

# Communication Sciences And Disorders (PhD)

## Degree Requirements

---

---

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) offers students specialization in speech and language pathology, communication science, or audiology. This individualized, mentored, and interdisciplinary program is designed to provide a formal course of academic instruction and advanced research training in CSD aimed at developing leaders in research, teaching, and professional service. The mission of the Ph.D. program is to prepare students for responsible and successful careers as scholars by enabling them to gain the necessary knowledge and skills in the CSD discipline. Graduates will be prepared for research, scientific writing, teaching and supervision/mentorship through pedagogy, mentorship, and internship activities. The student's ability to engage in original research and scholarship is enhanced by coursework in experimental research design and statistics, as well as various out-of-department opportunities.

Completion of the Ph.D. degree in CSD requires the following:

1. Admission to Ph.D. program
2. Admission to doctoral candidacy
3. Successful completion of a dissertation project
4. Completion of additional program requirements (e.g., training in human subjects research)

### Graduate Assistantships/Tuition Fellowships

---

Graduate assistantships and tuition fellowships are available annually on a competitive basis.

### Transfer Credit

---

Transfer of credits toward the Ph.D. requires approval of the Admissions Committee, Department Chair, Director of Graduate Studies for the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

### Comprehensive Examination

---

The student must pass a comprehensive examination following successful completion of academic coursework. The comprehensive examination is comprised of written and oral portions. The student and Comprehensive Examination Committee determine the topics and time distribution for the written portion. Examination questions are designed to assess overall knowledge, integration, and understanding acquired during the program of study. The comprehensive examination consists of 18 hours of written examination followed by an oral examination.

### Candidacy

---

The student's admission to doctoral degree candidacy is based upon successful completion of academic coursework, predissertation research project, and written and oral components of the comprehensive examination. A GPA of 3.0 must be maintained throughout academic coursework.

Typically, students who enter the program with a Master's degree complete these requirements by the end of their 2nd year and no later than the end of their 3rd year of program enrollment.

### Dissertation/Dissertation Defense

---

After admission to candidacy, the student and his/her Major Advisor determine the dissertation topic and develop the Dissertation Committee. After determining the topic and Committee, the student prepares a Dissertation Prospectus, which is submitted in written form and orally defended. Once the Prospectus is approved by the Dissertation Committee, the student may move forward with completion of the Dissertation project.

The Dissertation is submitted in written form and orally defended. The committee's acceptance of the dissertation is the final component needed at the departmental level before granting the Ph.D. degree. All students must abide by the deadlines for final oral examination and final dissertation submission set by the Graduate School. The deadlines for submission to the Dean of the Graduate School are provided in the latest edition of the Graduate School Bulletin.

While only 21 semester hours of dissertation research may count towards the degree, a student must continually enroll in CSD 799 (Dissertation Research) until the final dissertation document has been approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

## Time Limit

Students are expected to complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within seven calendar years from admission to the Ph.D. program. After reaching candidacy, students must complete the dissertation requirement within three years. Extensions may be requested and granted under appropriate circumstances.

## Department Information

Speech Pathology and Audiology Faculty	(251) 445-9378
Chair	Elizabeth M. Adams
Dean Emeritus	Talbott
Professor Emeritus	Dagenais, Evans, Sellers
Associate Professor Emeritus	Moore
Assistant Professor Emeritus	Holston
Associate Professors	Adams, Beverly, Davis, Gordon-Hickey, Ramkissoon
Assistant Professors	Choi, Flagge, Garand, Nichols, Rishiq, Roberts, Smith
Senior Instructor	Hudson
Instructors	Brown, Henbest, Hill, Wiles

Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology website  
<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/alliedhealth/speechandhearing>

The mission of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology is to provide undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs that challenge the students to achieve the highest standards of academic learning, scientific inquiry and clinical excellence. The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology seeks to deliver a comprehensive program of academic, research and clinical training in the areas of speech, language and hearing development and disorders. The Department offers a minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences, Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology, Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences in Speech Therapy, Doctor of Audiology, and Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Sciences and Disorders degree programs.

The undergraduate program in Speech and Hearing Sciences readies the graduate for a variety of career and educational options based on the knowledge gained from this degree and individual interests and skills. Students who complete the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology degree program will meet all the academic and practicum requirements to be eligible for the Clinical Fellowship (CF) that leads to national certification (CCC-SLP) by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and eligibility for the Alabama state licensure. Students who complete the Doctor of Audiology degree program will meet all the academic and practicum requirements for national certification (CCC- A) and will also be eligible for the Alabama state licensure.

The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology offers a Master of Rehabilitation Sciences in Speech Therapy (RSST) aimed at providing students with rich, robust, clinically relevant, and evidence-based learning experiences. Graduates will have a strong understanding of entry-level and advanced clinical services, will utilize evidence-based research relevant to the field, demonstrate leadership skills that impact delivery of high quality care for patients, and develop skills needed to serve as a patient educator, clinical educator, or faculty member. This program is intended to support international clinicians and academicians wishing to gain further experience with a variety of disorders and principles of rehabilitation. This program is not accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) and does not lead to licensure or professional certification in the United States. Graduation from this program does not guarantee admission to a Master of

Science in Speech-Language Pathology or Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology Program. Students enrolled in this program are not eligible for federal financial aid. Admission to the RSST program is on a competitive basis. For admissions information, visit the department's website. The RSST program is an in-residence program requiring 30 credit hours.

The master's program (Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology) education program in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of South Alabama is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, (800)-498-2071 or (301)-296-5700.

The doctoral program (Doctor of Audiology) education program in Audiology at the University of South Alabama is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, (800)-498-2071 or (301)-296-5700.