

Communication Disorders

The **Communication Disorders** major focuses on understanding and treating speech, language, and hearing disorders across the lifespan. Students learn the fundamentals of communication development, as well as the diagnosis and treatment of speech, language, and swallowing disorders. Graduates typically work in healthcare, education, and social services, with opportunities in hospitals, private practices, schools, rehabilitation centers, and research institutions. This field offers paths to specialized careers in speech-language pathology, audiology, and communication research.

Job Title Examples:

- Speech-Language Pathology Assistant
- Audiology Assistant
- Speech Therapy Aide
- Hearing Screening Technician
- Speech-Language Pathology Technician
- Communication Support Specialist
- Rehabilitation Assistant
- Language Interventionist
- Research Assistant (Communication Disorders)
- Case Manager (Speech and Hearing Services)

Skills Needed:

Hard Skills

1. Knowledge of speech and language development
2. Familiarity with diagnostic tools and assessment techniques
3. Understanding of hearing and speech disorders
4. Proficiency with speech therapy software and tools
5. Knowledge of anatomy and physiology related to communication

Soft Skills

1. Strong communication skills
2. Patience and empathy
3. Active listening
4. Critical thinking
5. Time management

Further Education/Training Required and/or Suggested:

A BS in Communication Disorders provides foundational knowledge but typically requires advanced training for career entry or advancement:

To Enter the Field:

1. Graduate Degree (Master's in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology):
 - Required to become a licensed speech-language pathologist (SLP) or audiologist.
2. State Licensure & Certification (e.g., CCC-SLP):
 - Mandatory for clinical practice.

To Advance:

1. Doctoral Degree (e.g., AuD):
 - For specialized or leadership roles in audiology.
2. Continuing Education:
 - Necessary to maintain licensure and certifications.

Summary:

A master's degree and licensure are essential for entry into clinical roles, while advanced degrees or certifications support career growth.

Professional or Student Associations:

- American Sign Language Organization
- National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association
- American Academy of Audiology
- National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing