

Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Communication Sciences and Disorders is a comprehensive program of study for preparing students who want to become speech-language pathologists or audiologists. The program helps students acquire a strong foundation in the basic sciences and processes related to typical, delayed and disordered speech, language, cognition, swallowing, and hearing. Students gain critical-thinking abilities necessary to apply foundational knowledge and skills to the identification, assessment, and treatment of communication disorders.

Graduates often proceed to [advanced degrees in speech-language pathology or audiology](#) to habilitate and rehabilitate children and adults with a variety of disorders and delays through service and research. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are employed in environments such as schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, community clinics and nursing homes.

Contact

Administrative Support Assistant

Amanda Anderson

ajh18@psu.edu

[+1 717-948-6326](tel:+17179486326)

Program Chair

Paul M. Evitts, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

pxe5073@psu.edu

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PennState
Harrisburg

777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
Phone: 717-948-6189
Fax: 717-948-6724
harrisburg.psu.edu



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School of Humanities



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Curriculum

Overall, the curriculum enables students to develop fundamental knowledge based on scientific principles, skills, and attitudes required for habilitating and rehabilitating persons of all ages with a wide range of speech, language, and hearing problems. Further, the curriculum allows students an opportunity to explore all aspects of communication sciences and disorders as well as elect courses of special interest.

The first two years of study emphasize general education and background study. The last two years of study emphasize normal and disordered aspects of speech, language, and hearing as well as professional management, concerns, and obligations. Clinical observation and diversity focused coursework are included in the curriculum.



Courses Overview

The Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Program prepares students to pursue graduate education and career paths in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Through classroom instruction and field experiences, students learn about services and clinical interventions provided to children and adults in a variety of settings such as public schools, hospitals, and rehabilitation centers.

The demand for Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) is growing in Central Pennsylvania. CSD Program graduates who become SLPs will benefit from finding work in the region, and residents of all ages will benefit from the increase in available services.

The CSD curriculum closely follows [American Speech and Hearing Association](#) requirements. Students in their first two years take a variety of recommended General Education courses in disciplines including Psychology, Education, Chemistry, Biology, English, and Communication.

These courses support the CSD major curriculum, which includes courses such as Deaf Culture (CSD 269), Audiology (CSD 230), Assessing and Treating Language Disorders (CSD 300), and Aural Rehabilitation (CSD 433). Additionally, students can choose from a wide range of electives in Linguistics, Human Development and Family Studies, and Sociology, among others.

Following the 2+2 Plan, students can also begin the program on the Harrisburg campus and move to the University Park campus CSD Program.

The Harrisburg campus CSD Program will accept junior level transfers from non-Penn State institutions beginning in the Fall of 2022.

Undergraduate Admissions Requirements

Minimum high school course requirements for admission to baccalaureate (four-year) degree programs are listed below. Keep in mind that specific programs may have additional requirements or recommendations.

English

Four units, including one unit each in composition and literature, are required.

Social Studies/Art/Humanities

Three units in any combination of social studies, arts, and humanities are required.

World Language

Two units in a single world language other than English are required. However, a student may be admitted with fewer than two units in a world language other than English, but must correct this deficiency by the time s/he earns 60 credits or graduates from Penn State, whichever comes first. This deficiency may be corrected by passing one three- or four-credit college level world language course or by demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two units of high school world language study.

Either a third unit in the same language or an additional unit in a second world language other than English is recommended.

Science

Three units of science are required. Preparation in chemistry and physics is recommended but not required for our Science and Engineering/Engineering Technology programs.

Math

Three units of mathematics are required (four are recommended), selected from any combination of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Some programs have additional mathematics requirements. Our Business, Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Science programs require one-half unit of trigonometry or higher level math within the required three units.

Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

*In most high school curricula, one unit = one year.

Visit Undergraduate Admissions: Admissions Requirements for more information (<http://goo.gl/eVGAMB>)