Speech and Hearing Science, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in speech and hearing science requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. The program provides flexible, comprehensive training for scholars-researchers interested in communication processes and their disorders. Students with diverse backgrounds in the natural and behavioral sciences are encouraged to apply and develop their skills in an atmosphere of interdisciplinary research.

The Ph.D. program reflects the broad interests of its multidisciplinary faculty, whose members have diverse backgrounds in speech, language, hearing, engineering, physiology, physics, psychology, linguistics, and bioengineering. Faculty members are committed to an interdisciplinary approach to questions at every level of the speech and language production/perception system.

The purpose of the doctoral program is to provide the integrated knowledge necessary for a productive career in speech-language pathology and audiology, communication science, and related areas.

The department encourages candidates with special interests, goals, or backgrounds to develop individualized programs of study. There is no standard curriculum for the Ph.D.; rather, a program of study is developed by each student in consultation with a faculty committee. The course of study is developed from courses offered by the department, courses in other areas (e.g., physics, engineering, psychology, mathematics, statistics, physiology, neurology, anatomy, and others), and special reading and research experiences.

The following courses are offered by the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders primarily for Ph.D. students. Students interested in specific areas of research and selected publication citations of the faculty are encouraged to write to the department.

- CSD:5201 Principles of Voice Production 3
- CSD:5219 Fundamentals of Laboratory Instrumentation 3
- CSD:5224 System and Signal Theory for Speech and Hearing Science 3
- CSD:5256 Anatomy and Physiology of Hearing 3-4
- CSD:5310 Scientific Writing 3
- CSD:5511 Introduction to Doctoral Research (taken spring of the first year) 1
- CSD:6230 Advanced Hearing Science 2

In addition, seminars offered by the department cover a broad range of topics relevant to doctoral study.

Students in the Ph.D. program usually are expected to register for research credit (CSD:7590 Research) during each semester of residence and to register for and participate in CSD:6515 Proseminar.

Knowledge in each of the areas of hearing, speech, language, mathematics, statistics, computer science, and instrumentation is required of all students. Decisions regarding the extent of this knowledge and how it is obtained (e.g., course work or independent study) are made jointly by each student and the student’s faculty committee.

Doctoral students who have not written a master’s thesis must complete the equivalent of a master’s thesis project as well as the comprehensive examination. They also must successfully complete and submit a dissertation based on original research.

Joint Au.D./Ph.D.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers the joint Doctor of Audiology/Doctor of Philosophy in speech and hearing science. The joint Au.D./Ph.D. program is especially appropriate for students who would like to practice audiology and hold a faculty position at a university. The program requires 137 s.h., permitting students to count 30 s.h. of the 95 s.h. required for the Au.D. degree toward the 72 s.h. required for the Ph.D. degree. Students complete all of the course work required for the Au.D.; the course of study for the Ph.D. is developed by each student in consultation with a faculty committee. Consult the department to learn more about the joint degree program.

Admission

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

The department requires that applicants take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test before they apply for admission.

Admission to the Ph.D. program is based on a student’s aptitudes and interests in research areas rather than on admitting a certain number of students. Students should have a g.p.a. of at least 3.00 and should have GRE General Test scores no lower than the 40th percentile in any area (verbal, quantitative, and analytic) to be considered. For best consideration, applications should be received by January 1. All applications to the Ph.D. program must be submitted through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

For detailed information regarding evaluation of applicants, applications materials and requirements, and other matters, see Graduate Program on the department's website.

Financial Support

Financial support is merit-based and dependent on availability of funds. For more detailed information, contact the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders director of graduate studies.

Career Advancement

The speech and hearing science program at the University of Iowa provides excellent preparation for a career as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist. There continues to be a strong demand for professionals in these fields, and both speech pathology and audiology are consistently ranked highly in “best job” surveys.

Advanced degree holders may work as a teacher, clinician, and/or researcher in the field of communication sciences and disorders.