



Communication Sciences and Disorders

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

KEY STRENGTHS

- Graduate program in speech-language pathology is nationally accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- King David's Kids – A ministry to families of children with pervasive development disabilities.

POINTS OF EXCELLENCE

- 95 percent acceptance rate to graduate program.
- 80 percent pass rate on the National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (NESPA) among first-time test takers compared to a national average of 77 percent. Overall 100 percent pass rate on the NESPA.
- 99 percent graduation rate among students earning a master's degree.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Science
- Master of Science

MAJORS AVAILABLE

- Communication Disorders

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Work as a certified speech-language pathologist in the following settings:

- Hospitals
- Acute care
- Out-patient care
- Home health care
- Outpatient rehabilitation clinics
- Private practice
- Public schools
- Private schools
- Long-term care facilities
- University clinics

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- NSSLHA – National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association, a national organization for graduate and undergraduate students interested in the study of normal and disordered communication.
- Laboratory experience in the ACU Speech and Hearing Clinic.
- Observation and service-learning experience with a variety of individuals with communication disorders.
- Laboratory experience in King David's Kids – for graduate students.
- Externship practicum experiences in local hospitals, rehabilitation centers, public and private schools, and long-term care facilities – for graduate students.

Scholarships available

- Jon Ashby Scholarship – Provided by the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation
- Audra Cobb Scholarship
- Lydia B. Sebastian Harrell Scholarship
- Richard Slade S. Harrell Scholarship

Please consult with your admissions counselor for details on these and other scholarships available to you.

FACILITIES

Instructional and laboratory facilities are located in the Don H. Morris Center. The facilities include well-equipped classrooms, speech-language pathology therapy rooms, audiometric diagnostic suites and a fully equipped voice laboratory including acoustical analysis equipment.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Majors in 2006-07 school year: 99
Percent of 2006-07 graduates accepted to graduate/professional school: 95 percent

RECENT GRADUATES

Jaryn Mock, class of 2006; attending graduate school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, Texas.

Rebecca Lemmons, class of 2006; attending graduate school at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Crystal Hernandez, class of 2004; Taylor-Callahan Special Education Co-operative, Abilene, Texas.

Audrey Almond, class of 2003; Plano Independent School District, Plano, Texas.

Meredith McLaughlin, class of 2003; EBS Healthcare, Boston, Mass.

STUDENT SUCCESS

ACU students in Communication Sciences and Disorders are very successful in the job market. Most students graduating with master's degrees are gainfully employed before graduation. ACU undergraduates have high acceptance rates into graduate schools, including Vanderbilt University, Emerson College, and the University of Texas Systems.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Susan Yeats, class of 1986; director, Greater Hartford Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center, Hartford, Conn.

Melissa Kirby, class of 1993; vocal musician specialist, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Cheryl Cunningham, class of 1978; director of early childhood education, Abilene Independent School District, Abilene, Texas.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Denise D. Barnett, M.A. – Presented "Aphasia Impact on Activities of Daily Living," and "Constraint-Induced Therapy in Language Intervention," Poster Session, Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, 2006.

Brenda Bender, Ph.D. – Published: "Nonspecific Swallowing Complaints: Is It Reflux?" *Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation*, 23,4. Presented: "Therapy Techniques For Vocal Nodules in school-aged children," "Patient Education and the Effects on the Voice Component of GERD," and "Vocal problems in Elementary Teachers" at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Annual Convention, Grapevine, Texas.

Malisa J. Breeding, Ed.D. – Published "Let All the Children Come to Me," Colorado Spring, Colo., Cook Communication Ministries, 2006. Presented "Examination of a Family Support Ministry Model and Family Members" and "An Invitation to the King's Table: Including Children with Disabilities in Bible Classes" to the International Conference on Children's Spirituality, Chicago, Ill., June 2006; "Children's interaction with educational television" and "Clinician intervention strategies to reduce sensory impairments in children with autism" to the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Annual Convention, Grapevine, Texas, 2006.

FACULTY

Lynette Austin, Ph.D., *assistant professor*; B.S.Ed., Abilene Christian University, 1995; M.A., ACU, 1997; Ph.D., University of Houston, 2007.

Terry Baggs, Ph.D., *assistant professor*; B.A., Freed-Hardeman University, 1977; M.S., University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 1981; Ph.D., The University of Memphis, 1992.

Denise Barnett, *instructor, clinical supervisor*; B.S., Abilene Christian University, 1980; M.A., ACU, 1982.

Brenda Bender, Ph.D., *associate professor, chair*; B.S.Ed., Abilene Christian University, 1990; M.S., University of North Texas, 1994; Ph.D., The University of Memphis, 2001.

Malisa Breeding, Ed.D., *professor*; B.S.Ed., Abilene Christian University, 1980; M.A., ACU, 1986; Ed.D., Texas Tech University, 1998.

D'Lyla Kirby, *assistant professor, clinic supervisor*; B.S.Ed., Abilene Christian University, 1973; M.S., Texas Tech University, 1978.

Holly Morris, *clinical supervisor*; B.S., Abilene Christian University; M.S., ACU, 2001.

Dava Lynn Sullivan, *clinical supervisor*; B.S., Abilene Christian University; M.S., Emerson College, 2000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About the Department

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About ACU and Undergraduate Admissions Information

Abilene Christian University
Admissions Office
800-460-6228
info@admissions.acu.edu
www.acu.edu

Graduate Admission Information

William Horn
Graduate Admissions and Recruiting
211 Zellner Hall
ACU Box 29000
Abilene, Texas 79699-9000
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