Communication Sciences and Disorders

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Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is one of the Departments in the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences. This CSD Department offers a master's degree program in Speech Language Pathology. Additionally, ten required graduate prerequisite courses are offered for interested applicants who have a bachelor's degree in another discipline via the Graduate Certificate in CSD. 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. Special emphasis is placed on the provision of services to the bilingual population of the Metropolitan Miami area. Students will take extra coursework that emphasize multilingual/multicultural issues as they apply to language acquisition as well as assessment and intervention of speech and language disorders in adults and children.

Students will also 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 that will further their experience with multilingual/multicultural populations. They also will be required to engage in research projects with faculty members. A description of the admission requirements and a description of the master's program 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. Statement of purpose summarizing skills and interests in the program
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 10 required prerequisite courses.
6. Students considered for Masters' SLP admission will be invited for an interview and asked to complete a spontaneous writing sample. Accommodations will be made for invited students who are not able to come to campus.

Requirements for students without a bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and 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 10 prerequisite courses required for entrance to the graduate program via the Graduate Certificate program in CSD (28 credits). The following courses or their equivalents are required in the Graduate Certificate in CSD:

LIN 5018	Introduction to Linguistics	3
SPA 5012C	Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
SPA 5009C	Normal Communication Development and Disorders	3
SPA 5150C	Acoustics of the Sciences of Speech and Hearing	3
SPA 5035C	Disorders of Hearing and Audiological Sciences	3
SPA 5051C	Clinical Observation, Management, and Procedures in Communication Disorders	3
SPA 5102C	Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology of Mechanisms of Communication	3
SPA 5102L	Laboratory in Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology of Mechanisms of Communication	1
SPA 5113C	Advanced Applied Phonetics	3
SPA 6322	Aural Habilitation and Rehabilitation	3

Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology consists of 61 graduate hours. Full time enrollment is required. Students will complete six semesters 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 the program of study. If a student receives a grade of "B-" or below, then that course must be retaken; however, only two courses can be repeated. Any student who earns a grade of "B-" or lower in more than two courses will be terminated from the program.

Clinical practicum hours will be obtained in a variety of community settings. A minimum of 400 clinical clock hours are required for graduation. Passing the PRAXIS examination (162 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 applying 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 (52)

Speech: (18)

SPA 5204	Phonological Disorders	3
SPA 5216	Vocal and Velopharyngeal Disorders	3
SPA 5225	Fluency Disorders	3
SPA 5107	Neurological Bases of Communication Disorders	3
SPA 6232	Neuromotor Communication Disorders	3
SPA 6565	Dysphagia	3

Language: (18)

SPA 5402	Language Learning in Preschool Children	3
SPA 5403	Language Learning in School-Aged Children	3
SPA 6406	Dual Language Acquisition and Disorders	3
SPA 6410	Aphasia and Related Disorders	3
SPA 6005	Assessment & Treatment of the Bilingual Child with Communication Disorders	3
SPA 6479	Communication Disorders and Aging in a Bilingual Society	3

Practical Courses: (16)

SPA 5553	Differential Diagnosis of Communicative Disorders	3
SPA 5935L	Pre-Clinic Seminar	1
SPA 5500	Basic Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 5502	Intermediate Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 6505	Advanced Clinical Practicum**	3

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

Research

[Thesis–9 credits]

SPA 5805	Research Methodology in Communication Disorders	3
SPA 6971	Master's Thesis	6

[Non-Thesis–6 credits]

SPA 5805	Research Methodology in Communication Disorders	3
SPA 6930	Master's Project	3

Students will enroll in 1 credit of Master's Project per semester in each of their last 3 semesters in the program.

Electives: (3)

The non-thesis option also mandates the selection of 1 of the following elective courses for an additional 3 credits.

**SPA 6322	Aural Habilitation and Rehabilitation	3
SPA 6254	Adult Communication Disorders and Cognition	3
SPA 6559	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	3
SPA 6938	Topics in Speech Pathology	3

**Students who have not taken this course via the Graduate Certificate or in their undergraduate CSD program at another university will be required to take this course for the elective requirement.