Communication Sciences and Disorders

When the ability to communicate is disrupted, every aspect of daily living is affected. As a Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist, your evaluation and treatment helps clients and their families to improve communication skills and cope with the difficulties of communication disorders.

In Speech-Language Pathology, you’ll treat conditions such as stuttering, delayed language development, aphasia, and voice and articulation problems. In Audiology, you’ll treat and measure hearing loss with hearing aids and assistive listening devices, and be involved in hearing loss prevention and hearing conservation. In these rewarding fields, you’ll take a comprehensive approach to patient care through your interactions with physicians, psychologists, teachers and other rehabilitation professionals.

The ability to communicate is essential to learning, working and social interactions with others.

U.S. News and World Report ranks our Communication Sciences and Disorders program within the top 25 percent across the country. We offer three study options: the Health Care Track, for professional practice in a medical facility; the School Track, for employment in a school setting (meets certification requirements of the State’s Department of Public Instruction); and the Combination Track (Health Care and School Tracks.)

The Bachelor of Science program prepares you for the graduate study required for clinical practice. Unusual in undergraduate programs, our program includes a one-semester clinical practicum where you’ll work directly with clients in the UWM Speech and Language Clinic. This real-world experience gives you the edge on the competition when applying to graduate programs across the country.

Our Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology meets the academic and clinical requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) and is accredited by the Educational Standards Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Our College is widely known for its excellent teaching and student learning environment, superb innovative research programs, community engagement and service to various health care professions. Our College contains the largest collection of health-related degree programs in the region. All of our programs have numerous affiliations with health care institutions and medical centers throughout Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the United States. Our community partners number in the hundreds in addition to our own clinics where faculty and students interact with patients in an educational setting.

Our primary mission is to provide the best educational experience for our students. To accomplish this, our faculty and staff have led the way introducing new technologies into the classroom, integrating research into the undergraduate and graduate curricula and providing the best fieldwork experience. Our graduates perform far above the national average on national board certification examinations in the various accredited disciplines and are extremely competitive in the global market.

BECOMING INVOLVED
The National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is an active student organization which volunteers in the community and provides support for students to pursue educational and professional development, such as attending professional workshops and conferences.

WHERE YOU CAN WORK
- Hospitals
- Rehabilitation facilities
- Private practice
- Public/private schools
- Universities
- Physician offices
- Home health agencies
- Hearing centers

WHAT YOU CAN BE
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Audiologists

YEARS OF COLLEGE REQUIRED
6 years for SLP Master’s Degree and 4 year’s post-baccalaureate for the AuD.

2008 wage levels in Wisconsin for Speech-Language Pathologists were reported to be: $44,110 (entry level), $59,650 (average) and $67,470 (experienced.) For Audiologists, $49,750 (entry level), $64,950 (average) and $72,550 (experienced.)

YEARS OF COLLEGE REQUIRED
6 years for SLP Master’s Degree and 4 year’s post-baccalaureate for the AuD.

JOB OUTLOOK
Employment of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists is expected to have moderate increases in growth. Employment as a speech-language pathologist is expected to grow by 5.42% through 2016. Employment as an Audiologist is expected to grow 5.53% through 2016.

YOU SHOULD ENJOY...
helping people; talking, but especially listening; thinking about words; analyzing behavior; learning about: the brain & how it functions; how sound waves travel in air, how people use symbols to communicate
Communication Sciences and Disorders

The undergraduate major in communication sciences and disorders has three tracks: (1) the Wisconsin School Track which enables students to meet the State of Wisconsin’s Department of Public Instruction certification requirements, (2) the Health Care Track which prepares students to work in a medical facility, and (3) completion of both tracks. The choice of educational track should be based upon the student’s ultimate career goal. Either track may be instituted at any time even at the graduate level, keeping in mind that prerequisites may need to be met. The curriculum leads to a B.S. degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The undergraduate curriculum includes the University’s General Education Requirements and emphasizes the study of the anatomical, physiological and psychological bases of speech, language and hearing. Undergraduate courses offer students a survey of communication disorders, as well as an opportunity for clinical observation and direct management of patients with communication disorders. Students with undergraduate degrees in fields other than communication sciences and disorders will need to complete required pre-requisite coursework before applying to graduate programs.

**Admission to the Major:**
- A cumulative UWM GPA of 2.500.
- A GPA of 2.75 or better in Communication Sciences and Disorders courses 220, 230, and 240, earned the first time.
- Completion of 58 credits.
- Completion of UWM’s General Education Requirement for English composition and mathematics.
- Completion of an application form. Applications are available in the Student Affairs Office, NWQB 6451.
- Endorsement by the Program Director of the student’s written application. Students will receive written notice of admission decision. A meeting with your assigned advisor to discuss the program of study is required immediately following admission to the major.
- Completion of a background check.

**Graduation Requirements:**
- Completion of required 120 credits.
- A cumulative UWM GPA of 2.5.
- Completion of all University General Education Requirements.
- Students planning to continue their education at the graduate level should note that the UWM Graduate Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders requires a 3.0 overall GPA for admission with full graduate standing. Admission to graduate programs is competitive. A 3.0 GPA does not guarantee admission.

**Academic Advising**
Professional advisors provide information and guidance to help students make informed educational decisions. Students are encouraged to meet with an advisor at least once each semester. To schedule an advising appointment, call the Office of Student Affairs appointment line: (414) 229-2758.