

Communication Sciences and Disorders

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Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is one of the departments in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. This department offers a master's degree program in Speech Language Pathology. Additionally, nine undergraduate prerequisite courses are offered for interested applicants with a bachelor's degree in another discipline. The unique focus of the CSD department is one of Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CLD). The goal of the department is to educate CLD professionals to meet the needs of multicultural populations with communication disorders. Students matriculating in the program will benefit from the infusion of CLD throughout the curriculum.

Students will have opportunities to receive clinical education from a variety of clinical settings in the Miami Metropolitan area including hospitals, schools, private practices and community based clinics. They will also engage in research projects with faculty members. A description of the admission requirements and description of master's programs follow.

Admission Criteria

Applicants for admission to the master's degree program must meet the current FIU minimum standards for admission to graduate school.

1. A grade point average of 3.0 in the last 60 hours of undergraduate study
2. Bachelor's degree
3. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.5 overall on the IELTS is required.

Additionally, the CSD department requires the following for admission to the graduate program:

1. Departmental application
2. FIU Graduate School online application
3. Letter of interest summarizing interests
4. Two letters of recommendation from persons with knowledge of academic performance
5. Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders or completion of the 9 required prerequisite courses.

Requirements for students without a bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders requires an individual applying for the master's degree to hold a bachelor's degree in communication disorders or its equivalent. An applicant's undergraduate background influences the time necessary to complete the graduate degree, as there are 9 prerequisite courses required for entrance to the graduate program. Interested individuals should contact the department prior to completing an application for admission. The following

courses or their equivalents are required for all interested persons without an undergraduate degree in communication disorders:

LIN 3013	General Linguistics	3
SPA 4002	Survey of Communication Disorders	3
SPA 4004	Introduction to Speech & Language Development and Disorders	3
SPA 4011	Speech & Hearing Science	3
SPA 4030	Introduction to Audiology	3
SPA 4050	Clinical Management in Communication Disorders	3
SPA 4101	Anatomy & Physiology of Speech & Hearing	3
SPA 4101L	Anatomy & Physiology of Sp. & Hear. Lab	1
SPA 4112	Principles of Phonetics	3

Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology consists of 51-55 graduate hours. The specific credit hours required will depend upon student's selection of thesis versus non-thesis options. Full time enrollment is required. Students will complete four semesters and two summers in the program. Student progress will be monitored each semester by departmental faculty.

An overall GPA of 3.0 is required for graduation. A grade of "B" or higher is required for all courses in your program of study. If a student receives a grade of "B-", then that course must be retaken; however, a course can be repeated only once. Only two courses can be used for the forgiveness policy. A passing grade is required in each clinical practicum course for continuation in or completion of the program. Any student who earns a grade of "B-" or lower in two clinical practicum courses will be terminated from the program.

Clinical practicum hours will be obtained in a variety of community settings. A minimum of 400 clock hours is required for graduation. Passage of the PRAXIS (600 passing score) is required for degree completion.

The program of study provides students with theoretical and clinical education to develop the competencies needed to practice as a speech-language pathologist. Upon completion of the master's degree, the graduate will have met all academic and practicum requirements for the certificate of clinical competence awarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology at Florida International University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Blvd, Rockville, MD 20850, (301) 296-5700. Please feel free to contact the CAA if you have any questions about accreditation.

Program of Study

Core Courses in Speech-Language Pathology (45)

Practical Courses: (6)

SPA 5553	Differential Diagnosis of Communicative Disorders	3
SPA 5805	Research Methodology in Communication Disorders	3

Speech: (15)

SPA 5204	Phonological Disorders	3
SPA 5216	Vocal, Velopharyngeal and Fluency Disorders	3
SPA 5107	Neurological Bases of Communication Disorders	3
SPA 6232	Neuromotor Communication Disorders and Augmentative Communication	3
SPA 6565	Dysphagia	3

Language: (9)

SPA 5402	Language Learning in Preschool Children	3
SPA 5403	Language Learning in School-Aged Children	3
SPA 6410	Aphasia and Related Disorders	3

Audiology: (3)

SPA 6322	Aural Habilitation and Rehabilitation	3
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Clinical Practicum: (12)

SPA 5500	Basic Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 5502	Intermediate Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 6505	Advanced Clinical Practicum	3

One clinical practicum must be repeated for a total of 12 credits in clinical practica.

Research [Thesis–6 credit] or Bilingual Emphasis [Non-Thesis–10 credits]

Students are required to select a thesis or non-thesis option as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's degree. For the thesis option students will enroll in six hours of thesis (SPA 6971) credits. The non-thesis option (10 credits) mandates nine credits of coursework with emphasis on bilingual issues in communication disorders and one credit for a Master's Project (SPA 6930).

Bilingual Emphasis Requirements

SPA 6406	Dual Language Acquisition and Disorders	3
SPA 6005	Assessment & Treatment of the Bilingual Child with Communication Disorders	3
SPA 6479	Aging & Communication Disorders in a Bilingual Society	3
SPA 6930	Master's Project	1