



Bachelor of Arts in Communicative Disorders

College of Communications

Why study communicative disorders at Cal State Fullerton?

A career in communicative disorders offers many challenges and opportunities. Many of these opportunities involve working with individuals throughout their life span and within a variety of settings. In order to take advantage of these opportunities, individuals employed in the communicative disorders field rely heavily on their undergraduate training. Cal State Fullerton offers a high quality degree program that creates a strong foundation for students to use in their careers.

The faculty at Cal State Fullerton is comprised of quality professors and teaching assistants that are respected throughout the nation. Their particular areas of strength include specialized, in-depth education in the diagnosis and management of communicative disorders in individuals from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Other areas of strength are the use of technology to help persons who may need to communicate non-orally, and training individuals to work with swallowing disorders and with communication problems that occur when persons must breathe with the help of a ventilator.

The Communicative Disorders Program at Cal State Fullerton also provides benefits through its relationship with the community. We are fortunate to be able to provide to our students a strong association with a large number of hospitals, schools and clinics in the community. These organizations are closely involved with the university in the education and training of students in communicative disorders.

Our program also benefits from its association with national agencies that govern the field of communicative disorders. We have been accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association since 1969. Each of these indicators of quality provides assurance that Cal State Fullerton can provide the education that students need to meet the complex demands of being a speech-language pathologist in the 21st century.

What types of career opportunities are available?

Speech-language pathologists are specialists in the diagnosis and treatment of communicative disorders. They work in a variety of settings including public schools; clinics and agencies; private practice; and hospitals of various types, including acute, rehabilitation, psychiatric and extended care hospitals. They work with communicative disorders of all types. Many of these disorders occur in children with developmental problems. Speech-language pathologists also work with the communicative and swallowing disorders that result from certain illnesses and injuries. While most speech-language pathologists decide to work directly with people who have communicative disorders, some teach in colleges or universities, conduct research or work as administrators. Others develop products and devices that are useful for people with communicative disorders or for speech-language pathologists.

Course work in the Communicative Disorders program also provides opportunities for students interested in pursuing later graduate study and careers as audiologists. Similar to speech-language pathologists, audiologists work in a variety of settings. The primary difference is that audiologists specialize in the assessment and treatment of individuals with hearing and balance disorders.

According to recent United States Department of labor statistics, there is a projected need for more than 34,000 additional speech-language pathologists nationwide between the years 2000-2010. Part of this growing need is in response to the growing numbers of children with severe communication disorders related to conditions such as autism. The demand for audiologists is also likely to increase significantly due to the rapidly growing aging population and the number of older individuals with hearing impairments.

What courses are required for the major?

Undergraduate students seeking a B.A. in Communicative Disorders are encouraged to seek breadth in the natural sciences, as well as in the humanities and social sciences. Such a background is critical to speech-language pathologists who must be able to communicate with a variety of people with varied backgrounds and interests. Carefully selected general education courses may be used to satisfy this important expectation for breadth of study.

The requirements for the major include completion of 42 units from the program listed below.

Required Courses (42 units minimum)

Human Comm 241 Introduction to Phonetics (3)*

Human Comm 242 Introduction to Communicative Disorders (3) *

Human Comm 300 Introduction to Research in Speech Communication (3) **

Human Comm 307 Speech and Language Development (3) *

Human Comm 344 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Hearing (3) *

Human Comm 350 Speech and Hearing Science (3)

Human Comm 352 Child Language and Phonological Disorders (3)

Human Comm 461 Audiology and Audiometry (3)
Human Comm 465 Aural Rehabilitation (3)
Human Comm 472 Voice and Craniofacial Disorders (3)
Human Comm 474 Neurology and Neurogenic Communicative Disorders (3)
Human Comm 475 Fluency Disorders (3)
Human Comm 476 Clinical Methods and Procedures (3)

* It is recommended that students take these courses during the first two semesters of course work in the major. No prerequisites are needed.

** Fulfills the university's writing requirement. No prerequisites needed, but it is recommended that students complete Human Comm 241, 242, 307 and 344 prior to taking this class.

Elective Courses (3 units)

Choose one of the following courses Human Comm 302, 308*, 312, 345 or 404**

*Strongly recommended elective; course required before the first graduate research seminar (Human Comm 500).

**Required for American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) Certificate of Clinical Competence and the Preliminary Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential for working in California's Public Schools.

What are the special features of the Communicative Disorders Program?

Accreditation – The Communicative Disorders Program has been accredited by the Council of Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association without interruption since 1969.

Outstanding Faculty – Our program's faculty and clinical staff consist of experts in speech language pathology and audiology. Still, the faculty's first priority is students—teaching, providing guidance and helping them realize their goals.

Resources – Our program includes a well-equipped laboratory for studying the acoustic and physiologic aspects of speech. The program has an on-campus Speech and Hearing Clinic, as well as affiliations with an extensive network of hospitals, schools and clinics that provide clinical training to its students.

What scholarships and awards are available?

The department offers several awards that were established by family, friends and colleagues of the designees in memory of their commitment and contributions to students engaged in the study of human communication. These awards provide recognition and/or financial assistance to outstanding students majoring in speech communication or communicative disorders. These include the Rich Wiseman Memorial Award, Herb Booth Memorial Award, Phil Schreiner Memorial Award, Bill Gudykunst Memorial Award, Ralph Beckett Memorial Award, Antonia Maria Paula Bapat-Zaat Graduate Award, Seth Fesseden Memorial Award, John Scott McKay Textbook Award, and Antonia Maria Paula Bapat-Zaat Undergraduate Award.

What activities are available?

The Communicative Disorders Program sponsors an active chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA). The department's NSSLHA chapter received national distinction as ambassadors for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's 2005 annual convention. Over the years, this chapter has also helped raise thousands of dollars for projects and organizations such as the Center of Children Who Stutter, a non-profit speech center housed in Cal State Fullerton's Speech and Hearing Clinic. The department also has a Communicative Disorders Peer Mentor Center where student volunteers in the major provide ongoing mentoring and other forms of academic/social support to Communicative Disorders majors.

How do I get advisement?

To obtain initial advisement, contact the Human Communications Studies department office at (414) 278-3617 for the name and office hours of the current Communicative Disorders undergraduate adviser, or stop by the office during normal business hours. The office is located on the fourth floor of the College Park building (CP-420-1). Written advisement materials are also available through the main department office.

After receiving initial advisement from the department's Communicative Disorders undergraduate adviser, students will be assigned to a permanent adviser who is a full-time faculty member. Faculty members are committed to helping students work toward their individual personal and professional goals. Students are encouraged to see their assigned faculty adviser on a regular basis, at least once or twice a semester. Students who are assigned to a permanent faculty adviser also have privileges to use the services of the department's Communicative Disorders Peer Mentor Center.

How can I learn more?

For more information, please contact:
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P.O. box 6868
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