



# GENDER AFFIRMING VOICE TRAINING

Gender affirming voice and communication training at the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic introduces clients to ways to modify their communication to be more feminine, more masculine, or for a non-binary style. The clinical care team addresses different areas of communication including pitch, intonation, articulation, resonance, language, nonverbal communication, and more.

Graduate student clinicians in the MA-SLP program conduct group training and provide individual services. They are supervised by Louise Pinkerton, a licensed speech-language pathologist with specialty training in voice and gender affirming communication.

Groups start each semester, and members are charged a flat rate. The Clinic assists clients submitting claims to third-party payers for individual sessions. Coverage varies among insurance carriers and within plans that they offer; the client's financial responsibility depends on the health insurance plan. A sliding fee scale is available, based on each client's annual income and family size. Doctors' referrals are recommended for individual sessions. Self-referrals are also welcomed.

For questions about billing, submission of claims or financial assistance, please contact Cleo McConnell at [cleaster-mcconnell@uiowa.edu](mailto:cleaster-mcconnell@uiowa.edu) or 319-335-8703.

***For further information or to be placed on a waitlist, contact the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic***

 [CSD-WenjoClinic@uiowa.edu](mailto:CSD-WenjoClinic@uiowa.edu)  **319-335-8736**

*Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic in advance at 319-335-8736.*

## Q

**WON'T HORMONES TAKE CARE OF MY VOICE AND COMMUNICATION?**

## A

No, not necessarily. Pitch is only one gender marker. Many aspects of our communication, from gestures, language choices, phrasing, and even how we make speech sounds, also communicate gender. Estrogen doesn't raise the voice, and while testosterone does lower the voice, neither hormone changes other aspects of our communication. Voice training is a great addition to hormone treatment, and we recommend starting voice training prior to starting testosterone if it's possible!

**→ [CSD.UIOWA.EDU/CLINIC](https://CSD.UIOWA.EDU/CLINIC)**