DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

College of Health Sciences

201 Carter Drive
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383
610-436-3401
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (http://wwwwcupaedu/communicationSciencesDisorders)
Dr. Gunter (cgunter@wcupaedu), Chairperson
Dr. Koenig (mkoenig@wcupaedu), Graduate Coordinator

Programs of Study

The department offers the Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology. The student may choose a thesis or non-thesis track. The program is designed to strengthen the knowledge and skill of the practicing speech-language clinician, to provide the foundation for further graduate study, and to afford an opportunity to complete requirements toward professional certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Attainment of the M.A. degree does not necessarily guarantee recommendation for certification.

Certification Programs

Candidates for the Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology may be recommended for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. They may also be recommended for the Pennsylvania Educational Specialist Certificate upon satisfactory completion of required coursework and clinical practicum.

Programs

Master's Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders

• M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology (http://catalogwcupaedu/graduatehealth-sciencescommunication-sciences-disorders/speech-language-pathology-ma)

Admissions

All applicants to one of West Chester University’s graduate programs will be held to the graduate admissions requirements (http://catalogwcupaedu/general-information/admissions-enrollment/graduate-admissions). When applicable, additional requirements for admission into specific department program(s) may be listed below. In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to a graduate degree program at West Chester University, applicants must do the following:

• Present an undergraduate background of at least 30 semester hours distributed among the following areas of study: psychology, human development, linguistics, statistics, speech and language development, phonetics, speech disorders, language disorders, hearing disorders, basic speech and hearing science, neurology, acoustic phonetics, and 25 hours of supervised clinical observation
• Present undergraduate transcripts showing at least a 3.0 overall grade point average (GPA) in their undergraduate degree program and demonstrate at least a 3.0 GPA in courses in speech-language pathology and audiology
• Demonstrate a reasonable degree of speech and language proficiency which may be measured by a written essay and a personal interview
• Submit Graduate Record Examination scores for purposes of evaluation and guidance
• Submit a log of undergraduate clinical practicum, when available
• Submit two letters of recommendation
• Submit a 500-word essay describing future goals and how West Chester University can help them achieve these goals
• Submit a structured vita based on a format described in a document on the department’s website (http://wcupaeducommunicationSciencesDisorders)

Policies

All graduate students are held to the academic policies and procedures (http://catalogwcupaedu/graduateacademic-policies-procedures) outlined in the graduate catalog. Students are encouraged to review departmental handbooks for program tips, suggested course sequences, and explanations of procedures. When applicable, additional policies for specific department programs may be listed below.

Admission to Degree Candidacy

1. The applicant may apply for degree candidacy after having completed SLP 501 and three additional SLP courses. Application must be made before the student has completed 15 semester hours of graduate work required for the degree.
2. During the precandidacy period, the applicant must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0.

Degree Requirements for the M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology

1. Candidates must meet the general University requirements for the master's degree, including completion of all required courses, with an overall GPA of 3.0.
2. Candidates must complete 36 semester credits of didactic courses and 27 semester credits of clinical practice courses. Also, candidates must perform satisfactorily on two objective, summative assessments. The first of these is scheduled toward the end of the first year and the second near the end of the second year of study for full-time students. For part-time students these assessments are scheduled midway through the second and third years of study, respectively. Those who fail an assessment may repeat it once within one calendar year. Candidates who chose to write a thesis are required to respond satisfactorily to questions posed by their committee members during an oral defense.
3. Graduate students must be in continuous enrollment. Exceptions may be granted by submitting a written request to the graduate coordinator.
4. The M.A. requires the completion of at least 400 clock hours of clinical practicum. A minimum of 325 hours must be completed at the graduate level with a grade of B or better. Graduate students must commit to meeting essential functions described in a document available on the department’s website (http://wwwwcupaedu/communicationSciencesDisorders).

Faculty

Professors

Cheryl D. Gunter (cgunter@wcupaedu) (1999)
Chairperson, Communication Sciences and Disorders
B.A., University of Tennessee; M.A., University of Memphis; Ph.D., University of Texas - Austin
Marelle A. Koenig (mkoenig@wcupaedu) (1990)
Graduate Coordinator, Communication Sciences and Disorders
B.S., M.S., Southern Illinois University; Ph.D., University of Illinois

Associate Professors

Elizabeth U. Grillo (egrillo@wcupaedu) (2006)
B.M., Indiana University; M.S., Columbia University's Teachers College; Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh
interventions used in improving communication ability and for individuals of all ages with disordered speech.

The purpose of this course is to develop understanding of evaluative and therapeutic models and evidence-based practices associated with clinical management of disordered speech for individuals of all ages.

Acoustic and physiological mechanisms underlying speech sound production; theoretical frameworks.

Consideration of the nature, causes, diagnosis, and treatment of stuttering and related disorders of speech flow. Critical review of pertinent research.

Acoustic and physiological mechanisms underlying speech sound production; theoretical models and evidence-based practices associated with clinical management of disordered speech sound production.

The purpose of this course is to develop understanding of evaluative and therapeutic interventions used in improving communication ability and for individuals of all ages with hearing loss and their family members.

Typically offered in Fall.

SLP 545. Augmentative and Alternative Communication. 3 Credits.
This course is a three-unit graduate required course. The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding of information related to the evidence, strategies, techniques, and issues that are unique to the field of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). The class includes an in-depth review of the assessment process as well as the AAC needs of individuals with developmental and acquired disabilities across the age continuum. Hands-on experience with various methods of AAC strategies and devices will provide a clearer understanding of AAC intervention.

Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Summer.

SLP 551. Graduate Clinical Practicum. 1-3 Credits.
Supervised practice in the Speech and Hearing Clinic. Designed to increase diagnostic and therapeutic skills with children who have communication problems.

Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Repeatable for Credit.

SLP 552. Medical Affiliation Practicum. 3-6 Credits.
Supervised practice in an affiliated clinic or school. Designed to increase diagnostic and therapeutic skills with children who have communication disorders.

Pre / Co requisites: SLP 552 requires a prerequisite of SLP 551.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

SLP 553. School-based Affiliation Practicum. 3-9 Credits.
Supervised practice in an affiliated clinic or school. Designed to increase diagnostic and therapeutic skills with children and adults who have communication skills.

Pre / Co requisites: SLP 553 requires a prerequisite of 8 or better in all SLP 551 practica and permission of the department.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.

SLP 560. Seminar in Speech Pathology. 1-3 Credits.
Selected theoretical and clinical areas of speech pathology and related disciplines. Topics vary each semester according to research developments and student needs.

Repeatable for Credit.

SLP 565. Communicative Enhancement for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. 3 Credits.
Within the framework of evidence-based practice, this course addresses the principles and strategies involved in the assessment and enhancement of communication skills needed by individuals with autism spectrum disorders to express their intentions and to meet the communicative demands of the environment. Also considered is the role of communicative enhancement in the prevention of behavior problems and in the design of positive behavior support plans.

SLP 570. School Language/Speech/Hearing Programs. 3 Credits.
Orientation to and observation of the organization, administration, and operation of school speech-language and hearing programs (preschool through grade 12).

SLP 575. Medical Speech Pathology. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to provide graduate students with an introduction to terminology, documentation, types of insurance, and interactions with other medical disciplines, as well as frequently observed disorders, assessments, and interventions associated with pediatric and adult patients in a medical setting (i.e. acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, long term care facilities). The course is also designed to expose the student to the code of ethics and scope of practice within a medical setting as determined by the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA).

SLP 582. Dysphagia. 3 Credits.
This course prepares students to identify anatomical and neurological structures in swallowing, as well as assess, treat, and modify diets for patients with normal and abnormal swallowing patterns.

SLP 590. Independent Study. 1-3 Credits.
Individualized research projects, reports, and/or readings in speech pathology or audiology under faculty supervision.

Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.

SLP 598. Workshop in Communicative Disorders. 3 Credits.
Contact department for more information about this course.

SLP 610. Thesis. 1-6 Credits.
Contact department for more information about this course.