Opportunities for

GRADUATE STUDIES

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Iowa
ABOUT OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa is one of the oldest, largest, and most highly respected programs of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. We’ve been educating students and serving clients with speech, language, and hearing disorders for almost 70 years. Iowa’s graduate programs consistently rank among the most elite by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Iowa’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers four graduate degrees:

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA AND IOWA CITY

The University of Iowa remains a top public research institution in the nation, featuring a nationally recognized academic medical center next to the CSD building. Campus-wide, faculty encourage students to develop their interests across disciplines, adhering to U Iowa’s mission of collaboration over competition. This collaborative environment empowers students to explore, uncover new insights, and share discoveries.

The University is centrally located in Iowa City, a city of about 75,000 people. Iowa City offers an outstanding quality of life and regularly appears on “most charming” and “best places to live” lists for affordability, low crime rates, excellent schools, and commitment to health and wellness. The vibrant downtown hosts numerous musical and cultural festivals each year. Indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities abound.

Iowa City is an easy drive to several large and lively Midwestern cities, including Chicago, Minneapolis, and St. Louis.
GRADUATE PROGRAM APPLICATION

Admission

We believe speech, hearing and language science is unified and encompasses teaching, clinical, and research endeavors. However, we also value students’ individual interests and career goals, and as such, strive for a customized experience for each student as the graduate program of study allows.

Admission to graduate programs is the responsibility of the Departmental Admissions Committee. Members independently evaluate each application and assign a rating based on each applicant’s overall potential for success in graduate study. Their criteria include past academic performance; the nature of previous coursework and the institution where it was taken; letters of recommendation; and a personal statement (MA-SLP) or personal interview (AuD).

Applicants submit materials online.

Prospective students for the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology programs are accepted once per year via the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Science and Disorders Centralized Application System.

Applicants for the doctoral program submit materials through Iowa’s Graduate Admissions website.

Financial Aid

The Department Chair, in consultation with members of the Executive Committee, selects new students for assistantships and traineeships on a competitive basis.

Alumni and friends of the Department have also generously provided funds for scholarships, awarded annually based upon faculty recommendation.
Iowa’s MA-SLP program offers theoretical foundations and advanced clinical skills to prepare graduates to work as speech-language pathologists in any clinical environment. Graduates from Iowa’s program meet all requirements for clinical certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Each fall, typically 24-30 students enter the program.

We require a set of core coursework for completion of the master’s degree. Students then customize their programs by selecting from a wide range of elective courses. Graduate student clinicians serve local clients with speech or language difficulties at our in-house training clinic or 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, a program for teens who stutter, or a support group for those with aphasia.

**CLINICAL ROTATIONS**

MA-SLP students develop clinical skills working in team rotations that focus on disorder areas. Each team is led by a clinical faculty specialist in that area.

Clinical rotations include:

- Augmentative and alternative communication
- Aural rehabilitation
- Autism spectrum disorders
- Diagnostics
- Neurogenic speech disorders
- Speech / language disorders for school-aged children
- Stuttering
- Swallowing disorders
- Voice disorders
Clinical training for future audiologists starts in the in-house Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic. AuD students build skills with a range of diagnostic procedures under the supervision of clinical faculty audiologists. We treat clients of all ages for hearing loss with hearing aids, cochlear implants, or other assistive devices. Clinical faculty review each student’s progress, and as skills develop, arrange for varied practicum experiences at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, local private practices, the Veterans Administration Medical Center, and local schools.

Iowa’s AuD program takes four years to complete. Typically, we admit 8-12 students annually. Our program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation, and graduates from Iowa’s AuD program meet all requirements for clinical certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

In addition to the clinical experiences and didactic coursework, AuD students take a yearly exam to ensure they retain competencies and knowledge. Fourth year AuD students complete an outplacement and design and defend a capstone project prior to graduation.
Doctor of Philosophy

HOPE GERLACH-HOUCK
PhD, Speech and Hearing Science, 2019
Current position: Assistant Professor, Western Michigan University

“I was so fortunate to earn my PhD from the University of Iowa. Possibilities to learn from and connect with some of the most influential researchers in our discipline transformed my educational experience and launched a great start to my career. I wish I could go back and do it again!”

The PhD program at Iowa provides flexible and comprehensive training for the scholar-researcher in communication processes and disorders. We encourage students with diverse backgrounds in the natural and behavioral sciences to apply and develop skills in an atmosphere of collaborative research. The richness of CSD’s faculty expertise provides far-ranging possibilities for students seeking a PhD. Doctoral students develop close associations with faculty who are, and have long been, nationally recognized leaders in their fields who direct successful, externally funded research programs. Their research initiatives are bolstered by the presence and reputation of Iowa’s highly ranked clinical training programs and by strong collaborations forged with faculty from the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, School of Music, and Colleges of Medicine (Otolaryngology/Neurosurgery), Engineering, and Public Health.

Admission to Iowa’s PhD program in Speech and Hearing Science is not limited; rather, faculty assess each applicant’s potential for doctoral work based on prior coursework, letters of recommendation, and a personal statement outlining aptitudes and research interests. Each PhD student crafts a unique program of study with a faculty mentor and committee to ensure knowledge is well integrated for a productive career in academia.

The time to complete the PhD varies, but typically ranges from 4-5 years, culminating in a research project and dissertation that will add significantly to scientific literature.

Combined AuD/PhD

Graduate students in audiology may combine coursework and clinical experiences during the AuD program with PhD studies. AuD/PhD students begin graduate work by enrolling in the AuD program and apply to change the degree objective to a combined degree after two years of study. If accepted, the student forms a committee to efficiently merge the requirements of both graduate programs.
CSD FACULTY

Didactic Faculty

Nancy Almasi, SLPD, Child Speech and Language Disorders
Ishan Bhatt, PhD, Genetic Influences in Hearing Loss
Inyong Choi, PhD, Hearing Neuroscience
Kelly Schmidt Clay, PhD, Audiology
Philip Combiths, PhD, Language Acquisition and Diversity
Shawn Goodman, PhD, Otoacoustic Emissions, Hearing Aids
Eric Hunter, PhD, Occupational Voice Use, Voice Biomechanics
Kristi Hendrickson, PhD, Psycholinguistics
Mili Kuruvilla-Dugdale, PhD, Articulatory Motor Performance
Alison Lemke, MA, Acquired Neurogenic Communication Disorders
Stewart McCauley, PhD, Language Learning, & Memory
Bob McMurray, PhD, Speech Perception
Jacob Michaelson, PhD, Genetic Variations in Language
Naomi Rodgers, PhD, Developmental Stuttering
Hayo Terband, PhD, Speech Motor Control
Richard Tyler, PhD, Cochlear Implants, Tinnitus
Elizabeth Walker, PhD, Pediatric Audiology, Aural Rehabilitation
Yu-Hsiang Wu, PhD, Hearing Aids & Aging

Clinical Faculty

Jennifer Brodell, MA, Autism Spectrum, Speech, & Language Disorders
Karen Bryant, PhD, Neurogenic Disorders, Swallowing
Kellsie Busho, AuD, Hearing Aid Fitting, Hearing Conservation
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, MA, Voice Disorders
Stacy Robinson, MS, Pediatric Speech and Language
Laura Schmitt, MS, Neurogenic Communication Disorders
Anu Subramanian, PhD, Early Intervention, Stuttering
New facility coming in 2025, featuring state-of-the-art research labs and training clinic

**CONTACT**

Graduate Admissions Coordinator
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319-335-8718

→ CSD.UIOWA.EDU/GRADUATE

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