

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

## SPECIALIZATION IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY



### Why the MS in Communication Disorders degree?

There is a consistently high demand for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) across the country. The U.S. News and World Report ranked SLP in the top 25 of the nation's best jobs, citing high job satisfaction, salary, and future growth potential.

SLPs work with both children and adults and have a wide scope of practice; they are trained to provide diagnostic testing and therapy for speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders including: Aphasia; Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC); Childhood Apraxia of Speech; Articulation; Autism; Cognition (reasoning, problem solving, recall due to TBI or stroke); Foreign Accent Modification; Language; Literacy (reading and writing); Phonology; Stuttering; Swallowing; and Voice.

### Why the MS in Communication Disorders at BGSU?

Students are trained in both the science and art of clinical practice, through classroom and clinical experiences that complement each other, span the scope of practice, and foster independent growth.

Special features of the on-campus Speech and Hearing Clinic include clinical treatment rooms which can be monitored by faculty/staff supervisors from their offices and an observation room for parents/guardians to be able to view their child's session(s). Other features of the building include a classroom with up-to-date audiovisual and computer technology, a teaching laboratory, speech, language and hearing science laboratories, complete audiological testing facilities and hearing aid dispensing and repair capabilities, seminar and study rooms.

The Praxis pass rate of BGSU graduates is typically 100% and employment rates are above 95%.

### Learning outcomes

Students graduating from the CDIS SLP program will have the qualifications to be entry-level speech-language pathologists. They will possess foundational knowledge of the field, will be able to apply critical inquiry and creativity to solving problems, and professionally serve clients with compassion and caring. In addition, students may optionally pursue requirements for licensure to work in the Ohio public schools as speech-language pathologists.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Virginia Dubasik,  
College of Health and Human Services,  
at [vdubasi@bgsu.edu](mailto:vdubasi@bgsu.edu) or 419-372-7168.

### Program strength and uniqueness

- On campus Speech and Hearing Clinic
- Two-year program consisting of 4 academic semesters of on-campus study and the 5th and final semester is a full-time, off-campus externship.
- Students will be enrolled in practica experiences every semester. The practica will take place at the on-campus speech and hearing clinic as well as at various sites throughout Northwest Ohio.
- The typical graduate leaves with an average of 550 clinical practicum hours. Over 150 more than the ASHA requirement.
- Applicants with a strong interest in research who are considering completion of a doctorate may wish to apply for the M.S. – PhD Doctoral Bridge Program.

### Professional opportunities

Employment rate for graduates of the BGSU program in the past 10 years is over 95%. Clinical experience and academic coursework prepare graduates to be strong, independent clinicians. Students are prepared to work with populations across the lifespan and in the many areas of an SLP's scope of practice. The option to complete the State of Ohio school licensure requirements is available to those interested.



*"The CDIS program at BGSU was instrumental in building my foundational knowledge in the area of speech-language pathology. The faculty's passion for exposing students to all the field has to offer while helping hone clinical skills in each student's particular area of interest was exceptional. The faculty show genuine care for students during their time in the program and beyond."*

— Marissa Dickinson, M.S., CCC-SLP '14  
Speech-Language Pathologist

## Admission requirements

To be considered for regular status admission, applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum 3.0 GPA, and a minimum 3.2 GPA in the major (CDIS courses). Applicants are required to complete the online application through CSDCAS, including three letters of recommendation, a personal letter of application, all college/university transcripts, and GRE scores. Applicants must also complete the BGSU Graduate College Application online and, in addition, must email the pre-requisite checklist to the CDIS graduate secretary.

Candidates must also successfully complete the courses or their equivalents listed below. A minimum of four prerequisite classes must be completed with the grades posted on a transcript and verified by CSDCAS to be considered for admission. If you are enrolled in the four prerequisite courses in the fall semester that you are completing your application, you will need to utilize "Academic Update" in CSDCAS. Students seeking public school certification may need additional coursework at the graduate level. Descriptions of these courses can be found in the University's Undergraduate Catalog.

- CDIS 1230: Introduction to Communication Disorders
- CDIS 2240: Phonetics
- CDIS 2250: Speech and Language Acquisition and Dev.
- CDIS 3010: Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism
- CDIS 3020: Acoustics for Speech and Hearing
- CDIS 3110: Phonological Assessment and Intervention
- CDIS 3510: Language Assessment and Intervention
- CDIS 3610: Diagnostic Audiology
- CDIS 4010: Clinical Methods in Communication Disorders

## Cost of tuition

Please refer to [www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar) for current information on tuition and fees.

## Financial assistance

There are a limited number of competitive Graduate Assistantships available. These assistantships range from Research Assistantships with faculty in their research labs, Teaching Assistantships to support courses in the department of CDIS, and positions to support the clinic. For more information please contact the department.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at [www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions](http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions).

**The application deadline** is December 15th.

## Curriculum

### TYPICAL MASTER'S PROGRAM SEQUENCE

(This is a sample only. The order is subject to change.)

#### First Semester (Fall 1)

- CDIS 6010: Speech Science (4 hrs)
- CDIS 6040: Counseling (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6170: Clinical Issues I (2 hrs)
- CDIS 6610: Pediatric Language Disorders (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6760: Research Methods in Communication Disorders (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6970: Clinical Practicum (1 hr)

#### Second Semester (Spring 1)

- CDIS 6110: Motor Speech Disorders (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6180: Clinical Issues II (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6210: Voice (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6410: Stuttering (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6710: School-aged Language Disorders (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6970: Clinical Practicum (1 hr)

#### Third Semester (Summer)

- CDIS 6190: Clinical Issues III (1 hr)
- CDIS 6310: Aphasia (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6530: Dysphagia (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6320: Cognitive Rehabilitation (3 hrs)
- Topics (2 - 3 hrs)
- CDIS 6970: Clinical Practicum (1 hr)

#### Fourth Semester (Fall 2)

- CDIS 6200: Clinical Issues IV (2 hrs)
- CDIS 6450: Aural Rehabilitation (3 hrs)  
*Not required if previously taken at the undergraduate level*
- CDIS 6630 Phonology (3 hrs)
- CDIS 6970 Clinical Practicum (1 hr)  
*Includes 2.5 days off-site*
- Possibly Topics (2-3 hours)

#### Fifth Semester (Spring 2):

- CDIS 6890 Internship (8 hrs)  
*Off-site 5 days/week; can be most anywhere in the U.S. if an affiliation agreement can be established.*

**NOTE:** All students who are not doing a thesis are required to take two topics courses. Students doing a thesis are required to take one topics course. Topics are elective courses that vary for each cohort; typically offered in the summer and second fall semesters. Recently offered topics classed have included:

- Head and neck cancer
- Literacy
- Oral Facial Anomalies
- Developmental Disabilities

