology, working with both children and adults who exhibit a variety of speech, spoken-language, hearing, and literacy problems. The doctoral program promotes scholarly research in the following areas:

- Clinical and basic research in aphasia, neuroimaging
- Language and literacy acquisition and disorders in children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Speech perception, speech science, cochlear implants
- Communication features in autism and fragile X conditions
- Acquired apraxia of speech
- Neural bases of speech production and motor control
- Language and phonological disorders in children
- Reading and educational psychology
- Language and literacy acquisition in children with hearing loss.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers programs leading to the degrees of Master of Science (MS), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The MS degree is offered in residential (on-campus, face-to-face) modality (MS-Res), as well as via distance education (MS-DE), and is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Graduates are eligible for national certification, South Carolina state licensure, and educator certification from the South Carolina Department of Education.

Degrees offered: MS, PhD

Application Requirements

Admission to full graduate standing is on a selective basis, determined by the quality of the academic preparation of the applicant. An applicant for admission to graduate study in speech-language pathology must meet the requirements of both The Graduate School of the University and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Applicants should have a broad educational background including physical, social, statistics, and behavioral science courses. An applicant's transcript must show academic credit for courses in each of the following areas: 1) a biological science, 2) a physical science (either chemistry or physics), 3) a behavioral/social science (e.g. psychology), and 4) statistics. For more information on acceptable prerequisite courses that meet clinical certification standards, please see the website of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

To meet the January 1st application deadline, prospective MCD and MSP students should begin the application process through the CSDCAS centralized application system (<https://portal.csdcas.org>) no later than October. For both the residential and the distance-education MS degrees, extra fees may apply.

The doctoral program has rolling admissions and prospective doctoral students will apply through the USC Graduate School (www.gradschool.sc.edu/apply.htm). Applicants must apply by January 15th to be considered for funding for the following Fall semester. Prospective PhD students should contact the department to discuss their proposed concentration area (i.e., the area in which they intend to conduct research). A personal interview is required. Prior to admission, the applicant must obtain a commitment from a COMD faculty member agreeing to serve as the applicant's research mentor and direct his/her dissertation.

Application requirements include:

- Official transcripts from all schools or colleges previously attended
- Grade point average of 3.00/4.00 or higher
- Satisfactory GRE scores: minimum Quantitative GRE score above the 8th percentile; minimum Verbal and Written GRE scores above the 15th percentile (MS); minimum Quantitative GRE score above the 10th percentile; minimum Verbal GRE score above the 30th percentile (PhD).
 - In exceptional cases, lower GRE scores can be compensated by other qualities of the applicant, but such scores will have to be addressed in the applicant's personal statement (MS).
 - MS: Institution code - 5821 (U of South Carolina CSDCAS)
 - PhD: Institution code - 5818 (U of South Carolina Columbia)
- Three letters of recommendation (at least two from former professors)
 - The only exception to this requirement can be made for students who have not taken college-level classes within the past 10 years. Such students may send up to three letters from clinical advisors and/or employers that can speak to their relevant professional development and skills (MS).
- Resume or CV (PhD only)

- Written personal statement, including answers to two essay questions (MS); Statement of Purpose and Objectives describing your academic and research interests, relevant work experiences, academic/professional goals and objectives (PhD)

Degree Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders

MS-Distance-Education (MS-DE) in Speech-Language Pathology

The Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology via distance education (MS-DE) requires part-time enrollment and is taught via distributed learning. For students with an undergraduate background in speech-language pathology, the program duration is three years, including a summer internship, and classes begin in June. Those with majors in other disciplines require four years of study and begin in the fall semester. The purpose of the program is the production of clinical scientists with the skills to advance the profession's service delivery. MS-DE graduates are eligible for South Carolina Education Certificate, state licensure, and national certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Our faculty and students bring diverse perspectives to the study of speech production and motor control in the human brain.



MS-Residential (MS-Res) in Speech-Language Pathology

The residential Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology (MS-Res) is a traditional on-campus degree requiring continuous, full-time enrollment for two calendar years. For students with an undergraduate background in speech-language pathology, the program starts in the fall term. Those with majors in other disciplines start in the summer term. The purpose of the program is the production of clinical scientists with the skills to advance the profession's service delivery. MS-Res graduates are eligible for a South Carolina Education Certificate, state licensure, and national certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Our COMD Master degree graduates have a 100 percent employment rate within one year of graduation.



PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders is designed to prepare future researchers to assume faculty positions in colleges and universities. The PhD typically requires two or more years of full-time academic course work plus at least one additional year of dissertation research. Each student's course of study is tailored to reflect the student's interests, but courses in basic communication sciences, research design, and statistics are required. All students are expected to have ongoing research in one or more laboratories and will not be allowed to take comprehensive exams until a research-based manuscript has been submitted for publication to a refereed scientific journal. Finally, each candidate must successfully defend his or her dissertation.



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For Additional Information

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