

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS, BS

The Communication Sciences and Disorders Program offers a Bachelor of Science degree, which provides the pre-professional foundation for graduate study. The student who plans to become a professional speech-language pathologist or audiologist will receive preparation in human communication sciences and disorders as well as a broad educational experience in the liberal arts and sciences.

Requirements

Students must achieve the following:

1. Satisfactory completion of 121 credits;
2. Satisfactory completion of the required courses in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program, and those required outside the program;
3. Satisfactory completion of the University General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>);
4. A cumulative 2.5 GPA or better in all credits earned at UWM. Students should note that admission to graduate programs in speech-language pathology and audiology is highly competitive. To be competitive with other Graduate School applicants, it is recommended that students maintain a GPA greater than 3.5; and
5. Completion of the last 30 credits in residence at UWM.

Code	Title	Credits
University General Education Requirements		
<i>Competency Requirements</i>		
Oral and Written Communication (OWC) Part A & B		
Quantitative Literacy (QL) Part A & B		
Foreign Language		
<i>Distribution Requirements</i>		
Arts		3
Humanities		6
Natural Sciences ¹		
Social Sciences ¹		
Cultural Diversity ¹		
<i>General Electives</i>		
Select 0-2 credits		0-2
Major Requirements		
COMSDIS 210	Survey of Communication Disorders	3
COMSDIS 220	Anatomy and Physiology of Speech, Hearing, and Language Mechanisms	4
COMSDIS 230	Introduction to Phonetics	4
COMSDIS 240	Normal Speech and Language Development	3
COMSDIS 245	Client Diversity in Health Sciences: An Interdisciplinary Perspective	3
COMSDIS 250	Interprofessional Communication in the Health Sciences	3
COMSDIS 350	Clinical Process I: Articulation and Phonology Disorders	3

COMSDIS 351	Clinical Process II: Child Language Disorders	3
COMSDIS 380	Bases of Hearing Science	3
COMSDIS 450	Bases of Fluency and Voice Disorders	3
COMSDIS 460	Survey of Adult Neurogenic Language and Speech Disorders	3
COMSDIS 470	Introduction to Audiology	3
COMSDIS 480	Speech Science	3
COMSDIS 490	Audiologic (Re)Habilitation	3
COMSDIS 520	Counseling in Communication Disorders	3

Extra-Departmental Requirements		
ANTHRO 102	Introduction to Anthropology: Culture and Society	3
or SOCIOL 101	Introduction to Sociology	
BIO SCI 202	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO SCI 203	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
CHPS 100	New Student Seminar in Health Professions	1
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development	3
EXCEDUC 600	Survey of Exceptional Education	3
or EXCEDUC 300	The Exceptional Individual	
HS 102	Healthcare Delivery in the United States	3
HS 222	Language of Medicine	3
HCA 203	Human Life Cycle	3
LINGUIS 350	Introduction to Linguistics	3
or LINGUIS 400	Introduction to English Linguistics	
PSYCH 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYCH 260	Child Psychology	3
PHYSICS 120	General Physics I (Non-Calculus Treatment)	4-5
or CHEM 101	Chemical Science	
ENGLISH 205	Business Writing	3
or ENGLISH 207	Health Science Writing	
<i>Select one of the following:</i>		3-4
KIN 270	Statistics in the Health Professions: Theory and Practice	
PSYCH 210	Psychological Statistics	
ED PSY 624	Educational Statistical Methods I	
<i>Select one of the following:</i>		3
ED POL 375	Cultural Foundations of Education	
ED POL 500	Sociology and Policy of Urban Communities and Schools	
ED POL 530	Urban Education: Foundations	
ED POL 650	The Civil Rights Movement in Northern Cities	
<i>Select one of the following:</i>		2-3
CURRINS 343	Teaching of Reading (ExcEduc sec)	
CURRINS 643	Balanced Literacy Instruction in the Elementary School	
CURRINS 537	Literacy 2: Assessing and Teaching Literacy through Early Adolescence	

COMSDIS 661	The Role of the Speech-language Pathologist in Literacy	
<i>Select one of the following:</i>		3
HIST 263	North American Indian History Since 1887	
AIS 203	Western Great Lakes American Indian Community Life of the Past	

¹ Satisfied through required courses in the program.

Plan of Study

Year 1		
Semester 1		Credits
CHPS 100	New Student Seminar in Health Professions	1
BIO SCI 202	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
COMSDIS 210	Survey of Communication Disorders	3
HS 222	Language of Medicine	3
Electives ¹		3
Credits		14
Semester 2		
BIO SCI 203	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
PSYCH 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
ANTHRO 102 or SOCIOL 101	Introduction to Anthropology: Culture and Society or Introduction to Sociology	3
Electives ¹		4
Credits		14
Year 2		
Semester 1		
ENGLISH 205 or ENGLISH 207	Business Writing or Health Science Writing	3
COMSDIS 230	Introduction to Phonetics ²	4
COMSDIS 250	Interprofessional Communication in the Health Sciences	3
PHYSICS 120 or CHEM 101	General Physics I (Non-Calculus Treatment) or Chemical Science	4-5
HS 102	Healthcare Delivery in the United States	3
Credits		17-18
Semester 2		
COMSDIS 220	Anatomy and Physiology of Speech, Hearing, and Language Mechanisms ²	4
COMSDIS 240	Normal Speech and Language Development ²	3
COMSDIS 245	Client Diversity in Health Sciences: An Interdisciplinary Perspective	3
PSYCH 260	Child Psychology	3
ED POL 375	Cultural Foundations of Education ³	3
Credits		16
Year 3		
Semester 1		
COMSDIS 350	Clinical Process I: Articulation and Phonology Disorders	3
COMSDIS 380	Bases of Hearing Science	3
LINGUIS 350 or LINGUIS 400	Introduction to Linguistics or Introduction to English Linguistics	3
KIN 270	Statistics in the Health Professions: Theory and Practice	3
Electives ¹		3
Credits		15
Semester 2		
COMSDIS 351	Clinical Process II: Child Language Disorders	3
COMSDIS 450	Bases of Fluency and Voice Disorders	3
HCA 203	Human Life Cycle	3
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development ³	3

HIST 263 or AIS 203	North American Indian History Since 1887 ³ or Western Great Lakes American Indian Community Life of the Past	3
Credits		15
Year 4		
Semester 1		
COMSDIS 460	Survey of Adult Neurogenic Language and Speech Disorders	3
COMSDIS 470	Introduction to Audiology	3
COMSDIS 480	Speech Science	3
Electives ¹		9
Credits		18
Semester 2		
COMSDIS 490	Audiologic (Re)Habilitation	3
COMSDIS 520	Counseling in Communication Disorders	3
CURRINS 537 or CURRINS 643	Literacy 2: Assessing and Teaching Literacy through Early Adolescence or Balanced Literacy Instruction in the Elementary School	3
EXCEDUC 600 or EXCEDUC 300	Survey of Exceptional Education ³ or The Exceptional Individual	3
Credits		12
Total Credits		121-122

¹ Electives should be used to meet general education requirements.

² COMSDIS 220, COMSDIS 230, and COMSDIS 240 must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for admission to the major.

³ These courses meet a subset of the requirements for Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for School Certification in Speech-Language Pathology.

Admission to the Major

To be accepted as a communication sciences and disorders major you must have:

1. A cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better in at least the first 58 credits taken;
2. A GPA of 3.0 or better in COMSDIS 220, COMSDIS 230, and COMSDIS 240;
3. Completion of Oral and Written Communication - Part A competency;
4. Completion of Quantitative Literacy - Part A competency;
5. Completion of an application form for admission to the major;
6. Endorsement by the faculty of the student's written application.

Students will receive written notice of the admission decision. A meeting with your advisor to discuss the program of study is required immediately following admission to the major.

Appeal Procedures

Students who are refused admission to the major may appeal the decision by writing to the department chairperson and enumerating the reasons they believe their case is exceptional and merits additional consideration. If possible, the appeal should be accompanied by written support from one or more of the faculty, and should include documentation of any extenuating circumstances cited in support of the appeal. A committee composed of the entire faculty of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program will consider individual student appeals for admission to the major. Students are notified in writing of the faculty's decision concerning the appeal.

Communication Sciences and Disorders BS Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the Communication Sciences and Disorders, BS Program will be able to:

- Identify the anatomy and explain the physiology of the respiratory, phonatory, articulatory, resonatory, and auditory systems as they relate to communication processes.
- Explain the typical development of speech and language from toddlerhood through adolescence.
- Distinguish between normal and delayed/disordered speech and language function using formal and informal assessment strategies.
- Create developmentally appropriate, evidence-based therapeutic interventions that target diagnosed communication impairments in preschool and school-aged children.
- Compare and contrast the etiologies and characteristics of adults with neurologic impairments such as dementia, aphasia, traumatic brain injury, right hemisphere damage, and motor speech disorders.
- Critique principles of intervention for adults with neurologic impairments and communication disorders.
- Explain the nature of counseling, compare and contrast approaches to counseling, outline the emotional aspects of communication disorders, and identify multicultural considerations in counseling individuals with communication disorders.
- Recognize the boundaries between counseling activities that are appropriate for professionals in communication disorders, compared to issues that are better addressed by other professionals.
- Identify ethical and unethical professional behavior observed during provision of clinical services.

Careers

Individuals who have an educational background in Communication Sciences and Disorders have a variety of employment and career opportunities available to them upon completion of the Bachelor's Degree. For those interested in working with children and adults with disabilities, positions may be found in schools, agencies, health-care facilities, and government. The Communication Sciences and Disorders undergraduate major also provides a good preparation for graduate and certification training in human service-related fields.

Examples of Jobs for Undergraduate Majors

- Care Coordinator for high-risk children and families
- Case Manager for individuals with developmental disabilities
- Job Coach
- Activity Assistant
- Life Skills Instructor
- Rehabilitation Technician (assists rehabilitation professionals in healthcare settings)
- Classroom Aide
- Special Ed Educational Assistant
- Autism Line Therapist
- In-home Behavioral Support Specialist
- Substitute Teacher
- Childcare Teacher (certification required)
- Peer Recovery Specialist (certification required)

Jobs Requiring Additional Education (graduate degree or post-baccalaureate certification)

- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Audiologist
- Social Worker
- Occupational Therapist
- Manager, Day Services Program
- Special Education Teacher
- Reading Specialist
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- Manager, Autism Therapy Agency

Honors in the Major

Honors in the major are granted to students who earn a GPA of 3.500 or above on a minimum of 30 completed credits at UWM.

College of Health Professions and Sciences Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.500 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.

Contact Information

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