Communication Disorders (CDIS)

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Communication Disorders website (http://cdis.uark.edu)

Description and Requirements for the Master of Science Degree:
(Minimum 36 academic credit hours, not counting clinical practicum credit hours.) The M.S. degree program in communication disorders is designed to ensure that all degree candidates meet the minimum academic and clinical practicum requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The degree program requires a minimum of five academic semesters to complete, including continuous enrollment in the summer session between the first and second years. Thesis and non-thesis options are available. All candidates for the M.S. degree are required to pass a written comprehensive examination.

Students should also be aware of Graduate School requirements with regard to master’s degrees (http://catalog.uark.edu/graduatecatalog/degreqrequisites/#mastersdegreqtext).

The Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in communication disorders with an emphasis on speech-language pathology at the University of Arkansas is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700. The CAA's Accreditation Action Report is available online on the CAA's webpage (http://www.asha.org/Academic/accreditation/caaDecisions) for recent accreditation decisions.

Prerequisites to Degree Program: Applicants to the M.S. degree in speech-language pathology are expected to have completed prerequisite course work in normal speech, language, and hearing functions, normal development, and speech-language and hearing disorders, as well as biological and physical sciences, behavioral and social sciences, and mathematics. Prospective applicants with undergraduate degrees in other disciplines should contact the Program Adviser for further information. To be considered for admission to graduate study in communication disorders, applicants must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.00 in undergraduate course work and must submit transcripts of all college-level coursework, a personal statement, and three letters of recommendation from persons competent to judge the applicant’s potential for graduate studies. All applicants must submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination for full consideration. Students are only accepted for Fall admission. The application deadline is February 1 and must be completed using the CSDCAS centralized electronic application process (see the Communication Disorders website (http://cdis.uark.edu) for details). Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered. Admission decisions are based on demonstrated graduate potential as well as best fit for the program.

Courses
CDIS 4103. Sign Language and Deafness (Sp, Su, Fa). 3 Hours.
An introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) and the Deaf Community that uses it. This class will study expressive and sign language skills using ASL vocabulary, structure and grammar. The Deaf Community will be studied through videotapes and readings. Issues in Deaf Education will also be introduced.

CDIS 4133. Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation (Sp). 3 Hours.
Study of the technique used in the rehabilitation of speech and language problems of the hearing impaired including the role of amplification, auditory training, and speech reading in rehabilitation. Prerequisite: CDIS 3103.

CDIS 4183. Clinical Assessment of Speech and Language Disorders (Sp). 3 Hours.
Study of the basic diagnostic procedures used in speech-language pathology. Emphasis is placed on the clinical processes of assessment, including criteria for test selection, techniques in test administration, and interpretation of test. Pre- or Corequisite: Prior coursework in CDIS and ANTH 1023.

CDIS 4213. Introduction to Speech and Hearing Science (Sp). 3 Hours.
Study of the acoustic structure of oral speech and the auditory skills underlying speech perception. Pre- or Corequisite: MATH 1203 or higher. Prerequisite: CDIS 3203, CDIS 3213, CDIS 3124 and its lab component.

CDIS 4223. Language Disorders in Children (Sp). 3 Hours.
Study of disorders of language acquisition and usage in children and adolescents, with emphasis upon the nature, assessment, and treatment of such disorders. Prerequisite: CDIS 3224.

CDIS 4253. Neurological Bases of Communication (Fa). 3 Hours.
A study of the structures and functions of the central and peripheral nervous systems as they relate to human speech, language, and cognition. Prerequisite: CDIS 3213.

CDIS 4263. Advanced Audiology (Fa). 3 Hours.
Study of the basic techniques used in audiological assessment of children and adults, including pure tone audiometry, speech audiometry, and special tests of hearing function. Prerequisite: CDIS 3103.

CDIS 4273. Communication Behavior and Aging (Fa). 3 Hours.
Study of the effects upon communication of normal aspects of the aging process, from early adulthood throughout the lifespan. Changes in speech, language, and hearing functioning are identified; common alterations in communicative disorders commonly associated with advanced age are discussed.

CDIS 5102. Research Methodology in Communication Disorders (Su). 2 Hours.
An examination of methods of research in speech-language pathology and audiology and of the use of bibliographic tools. Focuses on purposes and problems of various forms of communication disorders research, procedures and instruments employed, and reporting of research. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.
CDIS 5112. Seminar in Early Intervention (Sp). 2 Hours.
Study of a family-centered, transdisciplinary approach to early intervention with infants and toddlers at-risk for communication disorders. Topics include early communication development, service delivery in a family context, coordination with other disciplines, and legislation mandating services. Prerequisite: CDIS 3224 or equivalent, and graduate standing.

CDIS 5121L. Feeding and Swallowing Disorders Lab (Fa). 1 Hour.
Observation and interpretation of techniques used for assessment and remediation of feeding and swallowing disorders in children and adults. Corequisite: CDIS 5122. Prerequisite: CDIS 5213 and graduate standing.

CDIS 5122. Feeding and Swallowing Disorders (Fa). 2 Hours.
Study of the etiology, assessment, and remediation of feeding and swallowing disorders in children and adults. Prerequisite: CDIS 3213 or equivalent, and graduate standing.

CDIS 5133. Discourse Analysis and Treatment (Fa). 3 Hours.
Study of discourse behaviors and discourse analysis procedures appropriate for communicatively disordered children and adults, along with review of management approaches associated with impaired discourse performance. Prerequisite: Previous course work in language process and disorders, and graduate standing.

CDIS 5143. Cognitive-Communication Development and Disorders (Fa). 3 Hours.
Study of normal cognitive development, the role of communication in this development, and shifts that may occur in conjunction with various speech, language and/or hearing disorders. Prerequisite: CDIS 3224.

CDIS 5152. TBI and Right-Hemisphere Disorders (Irregular). 2 Hours.
Study of the speech and language disorders commonly resulting from traumatic brain injury and right hemisphere disorders. Prerequisite: CDIS 4253 or equivalent, and graduate standing.

CDIS 5163. Seminar in Language Topics (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of selected topics in normal and disordered language acquisition and/or language use. Implications of current research are reviewed and applied to evaluation and management of language impairment(s). Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Investigation of research in selected problems of oral communication; recent developments in speech-language pathology and audiology; individual problems for investigation. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CDIS 5214. Voice and Resonance Disorders (Su). 4 Hours.
Study of disorders of phonation and resonation, including etiologies, diagnosis, and intervention strategies. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CDIS 5222. Fluency Disorders (Fa). 2 Hours.
Speech disfluency, including theoretical etiological assumptions and management consideration. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CDIS 5232. Seminar in Misarticulation (Sp). 2 Hours.
Etymology, diagnosis and treatment of disorders of speech articulation. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CDIS 5243. Language Disorders in Adults (Sp). 3 Hours.
Cognitive and communicative breakdown due to neurological trauma, including etiology, characteristics, assessment and treatment for aphasia, traumatic brain injury, and right hemisphere disorders. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CDIS 5253. Motor Speech Disorders (Sp). 3 Hours.
Study of motor speech production disorders related to damage to central or peripheral nervous system motor centers and pathways. Cerebral palsy, adult dysarthria, apraxia, and dysphagia are emphasized. Both theoretical and treatment considerations are addressed. Prerequisite: CDIS 4253 or equivalent, and graduate standing.

CDIS 5273. Language, Learning and Literacy (Su). 3 Hours.
An examination of language-based literacy skills, including consideration of development, disorders, assessment and intervention.

CDIS 528V. ADV CP: Speech-Language (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.

CDIS 5293. Augmentative and Alternative Communication (Fa). 3 Hours.
Approaches to communication management with the severely and profoundly handicapped child or adult, with primary emphasis on augmentative and alternative communication assessment and intervention. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CDIS 5311. Diagnostic Practicum (Sp, Su, Fa). 1 Hour.
PRACTicum activities in speech-language assessment. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CDIS 5311. Clinical Practicum: Hearing Disorders (Sp, Su, Fa). 1 Hour.
PRACTicum in audiology.

CDIS 548V. Off-Campus Practicum: Public School Site (Sp, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
PRACTicum activities in speech-language disorders in a public school setting. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

CDIS 558V. Internship: Clinical Site (Sp, Su, Fa). 3-6 Hour.
Field placement in approved clinical setting for clock hours in speech-language pathology assessment and treatment. Students in the master's program must enroll in a minimum of 3 credit hours of CDIS 558V or CDIS 578V during their last semester of graduate studies. Prerequisite: Graduate standing; Completion of one semester of either CDIS 548V or CDIS 568V. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

CDIS 558V. Off-Campus Practicum: Clinical Site (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
PRACTicum activities in speech-language disorders in an off-campus clinical site. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and completion of at least 2 semesters of CDIS 528V.

CDIS 578V. Internship: Public School Site (Sp, Su, Fa). 3-6 Hour.
Field placement in approved public school setting for clock hours in speech-language pathology assessment and treatment. Students in the Master's program must enroll in a minimum of 3 credit hours of CDIS 578V or CDIS 558V during their last semester of graduate studies. Prerequisite: Graduate standing; Completion of one semester of either CDIS 548V or CDIS 568V. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

CDIS 590V. Special Problems (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

CDIS 599V. Seminar in Professional Issues (Sp, Fa). 1-3 Hour.
Selected topics in professional issues in speech-language pathology and audiology.

CDIS 600V. Master's Thesis (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Master's Thesis. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

CDIS 699V. Seminar in Communication Sciences and Disorders (Irregular). 1-6 Hour.
Discussion of pertinent topics and issues in the discipline of communication sciences and disorders. Prerequisite: Advanced graduate standing. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.