DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND ORAL HEALTH

Communication Sciences: www.twu.edu/communication-sciences
Oral Health: www.twu.edu/dental-hygiene

The Department of Communication Sciences and Oral Health offers undergraduate programs in communication sciences and dental hygiene, and graduate programs in speech-language pathology and education of the deaf.

Chair: Erika Armstrong, Associate Professor
Location: MCL 820
Phone: 940-898-2025
Fax: 940-898-2070
E-mail: coms@twu.edu

Graduate Degrees Offered

- M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology (http://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/communication-sciences-oral-health/speech-language-pathology-ms)
- M.S. in Education of the Deaf (http://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/communication-sciences-oral-health/education-deaf)

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 pediatric and adult 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 specializes in preparing teachers of 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. 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.

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 (https://twu.edu/communication-sciences-oral-health/communication-sciences-coms/coms-programs/post-baccalaureate-certificate-in-bilingual-slp).

Education of the Deaf

Graduates who are Texas residents and successfully pass the state TExES exam (https://www.tx.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html) 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 (TASC (http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/TX073_PreMaterials.html)). Out-of-state students must meet the unique requirements of their state for teacher certification.

Clinics

Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic (https://twu.edu/speech-language-hearing-clinic) – Denton

The Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic located on TWU’s Denton Campus provides assessment and therapeutic services to the University and Denton communities for a minimal fee. Master’s level graduate students under the direct supervision of licensed, certified speech-language pathologists, audiologists, AV therapists, and deaf educators provide assessments and individual intervention for language, literacy, speech sound disorders, accent modification, voice, stuttering, hearing loss, and feeding for children and adults. During the summer, camps are offered for children with sensory/motor-based feeding disorders, language and literacy difficulty, fluency, and speech sound disorders including childhood apraxia of speech. Discount rates are available for students and alumni.

For applications or further information about the Clinic, contact:

Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic
P.O. Box 425737
Denton, TX 76204-5737
phone: 940-898-2285
email: comsclinic@twu.edu

The clinic is located in MCL 601 on the Denton campus.

The Stroke Center (http://www.strokecenterdallas.org) – Dallas

The Stroke Center – Dallas was established in 1992 to provide treatment and training in neurological rehabilitation specifically for stroke and right hemisphere injuries. A core of health professionals and graduate students provide outpatient services. Located in the T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences on the TWU Parkland campus, the Center operates five 6-week sessions each year. Assessment and intervention services include speech/language therapy, physical therapy assessment, and psychosocial counseling. A major focus of The Stroke Center is clinical research. Individuals may be referred by physician, family, or self.

For applications or further information about The Stroke Center programs contact:

The Stroke Center - Dallas
5500 Southwestern Medical Avenue
Dallas, TX 75235
phone: 214-689-6592
email: strokecenter@twu.edu

Dental Hygiene Clinic (https://twu.edu/dental-hygiene-clinic)

Services of TWU's Dental Hygiene Clinic are available to faculty, staff, students, and the local community. For a nominal charge, the Clinic provides the following services: Prophylaxis (tooth cleaning), periodontal therapy (deep cleaning), radiographs (x-rays), limited dental examinations and oral cancer screening, and oral disease prevention education and clinical treatment, including fluoride treatments and sealants. In spring, tooth whitening is offered. The Clinic serves as a laboratory for dental hygiene students, closely supervised by licensed, experienced dentists and dental hygienists. The clinic is located on the first floor of the MCL building on the Denton campus.

For more information contact:

Dental Hygiene Clinic
P.O. Box 425796
Denton, TX 76204-3796
phone: 940-898-2888

Faculty

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

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

*ARMSTRONG, ERIKA S., Associate Professor of Communication Sciences; Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Oral Health, 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, B.S., University of Mysore, India; M.S., University of Mysore, India; Ph.D., University of Texas at Dallas

*BOLINGER, CHRISTOPHER, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences; Dental Hygiene Program Director, B.B.A., Texas Tech University : Health Sciences Center; M.S., Texas Tech University : Health Sciences Center; Ph.D., Texas Tech University : Health Sciences Center

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

*DICKINSON, CHARLENE B., Associate Clinical Professor of Dental Hygiene; Dental Hygiene Program Director, B.S., Texas Woman's University; M.S., Texas Woman's University

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

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

*KOBERNA, LESLIE W., Clinical Professor of Dental Hygiene, B.S., Weber State University; M.P.H., University of Utah; Ph.D., Texas Woman's University

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

*LYNCH, CATHERINE CARRASCO, Assistant Clinical Professor of Communication Sciences, B.S., Texas Woman's University; M.S., Texas Woman's University

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

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

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

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

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

*SPOLSKY, SONYA, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences, M.A., The University of Arizona; Ph.D., The University of Arizona

*SPOONTS, LIZABETH A., Clinical Professor of Dental Hygiene, B.S., Texas Woman's University; M.S., University of North Texas

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

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

*WINSWORTH, WILLIAM R., Clinical Professor of Dental Hygiene, B.S., Weber State University; M.S., Texas Woman's University; Ph.D., University of Rochester
Courses

Communication Sciences Disorders 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 5083. Differentiating Communication Across Deaf Education Settings. Principles and methods for facilitating appropriate individualized communication strategies for linguistically and culturally diverse students who are deaf or hard of hearing across the special education spectrum. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5093. History, Policies and Trends in Deaf Education. Current trends and federal and state policies affecting the education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Exploration of the history and evolution of deaf education in the U.S. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5103. Educational Audiology and Listening Supports. Basics of educational audiology for teachers of deaf education, including audiometric testing and supporting the effective use of hearing assistive technologies. Design and implementation of effective classroom supports that promote auditory access and facilitate the development of skills in spoken language. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5113. Seminar in Communication Sciences. 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 5133. Families and Young Children in Deaf Education. Learning and language for birth to five population of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Examination of systems and processes for identification, early intervention, early childhood programming, and special education. Applications to family-centered programming and collaboration with families and professionals which extend across age ranges. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5143. Classroom Assessment and Access to Print Literacy. Principles and practices for assessing culturally and linguistically diverse students using multiple types of classroom assessments. Evidence-based teaching strategies to effectively teach language and literacy skills to Pre-K-12 students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three hours.

COMS 5193. Instructional Processes and Facilitating Language in Deaf Education. Principles and methods for teaching students of all ages who are deaf or hard of hearing throughout a variety of placement options. Written, signed, and spoken language components for all methodologies explored. 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 5253. 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 5303. Differentiating Instruction Across Deaf Education Settings. Instructional modifications and accommodations in deaf education that are necessary to facilitate access to the general education curriculum. Creation of a plan for individualized access to general education curriculum using appropriate accommodations and modifications. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: Three 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 5383. 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 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 and 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 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 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 5902. Special Topics. Organized study of Communication Sciences subject matter normally not included in other COMS courses. Topic will vary from semester to semester. Two 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. Two lecture hours a week. Credit: Two 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.