

M.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders
Assessment Report 2019-2020

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Speech-Language Pathology in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program ensures that degree candidates meet the minimum academic and clinical practicum requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Program goals are based on the knowledge and skills recommended by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Graduate students are expected to demonstrate knowledge and skills related to the

- 1) foundations of communication and professional practice
- 2) screening, assessment, evaluation, and diagnosis of communication disorders and
- 3) planning, implementation, and evaluation of treatment.

Students must pass a comprehensive exam administered by the program and a national Praxis examination in speech-language pathology to qualify for licensure and certification. Graduate students must also earn a minimum of 400 clinical clock hours during their program, with a final minimum competency rating of “3” on a 4-point scale on each of 205 skills.

Final data for employment of the 2018-2020 cohort are not available at the time of this report.

Academic Assessment for 2019-2020

Program Goals Learning Outcomes and Student Performance

The student will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of communication and swallowing disorders and differences, including the appropriate etiologies, characteristics, anatomical/physiological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural correlates in articulation, fluency, voice, resonance, language, hearing, cognitive aspects of communication, social aspects
- Differentiate between normal and disordered articulation, language, voice, resonance, swallowing, fluency, and pragmatics.

Student Outcomes:

2018-2020 Cohort CDIS Comprehensive exam – 100% pass

2018-2020 Praxis Exam in SLP – 100% pass

2018-2020 100 % Passed All coursework with 80% accuracy or higher.

2019-2021 100% Passed All coursework with 80% accuracy or higher.

The student will:

- Identify appropriate methods of evaluating a variety of speech, language, and swallowing disorders.
- Demonstrate knowledge of processes used in research and of the integration of research principles into evidence-based clinical practice.
- Evaluate the current evidence base for a variety of assessment and intervention strategies
- The student will complete clinical experiences sufficient in breadth and depth to achieve adequate skills in evaluation, intervention, and interaction/personal qualities.
- Demonstrate competency in obtaining both subjective and objective measures of speech, language, and hearing ability.
- Demonstrate competency in assessing speech and language abilities/disorders for clients of varying ages, genders, and cultures.
- Demonstrate competency in planning and performing intervention for a variety of communication disorders with clients of varying ages, genders, and cultures

Student Outcomes:

2018-2020 Cohort Final Clinical Skills Ratings 3+ – 100%

2018-2020 Cohort Clinic Practicum Grade – 100% at 80% or higher

2019-2021 Cohort Clinical Practicum Grade -100% at 80% or higher

Assessment Plan: Based on the results, no changes in the assessment process are planned for the next academic year. CDIS Faculty reported a concern in the availability of clinical faculty workload to cover the needed clinical educator responsibilities for graduate students. Faculty reported this concern to the Department Head and plan to continue to document the need for additional clinical faculty for the graduate and undergraduate program needs.