

Speech and Hearing Science, PhD

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.