



COMMUNICATION SCIENCES

B.A. IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES

The Department of Communication Sciences prepares undergraduate students to address broad issues of human communication processes and disorders through the application of cutting-edge technology and rigorous clinical training. We provide a comprehensive foundation in normal and disordered human communication and combine it with innovative interdisciplinary experiences that capitalize on the extensive resources of the university and the University Circle medical community.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OFFERINGS

Students majoring in communication sciences with a concentration in communication disorders complete 45 credit hours of required courses. This course work includes study in communication sciences and disorders, psychology, English/linguistics, as well as statistics and research design.

Suggested Sequence of Required Courses (45 credits)

First Year

- PSCL 101 General Psychology (3)
- COSI 109 Introduction to Communication Disorders (3)

Sophomore Year

- COSI 211 Phonetics and Phonology (3)
- COSI 260 Multicultural Aspects of Communication (3)
- PSCL 230 Child Psychology (3)
- COSI 220 Introduction to American Sign Language (3)
- PSCL 282 Quantitative Methods in Psychology (3)
- ENGL 301 Linguistic Analysis (3)

Junior Year

- COSI 313 Language Development (3)
- COSI 325 Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanism (3)
- PSCL 375 Research Design and Analysis (3)
- COSI 321 Speech and Hearing Science (3)

Senior Year

- COSI 352 Introduction to Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology (3)
- COSI 370 Introduction to Audiology (3)
- COSI 345 Communication and Aging (3)

This is the suggested sequence of courses; an individual student's sequence may differ.

Recommended Electives

- COSI 305 Neuroscience of Communication Disorders
- PSCL 290 Adolescence
- PSCL 317 Health Psychology
- PSCL 344 Developmental Psychopathology
- PSCL 350 Behavior Genetics
- PSCL 353 Psychology of Learning
- PSCL 357 Cognitive Psychology
- PSCL 370 Human Intelligence
- PSCL 382 Psychological Measurement
- PSCL 393 Experimental Child Psychology
- ANTH 306 Anthropology of Childhood and the Family
- EDUC 304 Educational Psychology
- ENGL 379 Topics in Language
- ENGL 317 Business and Technical Writing
- ENGL 310 History of the English Language
- PHIL 385 Philosophy of Language
- BIOL 150 Human Anatomy and Physiology for Health Science Students

Students who are interested in course work in education, educational psychology, early childhood and literacy can explore opportunities to take course work at other colleges/universities in the Cleveland area.

Department Electives

- COSI 305 Neuroscience of Communication and Communication Disorders
- COSI 390 Independent Study
- COSI 395 Honors Program

Undergraduate students may elect to take 400 or 500 level graduate courses with departmental/instructor permission.

HONORS PROGRAM

During their junior year, communication sciences majors with a 3.25 grade point average (GPA) in course work required for the major and an overall GPA of 3.0 may apply to the department's honors program. This program provides a student with an intensive, supervised research experience in an area of his or her choice.

Students must have completed PSCL 282 and PSCL 375 before beginning the honors program. Students participating in the honors program enroll in COSI 395 during the fall or spring semester of their senior year. The student chooses a faculty mentor and works under the close supervision of that faculty member to complete their project. At the end of the semester, the student submits a written manuscript (e.g., report of the research project) or product for consideration of graduation with Honors in Communication Sciences.

INTEGRATED GRADUATE STUDIES

The Integrated Graduate Studies (IGS) program allows a student to complete a master's degree in just one year beyond the bachelor's degree. Qualified students may be accepted for admission to the School of Graduate Studies after completion of at least 90 credits of undergraduate course work as well as completion of all general education requirements.

Graduate students are required to complete a minimum of 36 hours of graduate course work, including four semesters of clinical practicum (COSI 452). Undergraduates at Case may register for 400 and 500 level courses, contingent on department approval. Thus, undergraduate communication sciences majors can take COSI 456, for example, as early as the second semester of their junior year. IGS students can also opt to complete a master's thesis.

The requirements for teacher licensure can be completed and include a semester of a student teaching externship in speech-language pathology in one of the nearby school districts.

GRADUATES

Typically, students who complete an undergraduate degree in communication sciences pursue graduate education in speech-language pathology or audiology. Undergraduate course work in the communication disorders curriculum emphasizes the basic processes and acquisition of normal communication in children and adults. Graduate study then focuses on the study of disordered communication.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional organization for speech-language pathologists and audiologists, professionals who provide assessment and intervention services to persons with communication disorders. They are employed in a variety of settings including hospitals, nursing homes, schools and private practice.

A master's degree is the entry level degree for professional clinical practice in speech-language pathology. For audiology, a master's degree is currently required and soon a clinical doctorate in audiology (Au.D.) will be the entry level professional degree. In most states speech-language pathologists and audiologists must hold a state license to practice. In addition, many states require that speech-language pathologists employed in the public schools hold some sort of teacher certification or teacher licensure.

Study in communication sciences may be combined with undergraduate or graduate study in other fields. For example, a major in communication sciences combined with a major in sociology or psychology or with a minor in gerontological studies would prepare students for work in human services fields such as medicine, social work, nursing or education work with persons with communication disorders. For students interested in academic or research careers, investigation in the field of communication disorders is often done alongside investigation of normal human behavior.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Communication Sciences

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<http://www.case.edu/artsci/cosi/>

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