

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 scholar-researchers interested in communication processes and their disorders. Students with diverse backgrounds in the natural and behavioral sciences are encouraged to apply.

The Ph.D. program reflects the broad interests of its multidisciplinary faculty, whose members have diverse backgrounds in speech, language, hearing, engineering, physiology, psychophysics, neuroscience, psychology, linguistics, and bioengineering. The purpose of the doctoral program is to allow interested graduate students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for them to become productive researchers.

Prospective students are matched with a mentor whose research area aligns with their interests. There is no standard curriculum for the Ph.D.; a program of study is developed by each student in consultation with their mentor and a faculty committee. The course of study includes a range of seminars and courses offered by faculty members in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders as well as by faculty in other departments, including engineering, psychological and brain sciences, otolaryngology—head and neck surgery, statistics and actuarial science, molecular physiology and biophysics, neuroscience, and computer science. Also important to a student's education is registration in CSD:7590 Research, that covers individual readings and research experiences with their mentor as well as other faculty members, and participation in the weekly course, CSD:6515 Professional Seminar.

Students also are required to work with their mentor to complete a pre-dissertation project. This is typically a research project that has been conducted jointly with and under the direction of their mentor. Upon completion, they are expected to present the results at the weekly professional seminar. In addition, students are required to write and defend a comprehensive examination designed, administered, and evaluated by their faculty committee. This step is required before they can advance to candidacy. The final step requires each student to successfully complete, submit, and defend an original research project that meets the college requirement for the dissertation.