

# COMMUNICATION SCIENCES DISORDERS

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## Department Admissions Requirements

Due to the large number of applications received each year, admission to the master's degree programs in speech-language pathology is highly competitive. The mean four-year undergraduate GPA for those admitted during the previous year was 3.75 (on a 4.0-point scale), while the average Verbal and Quantitative scores on the Graduate Record Exam were 154 and 15, respectively. Admission is holistic, and for 2021, submission of GRE scores is not required, but optional.

All applicants to the graduate programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders must have completed college-level coursework in the following four areas before entering our program:

1. a biological science,
2. a social/behavioral science,
3. statistics, and
4. chemistry or physics.

Under no circumstances will a student be permitted to begin our master's degree program unless all four of these prerequisite courses have been completed. Previous coursework in speech-language pathology is not a requirement for admission to the master's degree program and only affects the point of entry into the program.

While students' undergraduate major and post baccalaureate courses are not a consideration for admission, they do affect when students begin their master's program. Students in the MS-Res program begin course work during the fall semester while students in the MS-DE program begin in the summer, provided they have completed a minimum of 25 clock hours of supervised observation plus three semester hours of coursework in each of the following:

- anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism
- phonetics
- language development
- articulation disorders.

MS-Res students who have not met these requirements enter the program in the summer; MS-DE students who have not met these requirements enter the program in the fall.

Since the purpose of the Ph.D. program is to prepare communication scientists to fill faculty positions at Research I institutions, applicants should demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in scholarly teaching and research. Completion of a masters thesis, research presentations at professional meetings, published abstracts and peer review articles are examples of items on an applicant's resume that show evidence of a research interest.

Applicants to the Ph.D. program should specify, in the personal statement accompanying their application, their area of research interest. The department currently has laboratories supporting research in neuroimaging, adult neurogenetics, voice disorders and instrumentation, and child language. For information on this research and these laboratories, go to the department's research web sites: <http://www.sph.sc.edu/comd/research.htm>.