

Communicative Disorders

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Degree: Master of Science
Major: Communicative Disorders
Emphasis: Speech-Language Pathology

The Master of Science degree with a major in communicative disorders (CDIS) provides for advanced training in the assessment and treatment of speech, language, and swallowing disorders. The CDIS Program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and as such, enables the students to meet the academic and clinical practicum requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) granted by ASHA. The master's degree is required as part of the minimum requirements to serve as a speech-language pathologist in virtually all public school, medical or other private settings. Speech-language pathologists work with a variety of ages (i.e., birth through old age), clients with various disorders (e.g., language, articulation, fluency, voice and hearing disorders), and in a wide range of settings (e.g., public schools, preschools, private clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centers).

Application for Admission

Candidates must apply to the program in Communicative Disorders in addition to the Graduate School application. Materials required before admission can be considered are three recommendation forms, a one-to three-page letter of application addressing the student's career and professional goals, and a GRE score on file with the Communicative Disorders program. The CDIS program requires an undergraduate degree in Communicative Disorders with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 for "regular" admission into the program. Students having an undergraduate degree in Communicative Disorders but with a cumulative GPA less than 3.00 may be considered for "conditional" admission; if accepted they will be required to enroll as a full-time student with a minimum of nine hours and earn a minimum GPA of 3.00 with no grade less than a "B" during their first semester of matriculation.

Students not having an undergraduate degree in Communicative Disorders may also be considered for "conditional" admission into the program, but will have to complete a sequence of leveling courses, as determined by their advisory committee, with a GPA no less than 3.00 for eventual "regular" status in the program. Specific leveling courses will be determined in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator.

The application deadline for fall admission is March 1 and the application deadline for spring admission is Oct. 15.

Competitive Criteria for Acceptance

Due to enrollment limitations, the number of openings for admission into the program may vary from semester to semester. If an opening(s) is (are) available, the CDIS faculty will review all qualified applicants based on the competitive criteria listed below for acceptance into the program. These criteria are evaluated (not necessarily listed in rank order of importance) to determine the student's potential for successfully completing the Master of Science degree:

1. Undergraduate GPA.
2. Graduate GPA (if any).
3. Three ENMU CDIS recommendation forms preferably from faculty.
4. One-to three-page letter of application, judged for content and technical writing skills.
5. GRE score.

An applicant will be: 1) accepted into the CDIS Program, 2) not accepted into the CDIS Program, or 3) placed on a waiting list for future consideration. A student placed on the waiting list may take a maximum of six hours of CDIS graduate credit at ENMU.

Requirements for the Master of Science Degree with a Major in Communicative Disorders

The thesis program requires 52 hours of coursework and six credits of thesis. Specific course requirements are listed below. The student must pass a comprehensive written examination, and an oral defense of the thesis.

The non-thesis program requires 52 credits of coursework and 3 credits hours of special project. Specific course requirements are listed below. The student must pass written and oral comprehensive examinations.

Both the thesis and non-thesis programs require two (2) full years (including summers) of full-time enrollment to complete the degree requirements.

Other courses may be recommended by the student's graduate advisory committee, particularly related to undergraduate deficiencies.

Successful completion (a passing score as determined by ASHA) of the National Examination in Speech Pathology and Audiology (NESPA) may be substituted for the written and oral comprehensive examinations. Students who do not receive a passing score or who do not take the NESPA by the last semester of enrollment must successfully complete written and oral comprehensive examinations to complete their degree requirements. To exercise this option, students must attend a NESPA preparation workshop the regular semester prior to taking the examination. Students must present an original copy of the NESPA scores to the CDIS program director by the last semester of enrollment.

All students must complete and orally present a portfolio of their graduate work to the graduate committee during their last semester of enrollment. Portfolio material should include a synthesis paper that summarizes the students' learning experience and future goals, a letter of application, a resume, examples of clinical testing, evaluation and progress reports, student presentation handouts, a major research paper, evidence of student research and other examples of original student work.

All students must complete the academic and practicum standards for ASHA's CCC-SLP before the master's degree will be conferred. Students must earn a "B" or better for all requirements in order for the degree to be granted. A listing of certification requirements may be obtained through the CDIS program office.

Non-Retention from the Program

All students are required to abide by the rules and regulations of the program as specified in the CDIS Graduate Student Handbook. Failure to do so may result in delay of graduation or possible expulsion from the program. Students must remain in regular standing as specified by the Graduate School.

Students will be exited from the CDIS Program if no coursework or practicum is successfully completed during a regular semester unless arrangements have been made with and approved by the program. An exited student will have to reapply to the CDIS Program and be considered for acceptance on a competitive basis in order to continue.

Limitations on Graduate Coursework

Students not formally accepted into the graduate CDIS Program (e.g., non-degree graduates, seniors) may take a maximum of six hours of CDIS graduate credit at ENMU. Seniors must get written permission from the graduate dean before enrolling in graduate coursework. Any graduate transfer credits from other institutions must be from CAA-accredited programs and approved by the CDIS program at ENMU.

Course requirements for thesis option:

All of the following courses are core requirements. As such, they must be completed with a grade of "B" or better.

CDIS 500	Research Methods in Communicative Disorders	3
CDIS 501	Beginning Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	3
CDIS 502	Intermediate Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	3
CDIS 503	Advanced Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	3
CDIS 504	Fundamentals of Clinical Practice	2
CDIS 506	Professional Issues in Communicative Disorders	1
CDIS 511	Articulation/Phonological Disorders	2
CDIS 512	Voice Disorders	3
CDIS 516	Language Disorders I	2
CDIS 517	Language Disorders II	2
CDIS 525	Fluency Disorders	2
CDIS 526	Neurogenic Speech Disorders	3
CDIS 527	Craniofacial Anomalies	2
CDIS 528	Dysphagia	2
CDIS 530	Aphasia and Related Disorders	2
CDIS 531	Hearing Disorders	3
CDIS 532	Language Disorders Following Traumatic Brain Injury	2
CDIS 540	Oral Motor Disorders	2
CDIS 550	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2
CDIS 554	Current Trends in Communicative Disorders	1
CDIS 589	Internship in Speech-Language Pathology	6
CDIS 590	Graduate Seminar	1
CDIS 599	Master's Thesis	6
	Total credit hours	58

Course requirements for non-thesis option:

All of the following courses are core requirements. As such, they must be completed with a grade of "B" or better.

CDIS 500	Research Methods in Communicative Disorders	3
CDIS 501	Beginning Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	3
CDIS 502	Intermediate Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	3
CDIS 503	Advanced Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology	3
CDIS 504	Fundamentals of Clinical Practice	2
CDIS 506	Professional Issues in Communicative Disorders	1
CDIS 511	Articulation/Phonological Disorders	2
CDIS 512	Voice Disorders	3
CDIS 516	Language Disorders I	2
CDIS 517	Language Disorders II	2
CDIS 525	Fluency Disorders	2
CDIS 526	Neurogenic Speech Disorders	3
CDIS 527	Craniofacial Anomalies	2
CDIS 528	Dysphagia	2
CDIS 530	Aphasia and Related Disorders	2
CDIS 531	Hearing Disorders	3
CDIS 532	Language Disorders Following Traumatic Brain Injury	2
CDIS 540	Oral Motor Disorders	2
CDIS 550	Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2
CDIS 554	Current Trends in Communicative Disorders	1
CDIS 565	Special Project	3
CDIS 589	Internship in Speech-Language Pathology	6
CDIS 590	Graduate Seminar	1
	Total credit hours	55