



*Opportunities for*

# GRADUATE STUDIES

*Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders  
at the University of Iowa*

# GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Thank you for considering the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa for graduate study. As one of the oldest, largest, and most highly respected programs of its kind, it has been training students and serving clients with speech, language, and hearing disorders for almost 70 years. Consistently ranked among the most elite programs by *U.S. News and World Report*, the UI graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology are currently ranked #6 and #2 respectively.

Iowa's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers the following graduate degrees:

- Master of Arts in Speech Pathology and Audiology
- Doctor of Audiology
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Combined AuD / PhD

## ABOUT US

The Department is housed in the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center on Iowa's medical campus in Iowa City, Iowa, a community of approximately 75,000 people. In addition to classrooms, offices, and computing facilities, the building houses research laboratories and a fully-staffed training clinic that serves about 750 clients each year.

More than 11,000 square feet of laboratory space allow students interested in research careers to deepen their knowledge in such fields as auditory physiology, auditory rehabilitation, clinical experimental and medical audiology, language disorders and intervention, neurology of speech, voice and language, psychoacoustics, psycholinguistics, speech physiology, fluency, and voice acoustics and biomechanics.



The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities. For additional information on nondiscrimination policies, contact the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, the University of Iowa, 202 Jessup Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1316, 319-335-0705 (voice), 319-335-0697 (TDD), [diversity@uiowa.edu](mailto:diversity@uiowa.edu).

# ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID

A student's graduate program of study can be planned to emphasize certain aspects of the discipline depending on individual interests and career goals. However, it is also the Department's philosophy that the field is unified and encompasses all areas of speech, hearing, and language and involves teaching, clinical, and research activities. Thus, the graduate program of each student will include a basic understanding in all areas of the field along with varied experiences.

Admission to all graduate programs is the responsibility of the Departmental Committee on Admissions. Committee members independently evaluate each application and assign a rating based on a judgment of the applicant's overall potential for successful graduate study. This judgment is based on past academic performance; the nature of previous coursework and the institution at which it was taken; letters of recommendation; and a personal statement (MA-SLP) or personal interview (AuD).

All applications should be submitted on-line.

Prospective students for the Speech-Language Pathology (MA-SLP) and Audiology (AuD) programs are accepted through the CSDCAS centralized application system once per year: **<https://portal.csdcas.org>**.

Applicants interested in the doctoral program in Speech and Hearing Science (PhD) should submit materials through the Graduate Admissions website: **<https://grad.admissions.uiowa.edu/apply>**.

Various types of assistantships and traineeships are available; these awards are determined for new students on a competitive basis by the Department Chair in consultation with members of the Executive Committee.

*The job market for new professionals in the field of communication sciences and disorders is bright. In speech-language pathology, jobs are expected to rise by 25 percent between 2019 and 2029. Job growth for audiology in the same time period is expected to grow by 13% —much higher than the average for other occupations.*

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*



# MASTER OF ARTS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

The highly-ranked University of Iowa Speech-Language Pathology MA program provides superior and diverse educational opportunities which allow graduates to work as speech-language pathologists in any clinical environment. All graduates of the clinical MA program meet the academic and practicum requirements necessary to obtain clinical certification through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Our mission is to produce professionals who have the theoretical foundations and the advanced clinical skills needed for the delivery of clinical services in speech-language pathology. Each fall, typically 24-30 students enter the program.

A set of core coursework is required for completion of the master's degree, along with a minimum of 12 semester hours of menu courses. Students in the MA-SLP programs are assigned to teams each semester that focus on a variety of disorder areas to ensure that they receive a well-rounded clinical education. Each team is directed by a clinical faculty member who is a specialist in that area. Clinical team rotations include:

- Augmentative and alternative communication
- Aural rehabilitation
- Autism and autism spectrum disorders
- Diagnostics
- Fluency disorders
- Neurogenic speech / language disorders
- Speech / language disorders for school-aged children
- Swallowing disorders
- Voice disorders

Opportunities to work with clients with various speech or language difficulties may be arranged at nearby sites, such as the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics or the Center for Disabilities and Development.

Additional programs ensure a well-rounded clinical experience and may include experiences in social skill groups for individuals with autism, a summer preschool for children with hearing loss, or support groups for those with aphasia.



*For seventeen  
consecutive years, the  
University of Iowa  
has been designated a  
“Best Buy” in the Fiske  
Guide to Colleges.*

# DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY



The AuD program at the University of Iowa is ranked #2 in the nation by *US News and World Reports*. It requires four years to complete and is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation. Graduates from this program meet all requirements for clinical certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

The AuD program at the University of Iowa requires 95 semester hours of coursework as well as structured clinical training. Typically, 8-12 students are admitted annually.

Clinical training begins in the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic. This full-service clinic provides experience in a range of different diagnostic procedures and offers structured supervision in remediation of hearing loss using hearing aids, cochlear implants, or other assistive devices for both children and adults. Clinical faculty review each student's progress and as their skills develop, arrange for varied practicum experiences at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, local private practices, the Veterans Administration Medical Center as well as in the schools. Additionally, all AuD students complete a fourth-year outplacement. Students from the University of Iowa have completed these outplacements at many of the top-ranked medical centers in the country.

In addition to the clinical and didactic coursework, all AuD students take and must pass a qualifying examination at the end of each of the first three years of study. This exam ensures that students are meeting required competencies and retaining that knowledge as they progress through the program. AuD students are also required to complete and successfully defend a "Capstone Project" prior to graduation. This is often a mentored research project but can also be a project that addresses a specific clinical need or issue. AuD students take the National Examination for Professional Practice in Audiology prior to completion of their fourth year in the AuD program. The pass rate on this national test is 100% for graduates from the University of Iowa AuD program.

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The PhD program at the University of Iowa provides flexible, comprehensive training for the scholar-researcher interested in communication processes and disorders. Students with diverse backgrounds in the natural and behavioral sciences are encouraged to apply and develop their skills in an atmosphere of interdisciplinary research. The Iowa PhD program in Communication Sciences and Disorders is widely recognized as one of the premier programs of its kind in the country. Graduates from this PhD program work at many of the major CSD programs in the country. Many assume leadership positions in their institutions, professional organizations, or industry.

The number of individuals admitted to the Iowa PhD program is not limited; rather, each applicant's potential for doctoral work is judged by the faculty based on prior coursework, letters of recommendation, as well as a personal statement outlining aptitudes and interests in research. Although the program may include more intensive specialization in particular clinical problems, the PhD is not designed as an advanced clinical degree.

There is no set curriculum for the PhD. The program of study is developed by the student and their mentor in consultation with a faculty committee. Iowa's program reflects the broad interest of its multidisciplinary faculty: speech, language, voice, hearing, engineering, physiology, physics, linguistics, and bioengineering. The purpose of the doctoral program is to provide the integrated knowledge necessary for a productive career in academia.

The time to complete the PhD varies, but typically ranges from four to five years. All PhD students are required to pass a comprehensive examination at the end of their second year in the program. Students are given two weeks to research and answer a set of questions formulated by their committee members. At the end of the two-week period, they meet with their committee and orally defend their work.

The next step is to begin working on a doctoral dissertation. This requires that the student work with their mentor and a committee of at least four other faculty members to design a research project that will add significantly to the scientific literature in the area of interest. The student works with their mentor to develop and defend a proposal at a prospectus meeting with their committee, and ultimately, complete and defend the project in a final, public, oral examination in defense of the dissertation. The PhD is only awarded after favorable recommendation of the final examination committee and completion of all requirements specified for the degree by the Graduate College.

*"I worked on the Cochlear Implant team in Otolaryngology at UIHC while completing my PhD. Thus, I witnessed the number of resources available and high level of collaboration across the departments. I was able to seek out kind, smart, nurturing, and well-connected mentors in both organizations, which were instrumental in developing my clinical and research skills and expanding my professional network. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the intellectual atmosphere, which no doubt influenced my decision to remain as faculty."*  
— Viral Tejani (PhD 2018)

# COMBINED AuD/PhD

Some graduate students interested in audiology combine work toward an AuD with PhD studies. These students begin their graduate work by enrolling in the AuD program. They formally apply to change the degree objective to the combined AuD/PhD after two years of study. If accepted, the student forms a committee to work with them in merging the requirements of both graduate programs efficiently. Decisions about approving the request to change degree objectives are made on a case-by-case basis; those decisions may be influenced by the funding availability as well as the consent of an appropriate research mentor.

## FACULTY

### Didactic Faculty

Carolyn J. Brown, PhD, *Cochlear Implants*

Ishan Bhatt, PhD, *Genetic Influences in Hearing Loss*

Inyong Choi, PhD, *Hearing Neuroscience*

Kelly Schmidt Clay, PhD, *Audiology*

Philip Combiths, *Language Diversity and Acquisition*

Eileen Finnegan, PhD, *Laryngeal Neurophysiology*

Kate Gfeller, PhD, *Music Therapy*

Shawn Goodman, PhD, *Otoacoustic Emissions, Hearing Aids*

Jean K. Gordon, PhD, *Neurogenic Language Disorders*

Kristi Hendrickson, PhD, *Psycholinguistics*

Stewart McCauley, PhD, *Language Learning & Memory*

Bob McMurray, PhD, *Speech Perception*

Richard Tyler, PhD, *Cochlear Implants*

Elizabeth Walker, PhD, *Pediatric Audiology & Aural Rehabilitation*

Yu-Hsiang Wu, PhD, *Hearing Aids & Aging*

Si On Yoon, PhD, *Neural and Cognitive Mechanisms*

### Clinical Faculty

Jenny Brodell, MA, *Autism Spectrum, Speech & Language Disorders*

Karen Bryant, PhD, *Neurogenic Disorders, Swallowing*

Krista Davidson, MS, *Augmentative & Alternative Communication*

Stephanie Fleckenstein, AuD, *Adult, Pediatric Amplification*

Meaghan Foody, MS, *Aural Rehabilitation*

Eun Kyung (Julie) Jeon, PhD, *Audiology and Remediation*

Danielle Kelsay, MA, *Audiology, Aural (Re)habilitation*

Louise Pinkerton, *Voice Disorders*

Anu Subramanian, PhD, *Early Intervention, Fluency*

## Contact

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