

REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH  
A NON-COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS BACHELOR'S DEGREE  
(UNDERGRADUATE NONDEGREE/SPECIAL STUDENTS)

The preparation for this career includes completing a master's degree, passing a national exam, completing nine months of supervised professional experience, and obtaining the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). Students who already have a bachelor's degree but not in the area of speech-language pathology/communication disorders must complete the equivalent of a major in Communication Sciences and Disorders prior to entering the graduate program. The following information relates to completing those requirements.

**APPLICATION:**

- Complete the Application for Undergraduate Admission [apply.wisconsin.edu](http://apply.wisconsin.edu)
- Apply as a Nondegree/Special Student: when asked *Reason for Applying* answer *Undergraduate Courses as Visitor/Guest*
- Select the following Program/Major: College of Health Sciences, Communication Sciences and Disorders

**INFORMATION AND ADVISING:** Aggie Northrup serves as advisor to all nondegree/special students. She can be reached at (414) 229-2758 or by email, [witowski@uwm.edu](mailto:witowski@uwm.edu). Contact Ms. Northrup to discuss your course of study or for additional information.

**FINANCIAL AID:** Questions regarding financial aid for Non-Degree/Special Students should be directed to Gayla Jenkins, [jenkinsg@uwm.edu](mailto:jenkinsg@uwm.edu), in the UWM Financial Aid Office.

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DEFICIENCIES:** Completion of the undergraduate course deficiencies listed below (11 courses, 35 credits) will require 3-to-4 semesters because of sequencing and prerequisite requirements. Most Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders courses are taught during the day and are typically offered only once a year. Clinical experience is deferred until the graduate program but some hours of observation, including diagnosis and treatment, may be obtained in the COMSDIS 350/351 courses. Students initiating the nondegree/special student program should plan to complete it by following the recommended sequence of courses on page two. Based on ASHA standards, students preparing for professional certification in speech-language pathology must also have transcript credit (which could include course work, advanced placement, CLEP, or examination of equivalency) for each of the following areas: biological sciences(e.g., anatomy & physiology), physical sciences (i.e. chemistry or physics), social/behavioral sciences (e.g., psychology), and statistics.

COMSDIS 220 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech, Hearing, and Language Mechanisms	4 cr.
COMSDIS 230 Introduction to Phonetics	4 cr.
COMSDIS 240 Normal Speech and Language Development	3 cr.
COMSDIS 350 Clinical Process I: Articulation and Phonology Disorders	3 cr.
COMSDIS 351 Clinical Process II: Child Language Disorders	3 cr.
COMSDIS 380 Bases of Hearing Science	3 cr.
COMSDIS 470 Introduction to Audiology	3 cr.
COMSDIS 480 Speech Science	3 cr.
COMSIDS 490 Audiologic (Re)Habilitation	3 cr.
KIN 270 Statistics in the Health Professions: Theory and Practice	3 cr.
EXCEDUC 600 Survey of Exceptional Education	3 cr.
Total	35 cr.

Although not specifically required for graduate admission, these other courses are strongly recommended:

- COMSDIS 210 Survey of Communication Disorders, 3 cr.
- COMSDIS 450 Bases of Fluency and Voice Disorders 3 cr.
- COMSDIS 460 Survey of Adult Neurogenic Language and Speech Disorders 3 cr.
- COMSDIS 520 Counseling in Communication Disorders 3 cr.

**PERMISSION TO CONTINUE IN THE MAJOR:** Students must apply for permission to continue in the major upon completion of the following courses: COMSDIS 220, COMSDIS 230, and COMSDIS 240. These courses should be completed by the end of the second semester of study. Students with a GPA lower than 3.0 on these three courses will not be permitted to continue in the major. Courses cannot be repeated to improve the overall GPA. Permission forms are available in the Office of Student Affairs in NWQB 6425.

A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4-point scale) must be maintained in order to continue in the program. Students are encouraged to maintain a significantly higher GPA than 3.0 to be competitive with other graduate school applicants here or elsewhere. All graduate programs in Wisconsin and throughout the nation have many more applicants than can be accepted. Successful completion of the nondegree/special student program requirements does not guarantee entry to the UWM graduate program. Acceptance will depend upon space available in the program at the time of the application and the strength of the academic record.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATION:** Students who will seek Wisconsin Schools Certification at the end of their graduate program are encouraged to take the additional required undergraduate courses listed below. Although these courses do not affect eligibility to apply for the graduate program, students are strongly encouraged to complete these courses as undergraduate students.

EXCEDUC 600	Survey of Exceptional Education	3 cr
	<i>Alternative courses:</i>	
	EXCEDUC 300 The Exceptional Individual	
ED POL 375	Cultural Foundations of Education	3 cr.
	<i>Alternative courses:</i>	
	ED POL 530 Urban Education: Foundations	
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development	3 cr.
COMSDIS 661	The Role of the SLP in Literacy	2 cr.
	<i>Alternative course:</i>	
	CURRINS 343* Teaching of Reading (3 cr)	
ANTHRO 213**	American Indian Peoples of Wisconsin	3 cr.
	<i>Alternative courses:</i>	
	HIST 263 North American Indian History Since 1887	
	AIS 203 Western Great Lakes American Indian Community Life of the Past	
	One-day workshop available each semester, for more info. visit:	
	<a href="http://www4.uwm.edu/soe/departments/outreach/act_31/">http://www4.uwm.edu/soe/departments/outreach/act_31/</a>	

\* This course should be taken only after admission to the major

\*\* Act 31 requirement.

**SEQUENCE OF COURSE OFFERINGS, UNDERGRADUATE NONDEGREE/SPECIAL STUDENTS:**

<u>Summer</u>		<u>Fall</u>		<u>Spring</u>	
COMSDIS 220	4 cr.	COMSDIS 350	3 cr.	COMSDIS 351	3 cr.
COMSDIS 230	4 cr.	COMSDIS 380	3 cr.	COMSDIS 490	3 cr.
COMSDIS 240	3 cr.	COMSDIS 470	3 cr.	EXEDUC 600	3 cr.
		COMSDIS 480	3 cr.	KIN 270	3 cr.

\* This course should be taken only after admission to the major  
COMSDIS courses are taught only in the semester/s shown above.

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