

PRE – SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

..... G U I D E



Speech-language pathologists typically do the following:

- Evaluate levels of speech, language, or swallowing difficulty
- Identify clients' goals for treatment
- Create and carry out an individualized treatment plan that addresses specific functional needs
- Teach clients how to produce speech sounds, improve their voices, and maintain fluency
- Help clients improve vocabulary and sentence structure
- Work with clients to develop and strengthen the muscles used to swallow
- Counsel clients and their families on how to cope with communication and swallowing disorders

Speech-language pathologists work with clients who have speech and language disorders, including related cognitive or social communication skills. Clients may have difficulty speaking, such as being unable to speak or speaking too loudly or softly. They also may have problems with rhythm and fluency, such as stuttering. Speech-language pathologists also work with clients who have problems understanding language.

Speech-language pathologists may select alternative communication systems and instruct clients in their use. They also must record their evaluations and assessments, track treatment progress, and note any changes in a client's condition or treatment plan.

Some speech-language pathologists specialize in working with specific age groups, such as children or older adults. Others focus on treatment programs for specific communication or swallowing problems that result from developmental delays or from medical causes, such as a stroke or a cleft palate. Still others research topics related to speech and language issues.

Speech-language pathologists work with physicians and surgeons, social workers, psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, audiologists, and other healthcare workers in hospitals, private practice, rehabilitation clinics, and home health settings. In schools, they evaluate students for speech and language disorders and work with teachers, other school personnel, and parents to develop and carry out individual or group programs, provide counseling, and support classroom activities. For more information on teachers, see the profiles on preschool teachers, kindergarten and elementary school teachers, middle school teachers, high school teachers, and special education teachers. (*Occupational Outlook Handbook*)

The following **Pre-Speech Language Pathology program** will satisfy the requirements for admission to the Speech-Language Pathology Master of Science program in the Department of Communication Disorders at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). Completion of a Bachelor's Degree and the following pre-speech language pathology prerequisites are required. Admission to the professional portion of the program is competitive and is not automatically assured by successful completion of the pre-requisites. A Bachelor's Degree in Communication Disorders is strongly recommended.

Required Courses

Take all of the following:

CDIS 210	Survey of Communication Disorders	3
CDIS 215	Intro to Phonetics	3
CDIS 252	Anatomy & Physiology of the Speech Mechanism	3
CDIS 261	Normal Language Development	3
CDIS 311	Clinical Methods & Procedures	3
CDIS 335	Speech & Hearing Science	3
CDIS 354	Preschool Language Disorders	3
CDIS 362	Speech Sound Disorders I	3
CDIS 410	Intro to Audiology	3
CDIS 415	Aural Rehabilitation	3
CDIS 420	Research in Communication Disorders	3

Required Related Coursework

Take one course from each category:

Physical Science (Chemistry or Physics); Biological Sciences: (Biology, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology, Human Genetics, or Veterinary Science); Mathematics (Statistics); Social/Behavioral Sciences (Psychology, Sociology, or Anthropology); Human Development (Human Development or Lifespan Development & the Family). See advisor for suggestions.

Academic Guidelines

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required at the time of application submission. However, a higher GPA is preferred and will result in the student being a more competitive applicant. Each required course must be passed with a letter grade of "C" or better. Students should be aware of prerequisites on all courses and plan accordingly.

Non-Academic Guidelines

Admission is based on GPA, shadowing or exposure to the profession, relevant experiences, skills, and employment.

Health Sciences offers opportunities to meet these non-academic guidelines through the Shadowing Program, Internships, connections to employment opportunities, the Health Science Club, and volunteer experiences. The Department of Communication Disorders also offers student organizations and opportunities for students to gain exposure. Students should plan to be involved in these types of activities and experiences throughout their undergraduate career.

The Application Process

Students will apply to the program through the Office of Graduate Studies at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The application requires official transcripts, three letters of recommendation, a written personal statement, a video interview, and a resume. The application and all required components are due January 15th.

Letters of Evaluation/Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation from professional (academic) references are required.

Written Personal Statement

A written response to a given question is required to demonstrate the applicant's written language skills.

Video Interview

Applicants record a short (2-minutes or less) video response to a provided prompt that is submitted as part of the application.

Criminal Background Checks

Prerequisite for enrollment into any health science professional program or professional training is consent for an external background check. This check includes, but is not limited to, past criminal offenses and registry information. If there is evidence of arrest for a crime(s), conviction for a crime(s), presence on an abuse registry, or other information which reasonably suggests that patient safety might be compromised, the student will be asked to provide additional information.

Citizenship/International Students

International students must submit an official TOEFL score sent directly from the Educational Testing Service to the Office of Graduate Studies & Research. This aligns with the policy stated in the Graduate Course Catalog for International Student admission. Minimum TOEFL score of 550 on paper-based test or 79 on the internet-based test (scores over 2 years old cannot be reported or validated) Minimum IELTS score of 6.5

Suggested Sequence of Courses for CDIS Bachelor's Degree

	Fall	Spring
Year 1	XXX 126 First Year Seminar ENG 101 Expository Writing BIOL 103 General Biology SPCH 100 Fundamentals of Speech CDIS 210 Survey of Communication Disorders*	PSCI 110 Intro to Amer Politics ENG 102 Special Topics in Academic Writing & Research TE 100 Teaching in a Democratic Society CDIS 215 Intro to Phonetics* CHEM 145, CHEM 148, CHEM 160/L, or PHYS 155/L
Year 2	CDIS 261 Normal Language Development* TE 204 Growth & Dev/Intro to Exceptionalities KSS 150 Healthy Wealthy and Wise PSY 203 or SOC 100 Gen Psychology or Intro to Sociology GE Humanities (English, History, Philosophy)	TE 206 Instructional Technology PSY 230 or FAMS 250 Human Development/Lifespan Dev CDIS 354 Preschool Language Disorders* STAT 235 or 241 Intro to Statistics for Soc Sci or Elem Stats GE Visual Arts (Music, Art, Dance, Theater)
Year 3	CDIS 420 Research in Communication Disorders* CDIS 252 Anatomy & Physiology of Speech Mechanism* CDIS 413 Sign Language (or other Professional Elective) TE 306 Reading & Inclusion K-12 CDIS Professional Elective	CDIS 335 Speech & Hearing Science* CDIS 406 Adult Communication Disorders CDIS 362 Speech Sound Disorders I* Unrestricted Elective Unrestricted Elective
Year 4	CDIS 311 Clinical Methods & Procedures* CDIS 410 Intro to Audiology* CDIS 435 Neurological Foundations of Speech & Language CDIS Professional Elective TE 319 Management & Assessment K-12	CDIS 488 Senior Seminar CDIS 415 Aural Rehabilitation* CDIS 470 Professional Issues in SLP CDIS Professional Elective Unrestricted Elective

*Indicates courses including in CDIS leveling program. This program is for students with a bachelor's degree outside of CDIS and prepares them for applying to the Speech-Language Pathology graduate program.

- Students must be aware of prerequisites for courses and plan accordingly.