

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS, BA

The Communication Sciences and Disorders major provides students with opportunities for study in the areas of speech–language pathology, audiology, and the normal aspects of speech, hearing, and language. Most students pursue this major because they hope to work as a licensed and certified clinical speech–language pathologist or audiologist, assisting clients with communication impairments arising from acquired neurological conditions, developmental conditions, genetic conditions, or unknown causes. Professional clinical practice follows completion of a master’s degree in speech–language pathology (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/communication-sciences-disorders/communication-sciences-disorders-ms/>), or a doctor of audiology degree (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/communication-sciences-disorders/audiology-consortial-program-uw-stevens-point-aud/>). Some students pursue the undergraduate major as a foundation for a research career in speech, language or hearing sciences. Others pursue the major as a preliminary step toward advanced training in other professional fields (e.g., medicine, nursing, special education), or as a liberal arts degree that could lead to a variety of different career paths (speech–language pathology assistant, educational assistant, line therapist).

The department is accredited in speech–language pathology and in audiology by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech–Language–Hearing Association (ASHA). Therefore, academic courses and clinical practica in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders may be applied toward clinical certification by ASHA (speech language pathology or audiology), and toward state licensure.