

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 program in speech and hearing science requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. 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 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.

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 of the clinical practicum experiences required for the AuD. Students also must meet all of the milestones required for the traditional PhD. Completion time for the two degrees varies but is typically seven years.

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 initially apply and be admitted to the AuD program. At the end of their second year in the AuD program, they may formally request permission to change their degree objective. If the faculty approve 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 the Office of 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.

Financial Support

While admission to the PhD program is competitive, funding is guaranteed for admitted students for up to four years, which includes tuition, a stipend, and generous benefits. Additional financial support is based on merit and dependent on the availability of funds. No separate application for financial aid is required. Financial support is provided through teaching assistantships and research assistantships. For more information, contact the departmental administrator in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

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: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		12
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
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	6
Area of research interest course ^e		3
Hours		9
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.