COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS M.S.

All students must meet the Requirements for the Master's Degree

OVERVIEW

The Master of Science degree program in Communication Sciences and Disorders is designed to provide in-depth knowledge and skills in the areas required for a career in speech-language pathology. The course of study provides students with the academic background and clinical opportunities required in preparation for their Clinical Fellowship and ultimately the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP), allowing them to pursue a satisfying and rewarding career in health care, medicine, education, or research.

The Master of Science (M.S.) education program in speech-language pathology (residential) at the University of Vermont is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders includes the Eleanor M. Luse Center for Communication: Speech, Language, and Hearing. This is an active clinic providing speech-language and audiology services to the community. It also serves as a key practicum site for students throughout their graduate studies. All students are supervised by clinically certified members of the faculty of the Eleanor M. Luse Center and affiliated practicum sites.

The CSD faculty conduct research in areas such as speech and language development, speech sound disorders and apraxia of speech, fluency and stuttering, autism and theory of mind, brain injury and cognitive-communication disorders. Many opportunities are available for graduate students who wish to become involved in faculty research projects.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Degree Requirements

All students are required to complete mandatory course work in pursuit of the M.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders. This course work includes content areas met by the following CSD courses:

Requirement Description		Credits
CSD 6430	Augmentative Communication	3
CSD 6200	Clinic Preparation&Management	3
CSD 6210	Clinic Practicum Study 1	3
CSD 6220	Clinic Practicum Study 2	3
CSD 6230	Clinic Practicum Study 3	3
CSD 6240	Clinic Practicum Study 4	3
CSD 6250	Clinic Practicum Study 5	3
CSD 6260	Clinic Practicum Supplemental (optional)	1
CSD 6290	School Based Issues for SLPs	1
CSD 6330	Assmt & Treatmt of Stuttering	3
CSD 6300	Spch Snd Disorders in Children	3
CSD 6310	Language Disorders	3
CSD 6320	Seminar Lang/Lrng Disabilities	3
CSD 6340	Swallowing Disorders	3
CSD 6350	Neurogenic Comm. Disorders 1	3
CSD 6460	Voice Disorders	3
CSD 6450	Neurogenic Comm. Disorders 2	3
CSD 6720	Hearing Rehab for SLPs	3
Masters thesis (CSD 6391), research project (CSD 6385), or non-thesis sequence of courses focusing on clinical systematic reviews (CSD 6381 and CSD 6385)		3-6
Total Credits		53-56

In total, 53 credits of graduate course work are required for the non-thesis track and 56 credits of graduate course work for students who write a thesis. Equivalent graduate-level course work, up to 9 credits, may be waived if approved by the graduate program coordinator, reducing the total number of in-residence credits needed for completion of the program.

Requirement Description	Credits
OPTION A (THESIS)	
The student will complete 50 credits of graduate-level courses and 6 additional credits (CSD 6391) for conducting the research leading to an M.S. thesis	
OPTION B (NON-THESIS)	
Students choosing the non-thesis option will complete 50 credits required for the degree, and at least 3 credits of non-thesis research (CSD 6381 and/or CSD 6385 – research project or Systematic Reviews course)	

Comprehensive Examination

The portfolio is used by this department as an alternative form of Comprehensive Examination; it provides a rich demonstration of the students' achievements in their course of study. Each student's portfolio includes a set of four reflective essays as well as academic and clinical artifacts selected by the student to reflect growth in specific areas of academic and clinical knowledge and skills required by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Vermont Department of Education. Other aspects of growth to

be demonstrated include increasing rigor in critical thinking and methods of inquiry for research and its application.

Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Science

Students will be admitted to candidacy when the following criteria have been met:

- A minimum of 375 hours of supervised clinical practicum.
- 25 hours of guided clinical observation.
- 36 graduate credits and completion of a written comprehensive examination in the form of a portfolio.