

# **GUIDE FOR UNDERGRADUATE COMMUNICATION DISORDERS MAJORS**

## **PURPOSE**

This guide is designed to help students understand and meet the requirements for the undergraduate programs of study in Communication Disorders. All undergraduate majors take fundamental courses in both speech-language pathology and audiology. This is a liberal arts major that prepares students for graduate programs in speech-language pathology, audiology, deaf education, special education, and related fields. This guide explains the major sequences and offers suggested time-table of activities. Recommended electives are also listed. A glossary at the end provides information to assist in the transition from undergraduate to graduate student and to certified and licensed professional.

## **PRE-MAJOR IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS**

Students who are considering a major in Communication Disorders should investigate careers in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Resources are available through the Careers Resource Center in HAB 705 and through the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA). Student may also consider working in the department office and the Speech-Language & Hearing Center. Work-study opportunities are available in the department for all students. Students may want to consider a pre-major in the department. Pre-majors will be assigned an advisor in the department and will be allowed to take up to 15 credits of CORE major courses. Once 15 credits are taken, students must either declare their major in Communication Disorders or switch to another major of interest. The Introduction to Communication Disorders and Language Development are two CORE courses that provide a good introduction into the major.

## **MAJOR SEQUENCE (588 campus code)**

Once minimum requirements are met (see Declaring a Major), all interested students declare the Liberal Arts Curriculum, Communication Disorders, Academic Sequence. Highlights of this program are:

- 48 credit hour major,
- 27 credits of core courses,
- 12 credits of additional required courses,
- 6 credits of selected electives,
- 3 credits of communication skills electives.

## **DECLARING A MAJOR**

Students who have less than 30 credits cannot declare a major in the Communication Disorders department. In order to declare the 588 major, students must have a GPA of 3.0 or better by the time they have completed 15 credits of core coursework in the major.

To declare your major, make an appointment with a department advisor in the Communication Disorders program. You must have 30 college credits & a minimum GPA of 3.0.

## **JOIN NSSLHA**

We have an active local chapter of the National Students Speech-Language and Hearing Association. This is a great opportunity for students to become active in academics, leadership, volunteerism and fund raising. Guest speakers are invited for student workshops and seminars. Members often participate in fund

raising for charities. Members provide tours at open house and for prospective students. Fall and spring banquets are held each year.

## MINORS

Many students take minors with the Communication Disorders major. Common minors for Communication Disorders students are Linguistics, Psychology and Spanish. When considering a minor, students are encouraged to discuss these options with the academic major advisor and an advisor in the “minor” department.

### SUGGESTED TIME-TABLE OF ACTIVITIES

Note: Courses in the majors build on pre-requisites; they may not be taken out of sequence. Elective and G.E. courses may be taken any time.

#### 1st two years of College - Complete General Education Requirements

GE courses that might be useful:

- Consider taking a course in Sociology or Psychology to fulfill the Social Sciences (SSCI) requirement. ASHA requires 6 credits in psychology and/or Sociology.
- ASHA requires a biological science and a physical science. Therefore, one of your Natural Science (NSCI) courses should be from the Biology department and the other should be from Chemistry, Geology, Geography, or Physics.
- ASHA wants all candidates for certification to have completed at least one College-level mathematics course (e.g., algebra, geometry, pre-calculus, or statistics). Students who have met the GE Math requirement through placement, therefore, will still need to take a math course to meet the ASHA certification requirements.
- Consider taking the departmental Diversity offering "Deaf Culture and Heritage" which also may be counted as an elective in the academic track major.

Other hints:

- If time permits, consider taking Child Psychology and Development and/or Sociological and Philosophical Foundations of Education
- If time permits, consider taking Public Speaking which is a requirement in the academic track.
- Consider taking American Sign Language I and II, which counts as the Foreign Language requirement for the major. ASHA requires a course or demonstrated competency in ASL.
- If you are interested in "testing the waters" before declaring the major, you may, as a sophomore, take either 88312 Introduction to Communication Disorders or 88306 Language Development in Children.
- Please feel free to contact the department for more information. We provide both formal and informal advising to interested premajor students.

<b>588 ACADEMIC SEQUENCE – sample</b>	
FALL	SPRING
Sophomore year	
<b>. DECLARE YOUR MAJOR</b>	
Junior Year	
Communication Disorders Major	
CMD306 Lang Develop in Children	CMD301 Speech Science
CMD310 Anat & Phy s S&H 4 cr	CMD305 Hearing Science
CMD312 Intro to Comm. Disorders	CMD405 Tests and Assessments
CMD302 Phonetics	CMD415 Disorders of Child Language
CMD417 Audiology	Elective or minor course
<b>JOIN NATL STUDENT SPCH LANG HEAR ASSOC NP CHAPTER</b>	
Senior Year	
CMD409 Intro Aural Rehab	CMD416 Artic. and Motor Speech Dis.
CMD418 Disorders Pros. & Voice	Major Elective See Rec. List
CMD401 Obs in Comm Dis 2 cr	Elective or minor course
Elective – or minor course	Elective

FILE DEGREE APPLICATION (Nov 1)	OPEN FILE-CAREER ADVISING/FIELDWORK, HAB 705
THINK ABOUT GRAD SCHOOL	APPLY TO GRAD SCHOOL NP DEADLINE = MAR 1
REGISTER FOR GRE	TAKE GRE

### Recommended Elective Courses (Credit Hours)

BLK396 Black English: Language & Culture (3)  
 EDS272 Sociological and Philosophical Foundations of Educ (3)  
 EDS 365 Psychology of Human Learning (3)  
 SPE210 Psychology of Exceptional Children & Youth (3)  
 SPE301 Mainstreaming Handicapped Children (3)  
 SPE311 Diagnostic Assessment in Special Ed (3) Prereq: 39210  
 ENG226 Practical Grammar (3)  
 ENG228 Introduction to the English Language (3)  
 LIN201 Introduction to Linguistics  
 LIN340 Music Therapy Methods & Materials (3) Prereq: PI  
 LIN345 Psychology of Music (3)  
 PHI306 Biomedical Ethics (3)  
 PHI336 Philosophy of Language (3)  
 PHY109 Physics of Sound and Music (3)  
 PSY272 General Psychology (3)  
 PSY275 Psychological Statistics (4)  
 PSY320 Behavior Modification: Principles & Procedures (3)  
 PSY402 Psychology of Language (3)  
 CMD101 Sign Language 1 (3)  
 CMD102 Sign Language 2 (3)  
 CMM359 Intercultural Communication (3)  
 CMM413 Sociolinguistics (3)

Note 1: For course descriptions, please see college catalog or web site.

Note 2: In addition to the above courses, any courses in foreign language would be useful.

### GLOSSARY

**Audiologist** - a specialist in hearing science and the assessment and remediation of hearing loss. These professionals measure hearing ability and identify, evaluate, manage, and work to prevent and treat disorders of hearing and balance

**ASHA or the American Speech Language Hearing Association** - the national professional association for speech-language pathology and audiology.

**Assessment of Teaching Skills-Written (ATS-W)** - Either the elementary or secondary version of this test is required for provisional certification in speech and hearing. Both versions contain both multiple choice questions and a written assignment based on such topics as knowledge of the learner, instructional planning and assessment, and the professional environment. (Administered through National Evaluation Systems, Amherst, MA.)

**Career Resource Center**- Located in the Haggerty Administration Building; this office lists job openings, helps in resume writing, and maintains placement files for students which can be used when applying for graduate school or professional positions. It is recommended that students take advantage of this facility.

**Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC)** - This certificate is awarded by the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) upon completion of a masters degree in Communication Disorders, a year of paid experience known as the Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY) or (CF), passing of a national examination in the field, and completion of an application.\* Separate certificates are awarded in Speech Language Pathology & Audiology.

**Certificate of Qualification (CQ)** - The certificate formerly awarded by the NYS Dept. of Education prior to the issuance of Provisional Certification. This certificate demonstrates that one is qualified to receive provisional certification when employed by a school system. These certificates are no longer awarded.

**Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY) or (CF)** - A minimum of nine months of full-time professional employment or comparable part-time employment that is supervised by an ASHA certified professional. The CF is obtained following the Masters degree.\*

**Clinical Clock Hours** - Time spent directly with a client engaging in assessment and/or remediation of a speech, language, or hearing problem. These hours must be documented and include 25 hours of observation which begin to be accumulated in Observations in Clinical Disorders. A form for record keeping may be obtained in the Speech & Hearing Center. In total students will need 375 clinical clock hours, 250 of these must be received on the Graduate level in the major area. (New Paltz Speech & Hearing Center hours are generally Mon-Thurs, 1-6 p.m.)

**Code of Ethics** - The principles described by ASHA outlining the ethical conduct required of professional speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

**Comprehensive Examination** - The 8 hour written examination required by the SUNY-New Paltz, Dept. of Communication Disorders for individuals completing a Masters degree in Communication Disorders. Usually taken the last semester of graduate studies.

**Graduate Record Examination (GRE)** - A general lengthy examination required by many graduate schools as an admission criterion. Should be taken during the Senior year in planning for graduate school. For admission to SUNY New Paltz, the GRE is required.

**Initial Certification as a Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD) in New York State** - This is the title under the new regulations. Individuals are eligible for initial certification upon completion of a registered undergraduate program includes appropriate coursework and practicum.

**Liberal Arts & Science Test (LAST)** - A test including both multiple choice questions and a written assignment based on critical thinking skills and knowledge of history, science, mathematics, social studies, humanities, etc. Required for provisional certification under the old regulations. (Administered through National Evaluation Systems, Amherst, MA.)

**License or Licensure (New York State)** - Individuals with a masters degree in Communication Disorders, a year of paid experience, and who have passed a national examination, are eligible for a license as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist. Most states issue licenses that permit individuals to practice their profession in hospitals, clinics, or private practice. (NYS License Board phone: 518-4743832).

**Miller Analogies Test (MAT)** - An examination required by some Graduate Schools as a criterion for admission. Usually students must take either the MAT or the GRE. For admissions to SUNY New Paltz, students must take the GRE.

**National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (NESPA)** - This examination is also referred to as the National Teachers Examination (NTE) Specialty Examination or PRAXIS and it is required for both licensure and ASHA certification. It is a comprehensive examination administered three times a year and consists of 150 multiple choice questions. Separate examinations are given in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Applicants for the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) must pass the exam within 2 years after the first NESPA administration following ASHA approval of their coursework and practicum. (There is no limit on how often the test is taken.)

**National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)** - An organization for students interested in speech-language pathology and/or audiology. It is supported by the American Speech Language Hearing Association. The New Paltz Chapter of NSSLHA provides extra-curricular pre-professional opportunities for Speech & Hearing Majors. It hosts guest speakers and encourages student involvement in professional issues. Applications are available in the Speech & Hearing Center.

**New Paltz Speech, Language, and Hearing Center** - Also known as the "clinic," offers assessment and treatment of communicative disorders to children and adults and provides supervised clinical experience for communication disorders majors.

**New York State Speech Language Hearing Association (NYSSLHA)** - not to be confused with NSSLHA, NYSSLHA attracts professionals who live and/or work in New York State. Its annual convention is usually held in April and offers the opportunity for attending special lectures and workshops.

**New York State Teacher Certification Examinations (NYSTCE)** - A battery of tests required for NYS Teacher Certification. These include the Liberal Arts & Sciences Test (LAST), elementary & secondary versions of the Assessment of Teaching Skills-Written (ATS-W).

**Professional Certification as a Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD) in New York State** - This is the title under the new regulations. Individuals are eligible for professional certification following two years of school experience as a teacher of children with speech, language or hearing disabilities and a masters degree in Speech-Language Pathology. The total preparation includes the requirements for the issuance of the Initial Certificate (TSSLD).

**Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)** - professional who specializes in identifying, diagnosing, treating, and preventing speech, language, and swallowing disorders.