

## Communicative Sciences and Disorders

### Introduction to the Master of Arts Program

The Master of Arts (M.A.) program in Communicative Sciences and Disorders is designed to prepare students to meet the academic and practicum requirements of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology. A supportive environment is provided for students throughout their academic and clinical training. Small classes facilitate individual instruction and attention for all students. Students are provided the opportunity to develop their research through the required completion of a pilot research project or by collaboration with faculty in their research. The course, "Readings in Speech/Language Pathology" provides students with an additional means for individualizing their graduate program.

The faculty of the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders is committed to quality teaching and professional service. Members of the program's faculty have received university awards for Distinguished Teaching, and faculty/course evaluations rate them consistently in the highest range.

### Academic Program

The Master's degree program in Speech-Language Pathology is designed to provide the student with the knowledge base and clinical skills required for a professional career in the diagnosis and management of individuals with speech, language, and related disorders.

Depending upon the student's background, the typical master's degree program for a student with an undergraduate degree in Speech/Language Pathology requires a minimum of four full-time academic semesters plus one summer session. Students with undergraduate training in other fields may need additional course work to fulfill degree and national certification requirements. An individual plan of study is designed with each student, based upon their undergraduate background.

The M.A. program is accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The program in Communicative Sciences and Disorders is housed within the School of Science.

### Clinical Training

Students engage in a wide range of diagnostic and therapy experiences under the direct supervision of faculty and ASHA-certified clinical staff. These experiences include individual case management (assessment and treatment), group therapy, and diagnostic evaluations. Through its Speech, Language and Hearing Clinics, students are given the opportunity to serve children and adults with diverse communication disorders, such as articulation and language delays, hearing impairment, aphasia, voice disorders, and fluency disorders.

Further on in the clinical practicum experience, students are eligible for externship placement in the Greater Hampton Roads area. Placements may include public schools, hospitals, nursing care centers, rehabilitation centers and private clinics.

### Financial Support

Students may apply for university or department financial aid programs. Departmental awards are based upon student eligibility and the availability of funds. University financial aid programs include: assistantships (teaching, research, laboratory or resident hall) and the College Work-Study Program. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is responsible for awarding all types of student financial assistance.

### Degree Plan of Study: Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Required Courses: 49 credits			Cr.
CDS	501	Research Design in Speech and Hearing Science	3
CDS	600	Speech Science	3

CDS	601	Neurophysiological Bases of Language	3
CDS	602	Diagnostic Procedures in Speech and Language Pathology	3
CDS	603	Aphasia and Related Disorders	3
CDS	606	Voice Disorders	3
CDS	607	Stuttering	3
CDS	612	Studies in Articulation Problems	3
CDS	618	Advanced Clinical Practicum	6
CDS	620	Language Acquisition and Development	3
CDS	621	Language Disorders	3
CDS	622	Family Intervention Strategies in CDS	3
CDS	624	Reading in CDS	3
CDS	628	Diagnosis and Management of Swallowing Disorders	3
CDS	699	Independent Study	3
CDS	702	Comprehensive Examination	1

**Total Credits: 49**

*This profile sheet should be used in concurrence with your academic catalog and the guidance of your academic advisor.*

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