Communication Sciences and Disorders

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Saneta Thurmon, M.A., Undergraduate Program Director
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Saneta Thurmon, M.A.

The department offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. The undergraduate curriculum includes coursework in normal processes of speech, language, and hearing, anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanisms, cultural diversity, speech and language development, as well as speech, language, and hearing disorders. Coursework in the discipline is relevant to students pursuing a career in health care, education, allied health, medicine, as well as speech-language pathology and audiology.

Requirements for the Bachelor’s degree include:
1. A minimum of 120 credit hours, with 51-63 hours from core arts and sciences curriculum. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) certification standards for speech-language pathology require that applicants have coursework or the equivalent in each of the following areas: biological science, physical science, social/behavioral science, and statistics. Students should keep this in mind as they plan their core classes.
2. 39 hours required for the major
3. Remaining hours may be completed as a minor, certificate, a double major or related elective hours.
4. Undergraduate majors are required to maintain a GPA of at least 2.5 in the major, specifically in reference to all required CSD courses. Students who wish to pursue a graduate degree in speech-language pathology or audiology, however, typically will need a cumulative GPA of well above a 3.0 to be considered for acceptance into a graduate program.
5. 25 hours of clinical observation
6. Capstone project

The purpose of the capstone project is to provide an integrative experience for seniors that ties together the key learning objectives identified by the department that are consistent with the five dimensions as described in the mission of the University. This experience is required for all seniors and is incorporated in one of two places in the curriculum: Senior Seminar (CSDI 480) or the Research Seminar (CSDI 405) and Research Practicum (CSDI 406) sequence.*

All students in the program experience a minimum of 25 hours of guided observation of adults and children with a variety of speech, language, and hearing disorders. Undergraduate students meeting all pre-requisites have the opportunity to participate in an elective clinical practicum (CSDI 470), typically done second semester, senior year. For more information about requirements for the clinical practicum, see Eligibility Requirements for Clinical Practicum on the Department web page.

Students are directed to the department webpage for information about the mission of the department as well as the learning outcomes and assessment plan. These documents are framed by the five interrelated dimensions of the Saint Louis University Experience.

The department also offers both a Master of Arts and a Master of Arts (Research) degree in speech-language pathology. A graduate degree is necessary to practice as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist. Our master’s degree program in speech-language pathology is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA).

* Students who choose to take the Research sequence must have recommendation from a department mentor as well as approvals from their academic mentor and the department chair.

Communication Sciences and Disorders (Bachelor of Arts)

Required CSDI courses: 39 credit hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 200</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 220</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology of the Speech Mechanism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 240</td>
<td>Foundations of Language</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 300</td>
<td>Characteristics of Multicultural Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 320</td>
<td>Speech Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 340</td>
<td>Hearing Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 360</td>
<td>Speech Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 380</td>
<td>Language Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 400</td>
<td>Survey of Speech Disorders</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 410</td>
<td>Survey of Language Disorders</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 420</td>
<td>Audiology: Basic Audiometry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 430</td>
<td>Clinical Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Students pursuing a graduate degree are encouraged to take statistics during their undergraduate program.

**Minor**
The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers a minor in Communication Sciences and may be obtained by students who successfully complete the following courses (19 credit hours):

- CSDI 100 Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorder 3
- CSDI 200 Phonetics 2
- CSDI 220 Anatomy & Physiology of Speech Mechanism 3
- CSDI 240 Foundations of Language 2
- CSDI 320 Speech Science 3
- CSDI 340 Hearing Science 3
- CSDI 450 Neurological Bases of Communication 3

**Elective Courses in CSDI**

**Electives in the major include:**
- CSDI 100 Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorder 3
- CSDI 260 Counseling 2
- CSDI 342 Beginning Sign Language 1
- CSDI 343 Advanced Sign Language 1
- CSDI 405 Research Seminar 1
- CSDI 406 Research Practicum 1
- CSDI 460 Advanced Audiology 2
- CSDI 470 Clinical Practicum 1