

# admission to the department of communication sciences and disorders

Speech-language pathologists are concerned with the development and use of speech, language, and hearing and their impact on academic performance, career opportunities, and socialization. They teach broad-based skills in the areas of speech-language pathology and foster healthy development and use of speech, language, emerging literacy, and hearing in both children and adults. In addition, USC's COMD students have the opportunity to receive specialized training in the areas of rehabilitation of neurogenic communication disorders and auditory processing after cochlear implant. The Arnold School of Public Health is among the largest educators of speech-language professionals in the nation.

Numerous job opportunities exist in public schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, community clinics, and private practice. From conducting speech rehabilitation therapy after a client's cochlear implant, to examining the effects of dementia, stroke and epilepsy with state-of-the-art brain imaging technology our graduates are working in these and a number of other professional careers.

Degrees offered: MSP, MCD, \* and PhD

\*Part-time degree program, distance education only.



Communication Sciences and Disorders provides broad-based instruction in the areas of normal and disordered communication development as well as acquired disabilities. The department's master's degree programs prepare individuals for the clinical practice of speech-language pathology, working with both children and adults who exhibit a variety of speech, language, hearing, and literacy problems, while the doctoral program promotes scholarly research in these areas. Areas of involvement include:

- Neuroimaging and language and cognitive function
- Voice analysis and vocal fold imaging
- Auditory and speech perception
- Cochlear implant team and auditory rehabilitation
- Language rehabilitation after stroke
- Developmental speech and language disorders
- Evaluation and treatment of children and adults with speech or language disorders
- Prevention of speech, language, and hearing disorders

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers programs leading to the degrees of Master of Speech Pathology (MSP), Master of Communication Disorders (MCD), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). The department's programs are accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Its graduates are eligible for national certification, state licensure, and public school teaching certification from the South Carolina Department of Education.

Admission to full graduate standing is on a selective basis, determined by the quality of the academic preparation and personal qualifications of the applicant. An applicant for admission to graduate study in speech-language pathology must meet the requirements of both The Graduate School of the University and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

## **Degree Programs in Speech-Language Pathology**

Applicants should have a broad educational background including physical, social, and behavioral science courses. An applicant's transcript must show academic credit in each of the following areas: biological science, physical science and mathematics, and behavioral/social sciences. Intellectual and academic maturity, emotional stability, and a capacity to work with people are essential qualifications. Submission of scores on the Graduate Record Examination is required.

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### **The MSP Degree**

This degree program is designed for those persons who do not have training in the field of speech-language pathology, or those who have recently completed the undergraduate degree in speech pathology and are not working in the profession. Students pursuing the MSP degree must maintain full-time status on a year-round basis for two calendar years. Because of the importance of correct sequencing of courses, it is required that all MSP students enter the program at a prescribed time and maintain full-time enrollment for the duration of the program. Should a student find it necessary to interrupt graduate studies, the student must apply for re-admission, and re-entry into the program must coincide with the point of exit to ensure that all courses are taken in proper sequence.

### **The MCD Degree**

The Master of Communication Disorders (MCD) is a part-time degree program offered through distance education. Although students may have to travel to the Columbia campus for four to six weeks during the second summer to participate in their first practicum experience, courses and the practicum are generally provided at sites near the student's home. Applicants with undergraduate majors in speech-language pathology (or equivalent) begin the program in June and continue for three calendar years. Those with undergraduate majors in other disciplines take two additional semesters and begin their studies in August. The curriculum, course requirements, and practicum experiences are identical to the MSP program, the only difference being the manner in which content is delivered. The MSP is a full-time on-campus program, while the MCD is a part-time distance education program.

### **The Ph.D. Degree**

This degree program is designed for individuals who are interested in university teaching and research. Ph.D. candidates pursue their degree on a full-time basis, where the student is expected to conduct experiments in the department's various laboratories as well as gain experience in curriculum development and classroom teaching. The Ph.D. program culminates in the successful defense of a dissertation.

### **General Degree and Program Requirements**

- All graduate course work must be completed with a minimum grade point average of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale).
- All master's degree students (for both the MSP and MCD degrees) must complete a program of study in accordance with the academic and clinical requirements of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
- Students must complete their master's degree requirements within a six-year period and doctoral degree requirements within an eight-year period.
- Students must fulfill the residency and other general requirements established by The Graduate School of the University of South Carolina, and in accordance with ASHA guidelines for training.
- No foreign language is required for the master's degree programs.

## **USC in Focus**

For 200 years USC has distinguished itself as a center of learning with a tradition of leadership and service in higher education. USC offers a diverse and talented student population, a dedicated and successful faculty, a highly regarded library, outstanding research programs, and a campus that has been named one of the most beautiful in America.

The University offers more than 350 degree programs. Many of these programs are nationally and internationally ranked, from the arts, humanities, public health, physical science, law, business, and engineering. If you want to learn more about the University of South Carolina visit the Web site at [www.sc.edu](http://www.sc.edu).

Information about the city of Columbia can be found at [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).



### **For More Information**

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