

## Communication Sciences and Disorders

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Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is one of the departments in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. This department offers a master's degree program in Speech Language Pathology. Additionally, nine undergraduate prerequisite courses are offered for interested applicants with a bachelor's degree in another discipline. The unique focus of the CSD department is one of Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CLD). The goal of the department is to educate CLD professionals to meet the needs of multicultural populations with Communication Disorders. Students matriculating in the program will benefit from the infusion of CLD throughout the curriculum.

Students will have opportunities to receive clinical education from a variety of clinical settings in the Miami Metropolitan area including hospitals, schools, private practices and community based clinics. They will also engage in research projects with faculty members. A description of the admission requirements and description of master's programs follow.

### Admission Criteria

Applicants for admission to the master's degree program must meet the current FIU minimum standards for admission to graduate school.

1. A grade point average of 3.0 in the last 60 hours of undergraduate study
2. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.3 overall on the IELTS is required.

Additionally, the CSD department requires the following for admission to the graduate program:

1. Departmental application
2. FIU Graduate School online application
3. Letter of interest summarizing interests
4. Two letters of recommendation from persons with knowledge of academic performance
5. Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders or completion of the 9 required prerequisite courses.

### Requirements for students without a bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders requires an individual applying for the master's degree to hold a bachelor's degree in communication disorders or its equivalent. An applicant's undergraduate background influences the time necessary to complete the graduate degree, as there are 9 prerequisite courses required for entrance to the graduate program. Interested individuals should contact the department prior to completing an application for admission. The following courses or their equivalents are required for all interested persons without an undergraduate degree in communication disorders:

SPA 4002	Survey of Communication Disorders	3
SPA 4004	Introduction to Speech & Language Development and Disorders	3
SPA 4011	Speech & Hearing Science	3
SPA 4030	Introduction to Audiology	3
SPA 4050	Clinical Management in Communication Disorders	3
SPA 4101	Anatomy & Physiology of Speech & Hearing	3
SPA 4101L	Anatomy & Physiology of Sp. & Hear. Lab	1
SPA 4112	Principles of Phonetics	3
LIN 3013	General Linguistics	3

## Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology

The newly developed Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology consists of 51-55 graduate hours. The specific credit hours required will depend upon student's selection of thesis versus non-thesis options. Full time enrollment is required. Students will complete four semesters and two summers in the program. Student progress will be monitored each semester by departmental faculty.

An overall GPA of 3.0 is required for graduation. A grade of "B" or higher is required for all courses in your program of study. If a student receives a grade of "B-", then that course must be retaken; however, a course can be repeated only once. Only two courses can be used for the forgiveness policy. A passing grade is required in each clinical practicum course for continuation in or completion of the program. Any student who earns a grade of "B-" or lower in two clinical practicum courses will be terminated from the program.

Clinical practicum hours will be obtained in a variety of community settings. A minimum of 400 clock hours is required for graduation. Passage of the PRAXIS (600 passing score) is required for degree completion.

The program of study provides students with theoretical and clinical education to develop the competencies needed to practice as a speech-language pathologist. Upon completion of the master's degree, the graduate will have met all academic and practicum requirements for the certificate of clinical competence awarded by the American Speech Language-Hearing Association. The Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology at Florida International University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 897-5700. Please feel free to contact the CAA if you have any questions about accreditation.

### Program of Study

#### Core Courses in Speech Language Pathology (45)

#### Practical Courses (6)

SPA 5553	Differential Diagnosis of Communicative Disorders	3
SPA 5805	Research Methodology in Communication Disorders	3

#### Speech (15)

SPA 5401	Phonological Disorders	3
SPA 5216	Vocal, Velopharyngeal and Fluency Disorders	3

SPA 5106	Neurological Bases of Communication Disorders	3
SPA 6232	Neuromotor Communication Disorders and Augmentative Communication	3
SPA 6565	Dysphagia	3
<b>Language (9)</b>		
SPA 5403	Language Learning in Preschool Children	3
SPA 5404	Language Learning in School-Aged Children	3
SPA 6410	Aphasia and Related Disorders	3
<b>Audiology (3)</b>		
SPA 6322	Aural Habilitation and Rehabilitation	3
<b>Clinical Practicum (12)</b>		
SPA 5500	Basic Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 5502	Intermediate Clinical Practicum	3
SPA 6505	Advanced Clinical Practicum	3

One clinical practicum must be repeated for a total of 12 credits in clinical practica.

### Research [Thesis–6 credit] or Bilingual Emphasis [Non-Thesis–10 credits]

Students are required to select a thesis or non-thesis option as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's degree. For the thesis option students will enroll in six hours of thesis (SPA 6971) credits. The non-thesis option (10 credits) mandates nine credits of coursework with emphasis on bilingual issues in communication disorders and one credit for a Master's Project (SPA 6930).

### Bilingual Emphasis Requirements

SPA 6406	Dual Language Acquisition and Disorders	3
SPA 6005	Assessment & Treatment of the Bilingual Child with Communication Disorders	3
SPA 6479	Aging & Communication Disorders in a Bilingual Society	3
SPA 6930	Master's Project	1

## Course Descriptions

### Definition of Prefixes

SPA – Speech Language Pathology

**SPA 4002 Survey of Communication Disorders (3).** Theory, evaluation, and therapeutic procedures with disorders of speech and language, including but not limited to, articulation disorders, childhood language disorders, aphasia, voice disorders, and disorders of fluency. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 4004 Introduction to Speech and Language Development and Disorders (3).** The study of normal speech and language acquisition and associated disorders. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 4011 Speech and Hearing Science (3).** Study of speech and hearing physiology, acoustic phonetics, and speech perception. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 4030 Introduction to Audiology (3).** Principles of auditory reception; the hearing mechanism; problems involved in measuring, evaluating, and conserving hearing. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 4050 Clinical Management in Communication Disorders (3).** The course focuses on procedures for working in various practicum settings. It includes observation of evaluation and treatment sessions. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 4101 Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Hearing (3).** Anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanisms. Including nomenclature, respiration, phonation, articulation/resonance, the nervous system, and the auditory system. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 4101L Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Hearing Lab (1).** Lab to accompany SPA 4101. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Corequisite: SPA 4101.

**SPA 4112 Principles of Phonetics (3).** Principles of phonetics and their application to speech. Classification of speech sounds according to various systems including, but not limited to, manner and place, distinctive features, and phonological processes. Phonetic transcription utilizing the International Phonetic Alphabet. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 5106 Neurological Bases of Communication (3).** The anatomical and physiological aspects of the central and peripheral nervous system as they pertain to communication acquisition and disorders. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 5216 Vocal, Velopharyngeal, and Fluency Disorders (3).** Study of etiology, symptoms, and treatment strategies for a variety of vocal, craniofacial and fluency disorders. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 5401 Phonological Disorders (3).** An examination of normal and deviant articulatory acquisition and behavior. Presentation of major theoretical orientations and the therapeutic principles based upon them. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 5403 Language Learning in Preschool Children (3).** Presentation of the linguistic development in children ages 0-5 years as well as the delays and disorders associated with language. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 5404 Language Learning in School-Aged Children (2).** Overview and evaluation of the language skills of preschool and school aged children including metalinguistic and discourse development. Prerequisite: SPA 5403 and permission of the instructor.

**SPA 5500 Basic Clinical Practicum (3).** Supervised practice with representative speech and language problems in the school settings. Prerequisites: SPA 5401, SPA 5403, SPA 5404, SPA 5553.

**SPA 5502 Intermediate Clinical Practicum (3).** Supervised practice with communication problems in outpatient settings, private practices, rehabilitation. Prerequisite: SPA 5500.

**SPA 5553 Differential Diagnosis of Communicative Disorders (3).** The administration, evaluation and reporting of diagnostic tests and procedures used in assessment of speech and language disorders. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 5805 Research Methodology in Communication Disorders (3).** Research design, statistical analysis (descriptive and inferential) and dissemination of experimental data, with an emphasis on clinical research. Legal/ethical and cultural consideration in research design and implementation will also be addressed. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 6005 Assessment & Treatment of the Bilingual Child with Communication Disorders (3).** Assessment and treatment of normal and atypical language development across cultures. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 6232 Neuromotor Communication Disorders and Augmentative Communication (3).** Study of medical, physical, occupational, speech, language, and hearing problems of the neuromotorically impaired client, including assessment and intervention strategies for augmentative communication. Prerequisites: SPA 5106 and Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 6322 Aural Habilitation and Rehabilitation (3).** Provide information and strategies for aural habilitation intervention with hearing impaired children. Includes techniques of speech reading, auditory training and language for the hearing impaired. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 6406 Dual Language Acquisition and Disorders (3).** Development of normal and atypical language in speakers of more than one language. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 6410 Aphasia and Related Disorders (3).** Consideration of the neurological and psychological aspects of aphasia and related approaches are discussed and evaluated. Prerequisites: SPA 5106 and Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 6479 Communications Disorders and Aging in a Bilingual Society (3).** Survey of types and characteristics of bilingualism and normal and atypical speech and language changes associated with aging. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 6505 Advanced Clinical Practicum (3).** Supervised practice with severe communication problems in area hospitals and long term care facilities. Prerequisite: SPA 5502.

**SPA 6565 Dysphagia (2).** Information and training in the evaluation and treatment of swallowing disorders. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 6930 Master's Project (1-6).** This course provides the student with an opportunity to explore in-depth a specific topic of interest in speech pathology. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**SPA 6938 Topics in Speech Pathology (1-3).** This course is intended to give students information about topical issues in the field of Speech Language Pathology. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

**SPA 6971 Master's Thesis (1-6).** Supervised research on an original research project submitted in partial fulfillment of the Master's degree requirement. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.