

Speech and Hearing Science, PhD

The PhD program in speech and hearing science provides flexible, comprehensive training for scholar-researchers interested in communication processes and disorders, allowing students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for them to become productive researchers, whether in academia or industry. At the University of Iowa, the program reflects the broadly multidisciplinary interests of its faculty, who have expertise in physiology, bioengineering and physical sciences, neuroscience, psychology, linguistics, and multiculturalism across the domains of speech, language, and hearing. Prospective students are encouraged to identify a mentor whose research area aligns with their own interests. Students with diverse backgrounds in the natural and behavioral sciences are encouraged to apply.

Learning Outcomes

Graduating PhD students in speech pathology and audiology will demonstrate:

- critical thinking through reading, discussing, and writing about relevant scientific literature;
- competence in designing and conducting research, from concept to methodology, and through to data analysis and publication;
- competence in scientific writing;
- competence in developing and delivering oral research presentations; and
- competence in developing and delivering course material to undergraduate and graduate classes.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy in speech and hearing science requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a Graduate College program grade-point average of at least 3.00.

Although there is no standard curriculum for the PhD, a program of study is developed by each student in consultation with their mentor and a faculty planning committee. The course of study typically includes registration in an introductory course in doctoral research that covers broad issues relevant to research approaches and life in academia, as well as one or more courses in statistical or other research methods. In addition, a range of topical seminars and courses are offered by faculty members in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, as well as by faculty in other departments, including linguistics, psychological and brain sciences, otolaryngology—head and neck surgery, statistics and actuarial science, molecular physiology and biophysics, engineering, neuroscience, and computer science. Also important to a student's education is registration in CSD:7590 Research, which covers individual readings and research experiences with their mentor and other faculty members.

The stepping stones of the PhD program include a pre-dissertation project, a comprehensive examination, and the dissertation. The pre-dissertation project is a research project conducted jointly between a student and mentor, under the direction of the mentor. Upon completion, students are expected to present their results at the department's

weekly professional seminar series. The comprehensive exam typically involves a written exam consisting of several questions broadly related to a student's interests and goals, followed by an oral defense of the responses. Questions are developed and evaluated by the student's mentor and faculty comprehensive exam committee. Following successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student can advance to the candidacy stage. This final step requires each student to successfully conduct, write up, and defend an original research project that meets the college requirements for the dissertation.

Required Coursework

Course #	Title	Hours
CSD:5310	Scientific Writing and Publishing	2
CSD:5511	Introduction to Doctoral Research	1
	Principles of Scholarly Integrity course	1
	At least four statistical or other methods courses	12
	At least eight area of research interest courses	24
	Research (CSD:7590) and electives	32

Combined Programs

PhD in Speech and Hearing Science/AuD

Students interested in research with an emphasis in audiology or hearing science may be interested in obtaining clinical certification, which requires completing the clinical doctorate (AuD). The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers a combined program that allows students to earn both degrees simultaneously. The Doctor of Philosophy/Doctor of Audiology program is especially appropriate for students who have more applied research interests but would like to work in academia.

The program requires 131 s.h. of coursework, including all the clinical practicum experiences required for the AuD. Students must also meet all of the milestones required for the traditional PhD. Completion time for the two degrees varies but is typically seven years.

Graduate Education

Graduate education prepares students with advanced knowledge and skills in specialized fields. At the University of Iowa, the Graduate College advocates for student-centered graduate education and supports equitable application of rules and policies across graduate programs.

Academics

University of Iowa graduate credentials are regulated by policies and requirements found in the Graduate College Manual of Rules and Regulations. This includes minimum grade-point average (GPA) requirements for academic standing and degree conferral. The Graduate College sets the minimum requirement. Individual graduate programs may establish higher GPA requirements.

Admissions

Graduate student applicants must meet admission requirements for both the Graduate College and the program to which they have applied. University of Iowa graduate

admission requirements are published by the Graduate College and on the Graduate Admissions website.

Financial Support

Graduate students might be eligible for financial support. Several contingencies apply, including degree program and award type, satisfactory progress toward degree, satisfactory completion of all duties related to an appointment, and availability of funding. Graduate students should inquire directly with their program for more information about funding availability. The Graduate Student Employment Standards govern the employment relationship between the University of Iowa and all graduate teaching and research assistants in all matters except wages, which are covered by an existing collective bargaining agreement or the conditions of an applicable federal grant.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

Admission to the PhD program is based on a student's aptitude, as well as their specific area of research interest and the availability of a faculty member to serve as a mentor.

Students interested in admission to the combined PhD/AuD program are required to apply and be admitted to the AuD program initially. At the end of their second year in the AuD program, they may formally request permission to change their degree objective. If the faculty approves and a mentor is available, transition into the AuD/PhD program is approved.

The deadline for application to the PhD program is Jan. 15. Applications must be submitted through Graduate Admissions.

For more information, see Doctor of Philosophy in Speech and Hearing Science on the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders website or contact the director of graduate studies.

Career Advancement

The PhD program provides excellent preparation for careers in academia, industry, and research. There continues to be a strong demand for graduates with doctoral-level training in speech and hearing sciences. Graduates routinely advance to postdoctoral research positions or are hired as university faculty members, and many graduates have achieved high-level administrative and research positions in the field.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		

72 s.h. must be graduate level coursework. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website.^{a, b, c}

Graduate College program GPA of at least 3.00 is required.^d

		Hours	0
First Year			
Fall			
CSD:5310	Scientific Writing and Publishing		2
CSD:5511	Introduction to Doctoral Research		1
CSD:7590	Research		4
Area of research interest course ^e			3
Principles of scholarly integrity course ^f			1
Statistical or other methods course ^e			3
		Hours	14
Spring			
CSD:7590	Research		5
Area of research interest course ^e			3
Area of research interest course ^e			3
Statistical or other methods course ^e			3
		Hours	14
Second Year			
Fall			
CSD:7590	Research		6
Area of research interest course ^e			3
Area of research interest course ^e			3
Statistical or other methods course ^e			3
		Hours	15
Spring			
CSD:7590	Research		6
Area of research interest course ^e			3
Area of research interest course ^e			3
Statistical or other methods course ^e			3
		Hours	15
Third Year			
Fall			
Exam: Doctoral Comprehensive Exam			
Pre-Dissertation Project			
CSD:7590	Research		5
Area of research interest course ^e			3
		Hours	8
Spring			
Dissertation Prospectus			
CSD:7590	Research		4
		Hours	4
Fourth Year			
Fall			
CSD:7590	Research		1
		Hours	1
Spring			
CSD:7590	Research		1
Exam: Doctoral Final Exam ^g			
		Hours	1
		Total Hours	72

a Up to 33 s.h. of graduate-level transfer credits, taken as part of a graduate program, may be allowed upon approval.

b There is no standard curriculum for the PhD; work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate coursework based on research interests. Coursework should

- include a range of seminars and courses offered by faculty in CSD or other departments (e.g., psychological and brain sciences, statistics, biology, neuroscience, linguistics).
- c Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
 - d Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.
 - e Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate coursework and sequence.
 - f Course number varies depending on which department offers the course; consult with the DGS to select a course that will satisfy this requirement.
 - g Dissertation defense.