

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Program Features

Students in the PhD program pursue one of the following areas of emphasis:

1. Speech and Language Sciences and Disorders, *or*
2. Hearing Science and Disorders

Overview of Program Requirements

Students are required to successfully complete the following in order to qualify for graduation:

1. A minimum of 72 credits of graduate coursework not including dissertation credits
2. Research requirements (not including the dissertation)
 - a. One or more research projects other than the student's dissertation
 - b. One or more presentations at a scientific meeting
 - c. One or more manuscripts submitted for publication
 - d. One or more grant proposals submitted for external funding
3. Teach or co-teach at least one course
4. Written and oral comprehensive exams
5. Dissertation

Course Requirements

Upon admission to the Ph.D. program, students enroll in a series of required courses in the doctoral core, in the research core, and in the area of specialization. Students complete at least 56 credits prior to Ph.D. candidacy. This includes 50 credits of classroom and seminar coursework, and at least 6 credits of research, as outlined below.

I. Theoretical Foundations Core (12 credit hours)

CSAD 750	Principles of Information Literacy in Communication Sciences & Disorders (3)
CSAD 752*	Research Design in Communication Sciences and Disorders (3)
CSAD 754*	Teaching and Supervision in Communication Sciences and Disorders (3)
One course in pedagogy from the following**:	
EDP 700	Psychological Foundations of Learning (3)
EDP 640	Instructional Design (3)
C&I 707	Theories, Models, and Research of Teaching (3)

*Or another approved course

**Or another approved course in teaching methods, learning theory, or pedagogy

II. Research Core (12 credit hours)

Students must complete three of the following courses:	
EDP 613	Statistical Methods 1 (3)
EDP 614	Statistical Methods 2 (3)
EDP 711	Multivariate Methods 1 (3)
EDP 712	Multivariate Methods 2(3)
Plus one research elective from the following*:	

SCFD 615	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (3)
EDP 617	Program Evaluation (3)
EDP 693	Survey Research (3)
EDP 710	Seminar: Educational Research (3)
EDP 713	Designing Single Case Research (3)

*Or another approved course in research methods or statistics

III. CSD Content Area Seminars (12 credit hours)

Students must select four (4) sections of advanced content area seminars for a total of 12 credits:
CSAD 794 A-Z Seminar (3 cr.)

IV. Supporting Area Coursework (12 credit hours)

Students will take at least 12 semester hours in an approved supporting area, for example, neuroscience, psycholinguistics, health science, biology, genetics, vocal performance, or special education.

V. Cultural Diversity and Global Initiatives (2 credit hours)

Students must complete both of the following seminars*:

CSAD 770 *Cultural Diversity in Communication Sciences and Disorders* (1 cr.)

CSAD 780 *Global Initiatives in Communication Sciences and Disorders* (1 cr.)

*Or students must complete an approved, alternative experience in cultural diversity and global initiatives. See the Appendix for examples of cultural diversity and global initiative experiences.

Development of Research Skills (6 credit hours)

Ph.D. students enroll in a minimum of six (6) credits of research (CSAD 797) extending over at least two semesters, under the supervision of their mentor and/or other faculty researcher/s working in related areas. Typically, the focus of these research credits will be on the development of independent research skills through involvement with ongoing or forthcoming projects in the mentor's research program.

Au.D./Ph.D. enrollment

Students with dual enrollment will work closely with his or her Program of Study committee in determining the appropriate Ph.D. coursework while completing the Au.D. degree. Following completion of the Au.D. degree, it is expected that students adhere to the residency and curriculum requirements stated above.

Research Requirements

The research and scholarship component of the doctorate in CSD requires students to complete a research project prior to their dissertation. Each student will be expected to present at one or more national scientific meetings and submit one or more manuscripts for publication in relevant peer-reviewed journals before graduating. It is also expected that the student will submit at least one external grant before graduating.

Teaching Requirements

In addition to the teaching and pedagogy courses listed in the course requirements, students are required to teach or co-teach at least one academic course before graduating. Teaching responsibilities also may include clinical supervision.

Comprehensive Examinations

Students must successfully complete written and oral comprehensive examinations to be eligible for doctoral candidacy. Comprehensive exams are typically held after a student has completed his/her coursework and consists of a substantial written component tailored to the student's interests, research area, and individual program of study. The committee chair confirms that the committee has approved the format

and administers the exam. Both the written and oral portions of the comprehensive exams must be passed within one semester; the committee may grant a one semester extension in case of emergency. Students must be enrolled during the semester they complete comps.

In some instances and in lieu of the written comprehensive examination described above, the Comprehensive Examination committee may determine candidacy by having the student complete two research projects under the direction of at least two members of the committee (not to be construed as the primary dissertation research) and then by having the student prepare two publication-worthy manuscripts based on the results. In most cases, selecting this manuscript alternative will take more than one semester to complete. An oral examination before the committee based on the research projects will follow the successful completion of the two manuscripts.

Doctoral Candidacy

Once a student has successfully completed 56 program credits and their comprehensive exams, the Comprehensive Examination committee is responsible for determining if the student is ready to be admitted into candidacy for the Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders. In making such judgments, the committee may consider the student's readiness to conduct research, knowledge base, ability to integrate information and technology, clarity and quality of written and oral presentations, and innovative application of information from diverse knowledge areas. In some instances a student may be admitted into candidacy before completion of all pre-dissertation credits. However, no more than 6 credits may remain outstanding, and these must be completed successfully within the first year of candidacy. The committee will most commonly determine candidacy on the basis of the student's written and oral examinations that are tailored for the student who is applying for candidacy (see previous section on comprehensive examinations).

Dissertation

Once a student has been admitted to Ph.D. candidacy, it is expected that a research proposal will be developed to provide an in-depth overview of a proposed dissertation. Upon approval of the dissertation proposal by the candidate's doctoral dissertation committee and the institutional review board, candidates will conduct their dissertation research under the supervision of a dissertation advisor. Ph.D. candidates must register for at least 9 dissertation hours for a minimum of 65 post-professional credit hours prior to defense of the dissertation and awarding of the Ph.D. degree. The faculty will assess the dissertation and its oral defense and will recommend approval based upon the quality of work.

The final assessment for the acquisition of the doctoral degree, the defense of the dissertation, is oral and open to members of both the University community and the public. Anyone can attend the oral presentation and ask general questions. However, at the end of the public hearing there will be a closed questioning portion of the examination where all persons except the candidate, doctoral dissertation committee, invited doctoral and master level students, and faculty must be excused. Each student's dissertation advisor has the option of soliciting one outside reader (not employed at WVU) of the dissertation who must confirm that the dissertation is of sufficient quality to qualify for the defense.