



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, College of Fine Arts & Communication

Program of Study

The Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) undergraduate program's initial coursework provides students with a thorough understanding of the scientific, developmental, and multicultural aspects of speech, language, and hearing. Upper-division courses explore the nature, assessment, and treatment of various disorders of speech, language, and hearing, culminating in clinical practicum classes. CSD undergraduate class sizes average 30 to 35 students, and nearly all our graduates who qualify are admitted to the graduate program in CSD at Western or at other institutions.

CSD undergraduate students must complete General Education requirements; 35 semester hours (SH) of core courses and 9 SH of electives; 16 to 20 SH of an approved minor; and electives or teacher certification course requirements for a minimum of 120 SH. Typically, CSD students enroll in a clinical practicum for one or two semesters. While clinical experiences at most universities are reserved for graduate students, the undergraduate program at Western takes pride in the fact that seniors have their first clinical experience after completion of prerequisite courses and requirements and after a 30 clock-hour observation program. Students successfully completing the undergraduate program receive a Bachelor of Science degree.

The master's degree program in Communication Sciences and Disorders is nationally accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The graduate program in speech-language pathology is a 44 to 46 SH program that requires the satisfactory completion of either a thesis or a research project and a minimum of an eight-week full-time internship. CSD graduate students take advanced coursework and undertake an extensive clinical practicum program. Graduate classes average 18 to 20 students. Practicum experiences are in Western's Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic as well as in a number of other locations such as off-campus hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and rehabilitation centers. Students gain experience working with clients of various ages, who have a variety of speech, language, and hearing disorders.

At the completion of the B.S. and the M.S. degrees, all CSD students meet both academic and clinical practicum requirements necessary for obtaining the Certificate of Clinical Competence from ASHA and licensure for the State of Illinois. Both ASHA and the State of Illinois also require the successful completion of a national examination and a clinical fellowship year. Students who have completed the coursework, practicum, and examinations required for Type 73 certification are eligible for employment in schools.

I work as a speech language pathologist at one of the top academic medical institutions in the country. This would not be possible without the education and clinical experiences that I received at Western Illinois University's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

—Jeff Edmiaston, 1998, M.S. CCC-SLP, Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Faculty

All CSD faculty members hold ASHA certification and Illinois state licensure in their respective disciplines. The faculty engage in research, serve in professional organizations at the state and national levels, present at professional meetings, publish in scholarly journals, and serve as editorial consultants for those journals.

Scholarships

The graduate program offers graduate assistantships that provide monthly stipends and tuition waivers. Assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis, using undergraduate GPA, scholarship records, and recommendations. The CSD division also awards special scholarships.

Student Activities

CSD students at Western can join the Western Illinois University Student Speech, Language, Hearing Association (WIUSSLHA) and the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). WIUSSLHA members partake in various volunteer, fundraising, and social activities, and membership in NSSLHA enables students to subscribe to professional journals at reduced prices.



With the vast amount of information required for practicing speech-language pathologists, I feel that my time at WIU was beneficial as I gained the skills necessary for my profession while interacting with faculty and staff members who were very supportive and available for their students.

—Amber Martin, M.S., 2007, Azer Rehab Systems, Galesburg, IL

Special Opportunities

Speech-language pathology ranks among the top 10 professions in providing jobs for the 21st century. Western graduates pursue careers in education, government and private agencies, business, and industry. Others go on to further graduate study.

The training I received from WIU made me very confident and extremely well-prepared professionally, for both the educational and the medical settings. —Heather Ensminger-Gustifson, M.S., 2002, Blessing Hospital, Quincy, IL

For More Information

For more details about the CSD program at Western, contact Dr. Maureen G. Marx, Department Chair and CSD Program Director, Currens Hall 129, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455-1390; (309) 298-1955, extension 269; or visit www.wiu.edu/csd.

Leslie F. Malpass Library

The library and its five branches house more than one million cataloged volumes, 3,300 current journal subscriptions, and 25 foreign and domestic newspapers. In addition, the library provides computer access to resources worldwide, including 800 other Illinois libraries with more than 22 million volumes. When necessary, the interlibrary loan program can have materials in students' hands within a day or two.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at www.admissions.wiu.edu by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

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