

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Purpose and Philosophy

The Communication Sciences and Disorders Division of the Department of Communication offers a Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology.

Professional practice in speech-language pathology has increasingly moved into the medical and rehabilitation context. Professional speech-language pathologists provide services to improve communicative ability and the quality of life. This program is clearly consistent with the mission of the university.

The mission of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Division is to provide the highest quality academic and clinical experience for the training of speech-language pathologists.

Students and clinical faculty will be involved in the provision of diagnostic and treatment services to the community, research into the causes, prevention and effects of communication disorders, and advocacy for persons with communication disabilities. The training program will endeavor to produce speech-language pathologists with professional competency and conduct consistent with the highest national standards. Our goal will be to generate moral and ethical professional people of character who lead because of their spiritual involvement and who serve from a value base that comes from nurturing in a Christian environment.

The department is housed in the Don H. Morris Center, which contains excellent classroom, research and clinical facilities. In addition to the ACU

Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic, the Voice Institute of West Texas provides opportunity to study neurogenic disorders, voice and swallowing disorders. Modern technology is utilized in classroom instruction. The faculty is nationally recognized for its research, multimedia productions, articles, papers, teaching, consulting and clinical instruction.

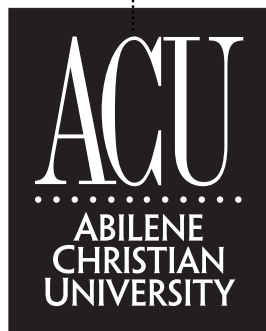
Departmental Requirements

The Master of Science degree consists of 39 hours of academic preparation and a minimum of 13 hours of clinical practicum. The course work is presented in a two-year sequence. A written comprehensive examination is required. The Praxis Examination may be taken as an alternative to the comprehensive examination.

Admission Requirements

Enrollment will be limited. Selection of students will be based on 10 criterion.

1. A completed Application for Admission to the ACU Graduate School and non-refundable application fee.
2. Full-time students only, no part-time students can be considered at this time.
3. A two-year commitment is required from all applicants.
4. Undergraduate grade point average will be given high priority.
5. Undergraduate grade point average in the major will be given high priority.
6. Undergraduate major in Communication Disorders or appropriate leveling work will be required of all applicants.
7. Letters of recommendation must come from professionals in the field and relate to the applicant's potential academic success.
8. Interview – a personal interview may be scheduled with the advisor or graduate faculty.
9. A writing sample is required.
10. GRE score of 950 or MAT score of 40 is suggested.



Scholarships, Graduate Assistantships and Financial Aid

Graduate assistantships and scholarships are available to highly-qualified students. Assistantships typically include compensation for part-time work and a partial tuition remission. Applications for assistantships and scholarships are available from the Graduate School. Assistantship awards will be made beginning May 1.

Financial assistance is available to students through scholarships, assistantships, loans, and part-time employment. For further information on financial aid, contact:

Student Financial Services
ACU Box 28228
Abilene, Texas 79699-8228
800-888-0228 or 325-674-2643

Communication Sciences and Disorders

52-HOUR NON-THESIS PROGRAM

• Core Courses (39 hours)

- COMP 601 Phonological Disorders
- COMP 602 Aphasia
- COMP 603 Motor Speech Disorders and Dysphagia
- COMP 604 Voice Disorders
- COMP 607 Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- COMP 608 Communication Disorders in Bilingual/Bicultural Populations
- COMP 609 Advanced Audiology
- COMP 610 Advanced Study of Language Disorders in Children
- COMP 620 Communication Research Methods
- COMP 640 Special Topic: Capstone
- COMP 659 Seminar in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Theory in Speech Pathology
- COMP 661 Special Problems in Speech Pathology and Audiology
- COMP 670 Seminar in Speech Pathology

• Clinical Practicum and Internship (13 hours)

- COMP 693 Clinical Practicum
- COMP 694 Advanced Clinical Practicum

Course of Instruction

- COMP 601 Phonological Disorders** (3-0-3), fall. An analysis and investigation of articulation disorders and phonological processing theory and application.
- COMP 602 Aphasia** (3-0-3), fall. Etiology, symptomatology, assessment and therapeutic techniques for effective treatment of neurologically based language disorders including aphasia and closed head injury.
- COMP 603 Motor Speech Disorders and Dysphagia** (3-0-3), spring. Oral motor disorders of speech with a neuromuscular basis found in children and adults. Discussion includes motor-based articulation disorders, fluency, voice disorders, the dysarthrias, cerebral palsy and dysphagia.
- COMP 604 Voice Disorders** (3-0-3), spring. The etiology, diagnosis and treatment of voice disorders, laryngeal pathology and alaryngeal speech.
- COMP 605 Cleft Palate and Orofacial Pathologies** (3-0-3), fall. The study of cleft palate and other orofacial anomalies with emphasis on speech, language, voice, and hearing disorders. Diagnosis and treatment of structurally based disorders due to deviations in the dental, skeletal and muscular systems.
- COMP 606 Fluency Disorders** (3-0-3), spring. The study of various theories, research findings, rationales and methodologies for evaluation and treatment of stuttering in children and adults.
- COMP 607 Augmentative and Alternative Communication** (3-0-3), on demand. Presentation of non-oral communication systems, language forms, techniques and technology.
- COMP 608 Communication Disorders in Bilingual/Bicultural Populations** (3-0-3), on demand. Current theory and practice of bilingual/bicultural speech-language acquisition, cultural linguistic differences and disorders.
- COMP 609 Advanced Audiology** (3-0-3), on demand. Advanced instruction in audiological assessment and interpretation.
- COMP 610 Advanced Study of Language Disorders in Children** (3-0-3), on demand. Evaluation and treatment of disorders of language in children and infants, including developmental disorders and acquired problems.
- COMP 620 Communication Research Methods** (3-0-3), spring. Emphasis on the scientific method, survey research, laboratory research, sampling procedures, questionnaire construction and interviewing techniques. (Same as COMS 620 and JMC 620.)
- COMP 659 Seminar in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Theory in Speech Pathology** (3-0-3), fall. Studies in a specialized area of speech pathology; evaluation of diagnostic and therapeutic literature. May be taken more than one semester for maximum of 6 hours.
- COMP 661 Special Problems in Speech Pathology and Audiology** (3-0-3), fall. In-depth study of various problems, concepts and subjects in speech pathology and audiology. May be taken more than one semester for maximum of 6 hours.
- COMP 670 Seminar in Speech Pathology** (3-0-3), spring. Evaluation of the theoretical and experimental research literature in speech pathology on various topics. May be taken more than one semester for maximum of 6 hours.
- COMP 693 Clinical Practicum** (2-2-3), on demand. Diagnostic and treatment procedures under close supervision in speech-language pathology.
- COMP 694 Advanced Clinical Practicum** (2-0-2), on demand.

Accreditation Status

The Communication Sciences and Disorders program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Faculty

Fully licensed and certified by ASHA Clinical Instructional Staff

Jon Ashby, Ph.D., 1972, *professor of communication disorders*;
A.A., Ohio Valley College, 1962; B.S.Ed., Abilene Christian University,
1964; M.A., Louisiana State University, 1966; Ph.D., Louisiana State
University, 1972.

Denise Barnett, 1991, *instructor of communication disorders*;
B.S., Abilene Christian University, 1980; M.A., ACU, 1982.

Brenda Bender, Ph.D., *instructor of communication disorders*;
B.S.Ed., ACU, 1990; M.S., University of North Texas; Ph.D., University
of Memphis, 2002.

MaLesa Breeding, 1999, *assistant professor of communication
disorders*; B.S., Abilene Christian University, 1980; M.A., ACU, 1986;
Ed.D., Texas Tech University, 1998.

Adjunct

Austin King, M.D., otolaryngology, head and neck surgery

Charles Nelson, D.M., vocal pedagogy

For More Information

Materials for application to the Master of Science in
speech-language pathology may be obtained from:

Jennifer Walker
Graduate Admissions
200 Zellner Hall
ACU Box 29000
Abilene, Texas 79699-9000
800-395-4723 or 325-674-2650
Fax: 325-674-2130
Email: gradinfo@acu.edu
Web: www.acu.edu/grad

Advisor for graduate speech-language pathology:

Dr. Jon Ashby, Program Director
ACU Box 28058
Abilene, Texas 79699-8058
325-675-2074
Fax: 325-674-2552
Email: ashbyj@acu.edu

Dr. MaLesa Breeding
Coordinator of Graduate Studies
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Fax: 325-674-2552
Email: breedingm@acu.edu