

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

The major in communication sciences and disorders 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 practice as licensed and/or certified clinicians in educational and medical–allied–health settings, assisting clients with communicative impairments arising from disease, trauma, predisposition, maladaptive learning, 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/>), and involves evaluation and treatment based upon a firm theoretical understanding of normal processes of hearing, and of speech and language formulation, production, and perception. 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., law, medicine, nursing, special education).

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 practice 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.