**Communication Sciences and Disorders**

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Priority Admission Application Deadlines:**

**Fall:** December 1

**Spring:** October 15

\* for full consideration; however applications are accepted until February 15

International applicant deadlines:

<http://www.grad.usf.edu/majors>

**Minimum Total Hours: 72** post-bacc

**42** post-masters

**Level:** Doctoral

**CIP Code:** 51.0204

**Dept Code:** CSD

**Major/College:** CSD BC

**Approved** 2010

Also offered as a concurrent degree

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Behavioral & Community Sciences

**Department:** Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD)

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders provides disciplinary and interdisciplinary education to prepare research scientists capable of addressing both theoretical and applied issues in laboratory, clinical, and classroom settings. Academic preparation emphasizes basic and advanced study in the communicative sciences, interdisciplinary study, and extensive research preparation. The program of study is tailored to meet individual interest areas. The overall aim of the doctoral major is to produce graduates who excel in meeting the rigorous demands of an academic/research career.

**Major Research Areas:**

**Speech-Language Sciences***:*

Speech perception and production processes, speech perception by normal hearing listeners and listeners with hearing loss, non-native speech, language development in at-risk populations, linguistic and discourse correlates for reading, writing, and spelling, second language learning and literacy learning, and language variation and multiculturalism;

**Hearing Sciences and Audiology**:

Aural rehabilitation, psychoacoustics, aging, temporal processing, speech perception by impaired listeners, auditory evoked potentials, and otoacoustic emissions;

**Neurocommunicative Sciences***:*

Aphasia, cognitive/linguistic processing in normal aging and adults with neurological disorders, cognitive neuroscience.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University Admission and English Proficiency requirements as well as requirements for admission to the major, listed below.

* Three letters of recommendation
* A letter of intent
* A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution and a GPA of at least 3.50; or a master’s degree from a regionally accredited institution and a GPA of 3.50 or better (on a 4.00 scale) during graduate study. Students with a non-CSD background may be required to take pre-requisite coursework in the basic speech, language, and hearing sciences depending on career plans and desired area of focus.
* GPA of 3.50 or above from previous graduate study.
* GRE with preferred scores at the 33rd percentile for Verbal and, Quantitative subtests, and a 3.50 or better on the Writing subtest, taken within 5 years preceding the application. Students with lower scores may be offered admission on a conditional basis if the letter of intent and letters of recommendation are particularly strong.

**CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

The specific coursework to be completed for core and advanced study requirements are determined individually to create a course of study appropriate to the student’s desired specialization. The core content normally consists of two advanced seminars covering the analysis and synthesis of literature in the content areas of the field (speech, language, hearing, and neurocommunicative science). Completion of the Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders after the Master’s normally requires three years of study; five years after the bachelor’s.

Total Minimum hours: 72 (post‐bacc)

42 (post‐master’s)

Core – 9 credit hours

Research and Tools of Research – 9 credit hours

Advanced Study – 12 credit hours

Foundation--30 credit hours (post-bacc only)

Dissertation – 12 credit hours

**CORE REQUIREMENTS – 9 credit hours**

SPA 7802 3 Critical Analysis of Literature in CSD

SPA 7807 3 Critical Synthesis of Literature in CSD

SPA 7497 2 Proseminar in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Students will complete two semesters (1 credit per semester) of a professional development seminar. This prepares doctoral students for a successful academic career in communication sciences and disorders. Topics discussed include developing a research agenda, building a curriculum vita, teaching in higher education, balancing career and family, professional networking, and keys to success.

SPA 6505 1 Practicum

Students will complete a one-semester practicum on teaching requirements and practices aimed at preparing them to be graduate assistants or instructors in classes at the University of South Florida or other higher education institutions.

**Research and Tools of Research -** 9 credit hours minimum

Coursework required for tools of research include any course work required for the student to develop skills in research methodology in their area of specialty. The student’s academic advisor, major professor and Doctoral Committee will advise students on the selection of appropriate graduate coursework given the student’s area of specialization.  For most students, tools of research will consist of research design and/or statistics courses. However, depending on the student’s area of specialization, courses such as grant writing, computer programming, instructional design, and many others in a variety of departments may be appropriate.

**ADVANCED STUDY REQUIREMENTS**

**Advanced Study -**  12 credit hours minimum

Coursework required for Advanced Study may take the form of directed research or elective graduate coursework, either within the department or in related departments), directed research, or independent study. The student’s academic advisor, major professor and Doctoral Committee will advise students on the selection of the proper mix of directed research, coursework, and other study to support knowledge development in the student’s area of specialization.  For most students, advanced study will consist primarily of directed research credits with Doctoral Committee members, as they begin directed readings to prepare for the Qualifying Examination.

**Foundational knowledge -** 30 credit hours minimum

Bachelor’s level students, in consultation with their academic advisor, will design an appropriate curriculum to obtain foundational content and skills in their area of interest that will prepare them for Advanced Study. The credits may take the form of structured coursework, directed research, or independent study.   Courses in the Department frequently used to satisfy this requirement are listed below.

Note: Students admitted to the program from a non‐CSD background may be required to take pre‐requisite coursework at the undergraduate level in the basic speech, language, and hearing sciences, depending on their career plans and desired area of focus:

SPA 5120 3 Psychoacoustics

SPA 5132 3 Audiology Instrumentation

SPA 5153 3 Quantitative Problem Solving in Speech Pathology and Audiology

SPA 5204 3 Advanced Clinical Phonology

SPA 5303 3 Auditory Anatomy & Physiology

SPA 5328 3 Rehabilitative Audiology for Adults

SPA 5403 3 Language-Learning in the School-Age Years

SPA 5552 3 Diagnostic Principles and Practices

SPA 6211 3 Advanced Vocal Disorders

SPA 6225 3 Advanced Fluency Disorders

SPA 6232 3 Neuromotor Communication Disorders

SPA 6245 3 Craniofacial Communication Disorders

SPA 6305 3 Pediatric Audiology

SPA 6307 3 Speech Perception and Sensorineural Hearing Loss

SPA 6311 3 Medical Audiology

SPA 6314 3 Electrophysiology

SPA 6316 3 Vestibular Evaluation & Treatment

SPA 6324 3 Aural Rehabilitation:  Children

SPA 6340 3 Principles of Amplification I

SPA 6341 3 Principles of Amplification II

SPA 6354 3 Hearing Conservation

SPA 6401 3 Pediatric Language Disorders

SPA 6404 3 Language Learning Disabilities

SPA 6410 3 Aphasia and Related Disorders

SPA 6417 3 Communication & Cognition in Traumatic Brain Injury

SPA 6473 3 Multicultural Differences in Language Use

SPA 6559 3 Augmentative and Alternative Communication

SPA 6564 3 Seminar in Aging, Cognition, and Communication

SPA 6565 3 Seminar in Dysphasia

SPA 6805 3 Research Procedures in Communication Sciences and Disorders

SPA 7330 3 Advanced Vestibular Evaluation and Treatment

SPA 7331 3 Advanced Medical Audiology

SPA 7332 3 Advanced Electrophysiology

SPA 7346 3 Cochlear Implants

SPA 7931 3 Seminar in Communication Sciences and Disorders (topics vary)

**Dissertation - 12 credit hours minimum**

SPA 7980 12 Dissertation

Other In addition to specific degree requirements, a student must complete the following to qualify for graduation:

1. A pre-dissertation project is required. This may or may not involve research that is related to the principal research topic of the dissertation. Successful completion of the pre-dissertation project must be approved by the student’s academic advisor and major professor. In some cases, this requirement may be satisfied by a previously completed master’s thesis or audiology doctoral research project.
2. With the supervision of a qualifying exam committee, pass a qualifying examination that evaluates the student’s specialty knowledge and methodological competence.
3. Establish a doctoral committee prior to admission into doctoral candidacy.
4. Prepare and defend a dissertation proposal.
5. Following completion of the dissertation research, successfully defend the work before the dissertation committee.
6. Departmental policy specifies that any student earning a C+ or below in two courses will be recommended for dismissal from the Ph.D. program.

**Concurrent Degree Option**

**Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) in Audiology (AYD ) – total minimum hours – 120+ credit hours**

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) - total minimum hours – 150 credit hours**

The concurrent Au.D. /Ph.D. degrees option is designed to offer a path for those interested in Clinical Research to earn both doctoral degrees within approximately six years. The primary objective is to produce research audiologists competent to perform the wide array of diagnostic, remedial and other services associated with the practice of audiology as well as conduct independent research in the area of hearing and balance disorders.

Refer to individual Majors for deadlines and details of degree requirements.

Additional Admission Requirements for the Concurrent degree option:

* Admission to the Au.D. Major
* One (1) letter of recommendation from a member of the USF Audiology research faculty.
* A 1-2 page letter of intent.
* Demonstration of competency in communication skills as determined by the chairperson or delegate.

**Shared Courses – 9 hours**

These three courses (9 credits) are shared by the two majors:

SPA6805 Research Procedures in Communication Sciences and Disorders (3 cr)

SPA6910 Directed Research (up to 3 cr)

SPA7834 ADP Seminar (up to 3 cr)

and are accepted in place of three Advanced Au.D. Seminars:

SPA 7330 Advanced Vestibular (3 cr)

SPA 7331 Advanced Med. Aud. (3 cr)

SPA 7332 Advanced Electrophys. (3 cr)

**Degree Requirements** for the Au.D./Ph.D. are the same as the requirements for the individual majors with the following exceptions:

1. The Audiology Doctoral Project (ADP) satisfies the requirements of the pre-dissertation project for the Ph.D.
2. SPA 6805 Research Procedures in Communication Disorders satisfies 3 cr of the Research and Tools of Research Requirement for the Ph.D.
3. SPA7834 ADP Seminar satisfies up to 3 cr of the Advanced Study Requirement for the Ph.D.
4. The Au.D. Course focused on business aspects of managing a private practice (SPA 6393 Audiology Business and Practice Management) is not required for Au.D./Ph.D. students.

**Course Requirements**

See course listings for the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) offered by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The credits required for the Au.D./Ph.D. program will constitute no less than 120 hours beyond the Bachelor’s Degree irrespective of waived courses or course substitutions.

All other requirements of each major must be completed. Refer to the Concurrent Policy for more information.

**COURSES**

See <https://www.systemacademics.usf.edu/course-inventory/>