

Department of Communication Disorders and Occupational Therapy
Program Assessment Report
M.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders
2024-2025

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 (ASHA). 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 2023-2025 cohort are not available at the time of this report.

Academic Assessment for 2024-2025

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:

- 2023-2025 Cohort; CSDI Comprehensive exam – 100% pass
- 2023-2025 Cohort; Praxis Exam in SLP – (24/24) 100% pass; 2 students passed in the second retaking of the exam.
- 2023-2025 Cohort Coursework; 100% (24/24) Passed all completed coursework with 80% accuracy or higher.
- 2024-2026 100% (25/25) Passed all academic coursework with 80% accuracy or higher.

Clinical Education Outcomes

Program Goals Learning Outcomes and Student Performance

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.

Between May 2024 and May 2025, the graduate students participated in:

- 9,523.3 graduate level clinical education training hours for the 2025 graduating cohort.
- CSDI 53833, Summer 2024: (24 students) yielded 72 graduate credit hours
- CSDI 51803, Fall 2024: (25 students) yielded 75 graduate credit hours
- CSDI 54803, Fall 2024: (24 students) yielded 72 graduate credit hours
- CSDI 55805, Spring 2025: (24 students) yielded 120 graduate credit hours
- CSDI 52833, Spring 2025: (25 students) yielded 75 graduate credit hours
- Total Graduate Credit Hours completed for Clinical Education = 414

Student Outcomes:

2023-2025 Cohort Final Clinical Skills Ratings 3+ – 100% at 3 or higher

2024-2026 Cohort Clinic Practicum Grade – 96% at 80% or higher

2023-2025 Cohort Clinical Practicum Grade -100% at 80% or higher

Assessment Plan:

Based on the assessment results, no changes in the assessment process are planned for the next academic year. CSDI faculty reported a concern in the availability of clinical faculty workload to cover the needed clinical education for graduate students. A certificate of clinical competence (CCC) is required for faculty to be eligible to sign-off on application-based clinical skills competencies to meet certification standards. Faculty are brainstorming ways to embed more application-based clinical skills training into academic courses for the upcoming academic year.