COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

Undergraduate Information

General Information

The NMSU Program in Communication Disorders offers an undergraduate program that results in a pre-professional Bachelor of Science degree that prepares students for graduate work. For clinical practice, the minimum entry-level is a Master’s degree for Speech-Language Pathology and a Doctoral degree for Audiology. Students who complete a Bachelor’s degree must go on to complete a Master’s to obtain state licensure and national certification in Speech-Language Pathology. A Doctoral degree is required for Audiology.

Further information regarding the fields of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology may be obtained on the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association website.

At NMSU we currently have approximately 140 undergraduate students who have declared a major in Communication Disorders. These students are required to successfully complete a minimum of 120 credits for the Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders. This includes a minimum of 54 upper division credits as well as a minimum of 9 credits from an approved list of electives.

Graduate Information

Information for Prospective Students

The Master of Arts (M.A.) program in Speech-Language Pathology; Communication Disorders at New Mexico State University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700

Bachelor Degree(s)

Communication Disorders - Bachelor of Science in Education

Master Degree(s)

Communication Disorders - Master of Arts

Associate Professor, Alfred Valdez, Interim Department Head

Associate Professors: Rhein, Mishra, Valdez; Assistant Professors: Lehner-Lehouille, Mohapatra; College Assistant Professors: Munoz, Bencomo, Lindsay, Nuanes Emeritus Professors: Farmer, Gallegos, Poel

G. Munoz, MA (New Mexico State University) clinical education, dysphagia; R. Nuanes, MA (New Mexico State University) clinical education, early intervention; R. Lindsay, MS (Southwest Texas State University) Clinical education, dysphagia; N. Bencomo, MA (New Mexico State University) clinical education, school-aged intervention; H. Lehner-Lehouiller, Ph.D. (State University of New York at Buffalo) speech science, phonetics, voice & speech sound disorders; S. Mishra, Ph.D. (University of Southampton, U.K.) audiology, hearing science and pediatric audiology; B. Mohapatra, Ph.D. (University of Georgia) acquired neurogenic communication disorders, biofeedback training; D. Rhein, Ph.D. (University of Arizona) bilingual language assessment, literacy; A. Valdez, Ph.D. (University of New Mexico) – language development/disorders/intervention, child/adult cognitive processes, research methods/statistical analysis; Emeriti: S. Farmer, Ph.D.; E. Poel, Ph.D.; A. Gallegos, Ed.D.

Sign Language Courses

SIGN 1110. American Sign Language I
3 Credits (3)
American Sign Language I is an introductory level language course in the language of the American Deaf culture. Content includes ASL vocabulary and conversational skills, linguistic features of ASL; and skills in narrative/storytelling. In-class activities, comprehension and expressive examinations, narrative and storytelling assignments in addition to semester projects are venues for students to demonstrate their learning. In addition, Deaf culture and Deaf Community issues are addressed.

SIGN 1120. American Sign Language II
3 Credits (3)
American Sign Language II is a continuation course that builds on concepts and skills developed in American Sign Language I. Students gain further exposure to ASL structure and grammar, and Deaf culture and the Deaf community. Emphasis is on increasing students’ ability to comprehend other signers and express themselves with more elaboration when conversing or presenting in ASL.

Prerequisite: SIGN 1110 or consent of instructor.

SIGN 2110. American Sign Language III
3 Credits (3)
This is an intermediate level course in American Sign Language (ASL). Expected areas of intermediate skill and knowledge development include: language comprehension and production, conversational use, narratives, ASL language features and further knowledge of and interaction with Deaf culture and the Deaf community.

Prerequisite: SIGN 1120.

SIGN 574. American Sign Language III
3 Credits (3)
Continuation of ASL II. Focus on more complex grammatical features. Students will comprehend and generate medium length stories, narratives, and discussions including culturally significant topics.

Prerequisite: SPHS 375 or consent of instructor.

Speech & Hearing Science Courses

SPHS 2110. Introduction to Communication Disorders
3 Credits (3)
This introductory course provides an overview of common speech, language, and hearing disorders in children and adults including etiologies, characteristics, prevention, identification, assessment and intervention. The course provides an overview of the field of speech-language pathology and audiology.

SPHS 301. Language Acquisition
3 Credits (3)
This course introduces students to the study of the development of language, speech, and communication. Includes language sampling. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: SPHS 509. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.

Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110; Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher.
SPHS 323. **Phonetics**
3 Credits (3)
The science of phonetics, including work with the International Phonetic Alphabet. Taught with SPHS 501. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: SPHS 503. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110; Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better.

SPHS 324. **Introduction to Speech Science**
3 Credits (3)
Basic concepts and theories in acoustics, speech production and speech perception. Includes laboratory experience with instrumental measurement and analysis of speech systems. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: SPHS 503. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110, SPHS 323, SPHS 422; and minimum 3.2 GPA.

SPHS 325. **Language Disorders**
3 Credits (3)
Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110, SPHS 323, SPHS 422; and minimum 3.2 GPA.

SPHS 326. **Clinical Methods and Procedures**
3 Credits (3)
Guidelines and procedures associated with the clinical and supervisory processes. Provide opportunities to complete the supervised clinical observation requirement for participation in clinical practicum. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: SPHS 506. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110, SPHS 323, SPHS 422, SPHS 324, SPHS 301; and minimum 3.2 GPA.

SPHS 421. **Speech and Language Disorders**
3 Credits (3)
Bases, symptoms, etiologies, and clinical management of issues related to disorders of articulation, phonology, voice and resonance, and fluency. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: SPHS 504. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110, SPHS 323, SPHS 422, SPHS 324, and SPHS 301; and minimum 3.2 GPA.

SPHS 422. **Audiology**
3 Credits (3)
Anatomy and physiology of the auditory system, bases of auditory disorders, and basic audiometric procedures. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: SPHS 507. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110, and a minimum of 3.2 GPA.

SPHS 423. **Neural Bases of Communication Disorders**
3 Credits (3)
Study of the neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of communication and communication disorders. Includes review of the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system relationship to speech motor control, language, and hearing. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: SPHS 510. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110, SPHS 301, SPHS 323, SPHS 422, SPHS 324, SPHS 421, SPHS 322, SPHS 326 and minimum 3.0 GPA.

SPHS 424. **Aural Rehabilitation**
3 Credits (3)
Overview of hearing aids and amplification devices including cochlear implants. Review of the bases and psychosocial aspects of hearing loss. Clinical management of hearing loss consistent with ASHA’s scope of practice for SLPs. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Crosslisted with: SPHS 508. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110, SPHS 323, SPHS 422, SPHS 324, SPHS 301, SPHS 421, SPHS 322, SPHS 326, and minimum 3.2 GPA.

SPHS 425. **Professional Reasoning and Scientific Thinking**
3 Credits (3)
Overview of constructive thinking, problem solving, and decision making theories and strategies associated with professional reasoning and scientific thinking that are to be used academically and clinically in the transition from student to scholar to professional. Taught with SPHS 593. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): B or better in SPHS 2110, SPHS 323, SPHS 422, SPHS 324, SPHS 301, SPHS 421, SPHS 322, SPHS 326, and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2.

SPHS 501. **Phonetics**
3 Credits (3)
The science of phonetics, including work with the International Phonetic Alphabet. Restricted to majors. Same as SPHS 390 with differentiated assignments for graduate students.
Prerequisites: a course grade of B- or higher in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 502. **Anatomy and Physiology of Speech Mechanisms**
3 Credits (3)
Structure and function of systems underlying human speech sound production and processing including nervous, respiratory, and articulatory components. Restricted to majors. Same as SPHS 370 with differentiated assignments for graduate students.
Prerequisites: a course grade of B- or higher in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 503. **Speech Science**
3 Credits (2+3P)
Basic concepts and theories in acoustics, speech production, and speech perception. Laboratory experience with instrumental measurement and analysis of speech systems. Restricted to majors. Same as SPHS 380 with differentiated assignments for graduate students.
Prerequisites: a course grade of B- or higher in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 504. **Speech and Language Disorders**
3 Credits (3)
Prerequisite(s): B or better GPA.
SPHS 505. Research Methods
3 Credits (3)
Introduction to basic qualitative, quantitative, and single subject research methodology in speech-language pathology and audiology. Restricted to majors.
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B- or higher in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 506. Clinical Methods and Procedures
3 Credits (3)
Guidelines and procedures associated with the clinical and supervisory processes. Provide opportunities to complete the supervised clinical observation requirement for participation in clinical practicum. Differentiated assignments for graduate students. Taught with SPHS 426. Restricted to: C DS, C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B or better GPA.

SPHS 507. Audiology
3 Credits (3)
Anatomy and physiology of the auditory system, bases of auditory disorders, and basic audiometric procedures. Differentiated assignments for graduate students. Taught with SPHS 422. Restricted to: C D, C DS majors.
Prerequisite(s): Minimum of 3.0 GPA.

SPHS 508. Aural Rehabilitation
3 Credits (3)
Prerequisite(s): Minimum 3.0 GPA.

SPHS 509. Language Acquisition
3 Credits (3)
Normal development of communication across the age span. Includes language sampling and analysis. A minimum grade of B- in all graduate courses and a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 required. Taught with SPHS 360 with differentiated assignments for graduate students. Restricted to CD majors andLING majors majors.

SPHS 510. Neural Bases of Communication Disorders
3 Credits (3)
Study of the neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of communication and communication disorders. Includes review of the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system relationship to speech motor control, language, and hearing. Crosslisted with: SPHS 423. Restricted to: CD, C DS majors.

SPHS 521. Professional Issues and Multicultural Practices in Communication Disorders
3 Credits (3)
This course includes a range of topics pertinent to students entering professional practice as speech-language pathologists including current legal, cultural, ethical, and clinical service provision issues. Restricted to: C DS, C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): Minimum of 3.0 GPA.

SPHS 522. Clinical Methods and Procedures
3 Credits (3)
Diagnostic theories and management of communication disorders using standardized and descriptive methodology. Includes the practice of interviewing, testing, and oral and written reporting. Restricted to: C DS, C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B or higher in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 523. Assessment of Communication Disorders
3 Credits (3)
Overview of hearing aids and amplification devices. Differentiated assignments for graduate students. Taught with SPHS 422. Restricted to: C D, C DS majors.
Prerequisite(s): Minimum grade of B and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 524. Aural Rehabilitation
3 Credits (3)
Normal communication-learning development of elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students; etiologies, diagnosis, and treatment of interpersonal communication and language-based academic disorders. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: C DS, C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of B in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 525. Pediatric Language and Disorders
3 Credits (3)
Normal communication development of neonates, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; etiologies, and treatment of cognitive, linguistic and social elements of communication problems in family systems. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: C DS, C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B or higher in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 530. School Age Language and Disorders
3 Credits (3)
Normal communication-learning development of elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students; etiologies, diagnosis, and treatment of interpersonal communication and language-based academic disorders. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: C DS, C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of B in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 535. Aphasia & Cognitive Linguistic Disorders
3 Credits (3)
Etiologies, diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of adult aphasia and cognitive-linguistic disorders. Restricted to: C DS, C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B or higher in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 541. Advanced Spanish Morpho-Syntax for Education Professionals
3 Credits (3)
This class has been designed for Heritage Speakers of Spanish who work in educational settings. It will cover the essential linguistic theory and fundamental structures of the Spanish language. This includes, but is not limited to, verb morphology, morphosyntactic and syntactic structures. The main goal of this course is to determine what usages fall within the norms of an individual’s speech community, or if there are elements that fall outside those norms.
Prerequisite(s): Students have to be fluent in Spanish as course will be conducted in Spanish.

SPHS 542. Articulation and Phonological Disorders
3 Credits (3)
Advanced study of the symptoms, etiologies, assessment, and clinical management of articulation and phonological disorders including cleft palate and disorders of resonance Restricted to: C DS, C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of B- in all graduate courses and a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 is required.

SPHS 545. Introduction to Augmentative and Alternatice Communication
3 Credits (3)
Assessment and intervention for children and adults with developmental disabilities; Alternative communication strategies and systems for individuals with severe speech and/or language impairments. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: C DS, C D majors.
Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing; overall GPA of 3.0.
SPHS 547. Cognitive-Linguistic Communication Disorders  
3 Credits (3)  
Topics include attention, memory, executive function, and underlying  
neuropathologies, with emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, prognosis,  
treatment and recovery processes in cognitive communication disorders  
related to traumatic brain injury, dementia, and right hemisphere brain  
damage. May be repeated up to 3 credits. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.  
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B or higher in all graduate courses and  
an overall GPA of 3.0.

SPHS 548. Best Practices in Bilingual/Multicultural Assessment for  
Practitioners  
3 Credits (3)  
The purpose of this course is to provide future speech-language  
pathologists, educational diagnosticians and special educators with a  
foundation for evaluating the linguistic, cognitive and academic skills  
of students from any cultural linguistic background. The course covers  
a review of the literature on best practices for working with interpreters  
during assessments. Practitioners will be expected to gather qualitative  
information about cultural/linguistic and educational histories of school-  
age children and integrate those results with the results of standardized  
tests.

SPHS 583. Dysphagia  
3 Credits (3)  
Study of the anatomy and physiology of swallowing and upper  
aerodigestive systems. Review of the bases and etiologies of child  
and adult swallowing disorders, including diagnosis, assessment, and  
treatment. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.  
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B- or higher in all graduate courses and  
an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 584. Fluency Disorders  
3 Credits (3)  
Speech fluency development and the disorders of stuttering, cluttering,  
and neurogenic dysfluency. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.  
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B or higher in all graduate courses and  
an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 585. Motor Speech Disorders  
3 Credits (3)  
Advanced studies of dysfunction of the nervous system that affect  
speech. Includes evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of speech apraxias  
and dysarthrias. Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.  
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B or higher in all graduate courses and  
an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 586. Voice Disorders/Head and Neck Anomalies  
3 Credits (3)  
Advanced studies of anatomy and physiology of the vocal tract with  
emphasis on diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of voice disorders,  
laryngectomy, cleft palate, and other oral-facial anomalies. Restricted to:  
C DS,C D majors.  
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B or higher in all graduate courses and  
an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 587. Cleft Palate and Syndromes  
2 Credits (2)  
An advanced study of etiology, assessment and treatment of craniofacial  
anomalies with a focus on the effects of clefts of the lip and/or palate  
on speech, resonance and velopharyngeal dysfunction. Review of  
the contribution of interdisciplinary cleft palate team care managing  
feeding, audiologic, surgical, orthodontic, and psychosocial aspects.  
General review of embryology and common syndromes with associated  
speech, language, and hearing disorders. Consent of Instructor required.  
Restricted to: C D,C DS majors.  
Prerequisite(s): A course grade of B or higher in all graduate courses and  
an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 589. Practicum in Speech-Language Pathology  
1-4 Credits (1-4)  
Supervised clinical practice in a variety of speech, language, and hearing  
disorders. Practicum includes diagnostic, treatment, and management  
work through direct patient/client contact. Attendance at weekly clinical  
staff meetings is required. May be repeated up to 15 credits. Restricted  
to: C DS,C D majors.  
Prerequisite(s): Good standing in the graduate school; a course grade of  
B or higher in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 590. Clinical Education  
1 Credit (1)  
This course is specifically designed to target the knowledge base  
necessary to initiate clinical practicum in the CD Program. The learning  
objectives are based upon the Council of Academic Accreditation  
in Audiology and Speech-language Pathology (CAA) standards and  
knowledge areas. These learning outcomes are developed to assist  
students in clinical practicum and are specific to the services provided  
to clients of the NMSU Edgar R. Garrett Speech and Hearing Center.  
Restricted to: C DS,C D majors.  
Corequisite(s): SPHS 589.

SPHS 591. Special Topics  
1-9 Credits  
Individual and/or group study of special topics identified by subtitle. May  
be repeated up to 9 credits. Restricted to: C DS majors.  
Prerequisite(s): Prior arrangement with faculty; a course grade of B or  
higher in all graduate courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SPHS 599. Master's Thesis  
15 Credits  
Thesis.

SPHS 640. Externship in Communication Disorders  
3-9 Credits (3-9)  
This course is designed to provide opportunities for the developing  
clinician to provide treatment to and evaluations for clients in a full term  
externship experience under the supervision of a licensed SLP. May be  
repeated up to 9 credits. Consent of Instructor required. Restricted to: C  
DS,C D majors.

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