DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Web Site: http://www.twu.edu/communication-sciences/
Chair: Erika Armstrong, Associate Professor
Location: MCL 820
Phone: 940-898-2025
Fax: 940-898-2070
E-mail: coms@twu.edu

Graduate Degrees Offered

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Mission
The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders prepares a diverse community of students to excel in careers in speech-language pathology and education of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Speech-Language Pathology Program Overview
Working with the full range of human communication, speech-language pathologists (SLPs) evaluate and diagnose speech, language, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders and treat such disorders in individuals of all ages, from infants to the elderly (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (http://www.asha.org)).

The TWU master’s degree program in Speech-Language Pathology is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The program has two different learning venues.

The on-campus venue admits students each summer and fall and provides evening classes on the Denton and Dallas campuses. Students participate in clinical experiences two to five days a week at the TWU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic (https://twu.edu/speech-language-hearing-clinic) in Denton, The Stroke Center (http://www.strokecenterdallas.org) - Dallas, and externship sites throughout the Denton and Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The distance learning venue runs in two-year cohort cycles. Partially funded by the Texas Education Agency, the distance learning venue was created to help ameliorate the shortage of speech-language pathologists in Texas schools. This venue is offered to students across the state of Texas through partnerships with Education Service Centers and school districts.

Education of the Deaf Program Overview
The TWU Education of the Deaf master’s degree leads to teacher certification specializing in teaching pre-K-12 students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The program prepares teachers to work in a variety of educational settings. We are committed to a comprehensive communication philosophy that focuses on meeting the individual needs of diverse students across all communication methods. Teachers learn to work collaboratively with families, students, and professionals.

The program is online and flexible in nature and includes a diverse cohort from varied backgrounds. Online classes are both synchronous and asynchronous and fully accessible to everyone. Practice-based coursework focuses on communication, language, and content. Graduates are equipped with broad knowledge and skills for promoting strong social, linguistic, and academic outcomes among students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Students completing the undergraduate degree in COMS and successfully passing the TASC have the option to complete the graduate program in one or two years. For all others, the program can be completed in two years by following the recommended sequence of courses, including a 14-week student teaching experience. Coursework is delivered fully online and is offered to students across the United States (although Texas certification is only available to students living in Texas). In addition to online courses, TWU students are required to complete practice-based experiences with students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Students local to DFW will also have the option of completing practice-based coursework in either the Speech and Hearing Clinic (https://twu.edu/speech-language-hearing-clinic) or the Future Classroom Laboratory (https://twu.edu/future-classroom-lab) (FCL).

Certifications
Speech-Language Pathology
Graduates who pass the national examination and successfully complete their clinical fellowship year are eligible for the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence and State Licensure.

Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology
Students who are accepted into the graduate SLP program can simultaneously work on obtaining a certificate in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology (http://catalog.twu.edu/archives/2018-2019/graduate/health-sciences/communication-sciences-disorders/post-baccalaureate-certificate-bilingual-speech-language-pathology).

Education of the Deaf
Graduates who are Texas residents and successfully pass the state TExES exam (http://cms.texas-ets.org/texes) are eligible for Texas Teacher Certification in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Texas residents wishing to work in classrooms where sign language is used must also take and score successfully on the Texas Assessment of Sign Communication (http://cms.texas-ets.org/tasc) (TASC). Out-of-state students must meet the unique requirements of their state for teacher certification.

Courses

Courses
COMS 5003. Research in Communication Sciences. The process of inquiry and research modalities and techniques; applications in the field of Communication Sciences. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.
COMS 5011. Ethics and Clinical Procedures. Professional and ethical standards for SLPs and assistants; focus on ethics, HIPAA and Infection Control; clinical procedures and paperwork. One lecture hour a week. Credit: One hour.

COMS 5012. Aural Habilitation. Intervention for individuals with hearing difference in the areas of auditory, speech, and language skills with emphasis on pediatrics. Topics include characteristics of this unique population, effective use of personal hearing technology, and collaboration with parents and educators. Two lecture hours a week. Credit: Two hours.

COMS 5013. Audiology for Deaf Education. Anatomy, physiology, and psychoacoustics related to hearing; survey of etiologies of deafness; review of hearing assessments; and overview of aural habilitation. Emphasis on educational audiology and connections to classroom practice with students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5023. Linguistics of Early Childhood. Language development, theories of language acquisition, and the basic stages of typically and atypically developing populations (including deaf/hard of hearing) integrating social, cognitive, and linguistic development. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5073. Linguistics of Sign Communication. Linguistic analysis of pedagogical issues in communicating via American Sign Language and English-based sign systems. Evaluation of research-based practices and design strategies for communicating via sign with the continuum of students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.


COMS 5211. Counseling in a Cross-Cultural Society. Interviewing, counseling, and communicating with clients with communication and swallowing disorders and their families and other professionals across culturally and linguistically diverse populations. One lecture hour a week. Credit: One hour.

COMS 5222. Cultural and Linguistic Diversity: Relevance to Communication Disorders. Best practices and strategies in providing fair services for individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds with communication disorders. Topics include historical perspectives, understanding the major cultural groups in the US, legal issues, impact of immigration, collaboration with interpreters, and cultural/linguistic variables and differences. Two lecture hours a week. Credit: Two hours.


COMS 5303. Differentiated Instruction for Students with Other Disabilities. Information for teaching students with hearing and other disabilities or those mainstreamed into regular education classes. Three lecture hours.

COMS 5333. Assessment and Diagnosis of Communication Disorders. A comprehensive study of the evaluative and assessment process in speech-language pathology including the techniques and materials used to diagnose various communicative disorders in children and adults. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5353. Adult Dysphagia. Principal issues and research concerning the nature, assessment, and evidence-based treatment of swallowing disorders in adults. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5403. Facilitating Language Development through Teaching Content. Principles and methods involved in facilitating the development of language (written, spoken, and manual) to children who are deaf/hard of hearing within the confines of Pre-K through 12 curricular content areas. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5413. Clinical Practicum. Assessment and management of clients with speech, language, hearing, and swallowing disorders under direct supervision of TWU ASHA certified and Texas licensed faculty supervisors. Up to 25 hours of clinical instruction a week. May be repeated for credit. Credit: Three hours.


COMS 5423. Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Assessment and use of a wide range of low and high tech AAC devices. Topics include legal and ethical issues, definitions, populations/multi-cultural implications, areas of assistive technology, assessment, intervention strategies, equipment (low/lite, high-tech options), and feature matching. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5443. Clinical Externship. Assessment and treatment of clients with speech, language, hearing, and/or swallowing disorders under supervision of ASHA certified and Texas licensed speech-language pathologists with indirect supervision by TWU faculty. Up to 40 practicum hours a week. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Permission of the department. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5452. Pediatric Dysphagia. Principal issues and research concerning the nature, assessment, and evidence-based treatment of swallowing disorders in children. Prerequisite: COMS 5353. Two lecture hours a week. Credit: Two hours.

COMS 5473. Advanced Clinical Externship. Assessment and treatment of clients with speech, language, hearing, and/or swallowing disorders under supervision of ASHA-certified Texas licensed speech-language pathologists with indirect supervision by TWU faculty. A clinical course taken in the last semester of the program culminating in 375 clinical clock hours and demonstrated mastery of specific ASHA competencies. Prerequisite: Permission of the department. 20 to 40 practicum hours a week. Credit: Three hours.


COMS 5513. Instructional Processes in Deaf Education. Pedagogical issues of providing effective instruction of content areas to deaf and hard of hearing students in a variety of learning environments available throughout the special education continuum. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.
COMS 5521. Contemporary Issues in Communication Disorders. Detailed overview of contemporary issues, major theories, evaluations, and treatment strategies used to habilitate and rehabilitate individuals with a variety of communication disorders. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. One lecture hour a week. Credit: One hour.

COMS 5523. Speech and Hearing Science. Basic vocal tract and hearing mechanisms, with emphasis on respiration, phonation, resonance, speech perception, and acoustic aspects of speech. Includes hands-on work with analysis of speech using various instrumental methodologies. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.


COMS 5553. Speech Sound Disorders. Etiologies, evaluation, and evidence-based therapy approaches for articulation and phonological disorders. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.


COMS 5603. Language Disorders in School-Age Children. Principal issues and research concerning the nature of language disorders in school-age children; assessment and treatment of such disorders. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5663. Strategies for Supporting Language Development. Assessment in instructional strategies for supporting language development and expanding language (written, spoken, and manual). Competencies developed through practical application of strategies with students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Includes ten hours of field-based experiences across the semester. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5682. Advanced Neurological Disorders. Advanced clinical considerations for assessment/treatment of aphasia and acquired speech disorders. Includes medical aspects of speech-language pathology, neuroimaging, neuromodulation, and counseling techniques. Prerequisite or Co-requisite: Clinical placement at the TWU Stroke Center-Dallas. Two lecture hours a week. Credit: Two hours.

COMS 5683. Strategies for Supporting Listening and Spoken Language. Auditory-Verbal principles and their application for diverse deaf/hard of hearing students. Emphasis on optimizing hearing technology, the developmental processes of audition/speech, and facilitating spoken language. Includes ten hours of field-based experiences across the semester. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5711. Assessment of Language Disorders in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations. Principles of assessing and diagnosing language disorders in culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Includes typical development of more than one language, common errors in other languages/dialects, and use of informal or alternative assessment procedures. Prerequisite: COMS 5333. One lecture hour a week. Credit: One hour.

COMS 5712. Treatment of Language Disorders in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations. Principles of treating language disorders in culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) populations. Includes best practice in treatment strategies, writing goals and objectives, and implementing therapy for a variety of language disorders in CLD individuals. Two lecture hours a week. Credit: Two hours.

COMS 5722. Voice and Resonance Disorders. Physiological process of voice production as related to voice and resonance disorders; differential diagnosis and evidence-based treatment procedures in both medical and behavioral arenas. Prerequisite: COMS 5523. Two lecture hours a week. Credit: Two hours.

COMS 5723. Assessment and Treatment of Speech Disorders in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations. Best practices for assessing and treating speech sound, fluency, and voice disorders in culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Prerequisites or Co-requisites: COMS 5542 and COMS 5722. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.


COMS 5783. Graduate Field Experience of the Deaf. Field experience in education of the deaf, types of teaching, professional ethics, and effective teaching practices. Eight practicum hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5823. Literacy Development in Deaf Education. Literature review of theories, evaluation, and intervention strategies associated with the development of literacy in hearing and deaf/hard of hearing children. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5853. Teacher Friendly Assessment Strategies. Informal assessment strategies including language and literacy case studies designed to individualize instruction and monitor academic process. Competencies developed through practical application with students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Includes ten hours of field-based experiences across the semester. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5902. Special Topics. Organized study of Communication Sciences subject matter normally not included in other COMS courses. Topic will vary from semester to semester. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Two hours.

COMS 5903. Special Topics. Organized study of Communication Sciences subject matter normally not included in other COMS courses. Topic will vary from semester to semester. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5911. Independent Study. Individual study of specific problems. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Credit: One hour.

COMS 5912. Independent Study. Individual study of specific problems. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5913. Independent Study. Individual study of specific problems. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5923. Instructional Practicum in Deaf Education. Seven-week professional supervised teaching experience within deaf education K-12 settings. Prerequisites: COMS 5403 and COMS 5513. Seven laboratory hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5926. Instructional Internship in Deaf Education. Fourteen-week professional supervised teaching experience within deaf education K-12 settings. Prerequisites: COMS 5403, COMS 5513, COMS 5683, and COMS 5663. Thirteen practicum hours a week. Credit: Six hours.

COMS 5973. Professional Paper. An in-depth study and/or review of a specific problem jointly selected by student and instructor; intensive laboratory or library research into the topic with a professional paper presenting the results of this research. May be repeated for a total of six hours credit. Credit: Three hours.
COMS 6003. Evaluation of Clinical Research. Processes and procedures for clinical research using group and single subject research designs; evaluation and mentoring of professional writing in intervention studies. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 6103. Doctoral Seminar. Philosophical and practical considerations in conducting research; examination of experimental research designs, grant writing, funding, scientific writing, the peer-review process, and research ethics; and evaluation of tools for integrative review in specialized areas of communication sciences. Must be repeated one time. Three seminar hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 6253. Research Application in Communication Sciences. Laboratory experience and engagement in scholarly writing. Participation with a mentor in ongoing research including data collection, data analyses, manuscript preparation, and identification of pilot study area. Must be repeated one time. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 6383. Seminar in Pedagogy. Preparation for responsive and reflective university teaching, distance delivery methods, and effective mentoring in the health and social sciences; exploration of theories of learning, teaching styles, instructional delivery and student management. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 6903. Special Topics. Organized course with each section’s title and content varying with specific subject matter and topic offered. May be repeated for credit when topics vary. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 6983. Dissertation Proposal. Preparation and successful defense of the dissertation proposal. May be repeated one time for credit. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 6993. Dissertation. Successful completion of data collection, dissertation preparation and defense. May be repeated for additional credit. Prerequisites: COMS 6983 and successful defense of dissertation proposal. Credit: Three hours.

Faculty

Professors

GILL, CYNTHIA B., Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., Southwest Texas State University; M.Ed., Southwest Texas State University; Ed.D., East Texas State University.

WALKER-BATSON, DELAINA, Cornaro Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.A., Southern Methodist University; M.S., University of Utah; Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin.

Associate Professors

ALLMAN, TAMBY M., Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., Baylor University; M.A., Texas Woman’s University; Ed.D., National-Louis University.

ARMSTRONG, ERIKA S., Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders; Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.A., University of Texas at Dallas; M.S., University of Texas at Dallas; Ph.D., University of Texas at Dallas.

BHARADWAJ, SNEHA V., Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., University of Mysore, India; M.S., University of Mysore, India; Ph.D., University of Texas at Dallas.

GREEN, LAURA B., Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., Stephen F. Austin State University; M.A., University of Houston; Ph.D., University of Washington.

LEVITT, JUNKO (JUNE) S., Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.A., Musashino Women’s College; M.S., University of Texas at Dallas; Ph.D., University of Texas at Dallas.

MEHTA, JYUTIKA A., Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., Bombay University : India; M.S., University of Texas at Dallas; Ph.D., University of Texas at Dallas.

SMITH, CHAD E., Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.A., Lamar University; M.S., Lamar University; Ph.D., Nova Southeastern University.

WAINSCOTT, SARAH D., Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., James Madison University; M.Ed., James Madison University; Ph.D., Gallaudet University.

Assistant Professors

BOLINGER, CHRISTOPHER, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Ph.D., Texas Tech University : Health Sciences Center; M.S., Texas Tech University : Health Sciences Center.

PAYESTEH, BITA, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.A., The University of Texas at Dallas; M.S., The University of Texas at Dallas; Ph.D., University of Minnesota.

SPOLSKY, SONIA, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. M.A., The University of Arizona; Ph.D., The University of Arizona.

Clinical Professor

MOORER-COOK, LAURA L., Clinical Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., Texas Woman’s University; M.A., Texas Woman’s University.

Associate Clinical Professors

ABELLERA, ROBIN L., Associate Clinical Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., University of Houston; M.A., Texas Woman’s University.

CHANCE, PAULA V., Associate Clinical Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., Abilene Christian University; M.S., Texas Woman’s University.

MORY, KIMBERLY D., Associate Clinical Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.A., California State University, Fullerton; M.A., California State University, Fullerton.

STOCKHOLM, MELISSA C., Associate Clinical Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., Baylor University; M.Ed., Stephen F. Austin State University.

WOODS, ALISA P., Associate Clinical Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. B.S., University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; M.S., Texas Woman’s University.