

**Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders
The University of Utah**

**Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders
(Audiology or Speech and Language Pathology)**

Introduction

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders requires advanced coursework, independent research, and an in depth understanding of topics in one's area of specialization. The degree is not awarded simply for the fulfillment of residency requirements and/or the accumulation of credits from coursework.

Admission and General Requirements

1. To be considered for admission to the doctoral program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD), an applicant should submit a letter of intent to the departmental Graduate Admissions Committee that indicates his/her general area of research interest (e.g., child language disorders, aphasia, voice, phonology, motor speech disorders, fluency, hearing science, amplification, etc.).
2. A minimum of three letters of recommendation should accompany the letter of intent. In addition to evaluating the applicant's potential to complete the program of study; these letters should attest to the academic and research capabilities of the applicant.
3. Requirements for entrance to the doctoral program are in accordance with those established by the Graduate School of the University of Utah, which includes at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA from undergraduate work. In addition, the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) must be taken; competitive scores must be obtained, which can vary from year to year depending upon the applicant pool.

Note: An "Application for Admission to Graduate School" must be submitted to the University of Utah Admissions Office prior to being considered for admission into the CSD program. (Applications are included in the CSD application packet, which is available in the CSD office or at <http://www.sa.utah.edu/admiss/>.)

Requirements for Ph.D. Program

Program of Study

The graduate school requires that all Ph.D. students complete no fewer than three full academic years (i.e., 6 semesters) of approved graduate study, including at least one year (i.e., 2 consecutive semesters) in full-time (i.e., 9 credit hours) academic work at the University. This should be considered the minimum requirement; more time is often required. Graduate School policy requires that students maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA in course work counted toward a graduate degree. The student and his/her committee, on an individual basis, will develop a program of study. (A supervisory committee is appointed upon entrance to the Ph.D. program based on students' stated interests. This committee

meets with a student annually to monitor his/her progress, but the committee may be reorganized as students proceed through the program.) Programs of study may differ among students depending on their backgrounds, e.g., whether they have a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree, or some type of professional degree, as well as whether they have a background in Communication Sciences and Disorders or not. Although minor variations may exist due to a student's specific background and training, all students must typically adhere to the following guidelines/requirements in the development of the program of study:

1. Major Content Area (within department): 18 hours

The major content courses are determined by the student and his/her advisor and committee. They may consist of regular course offerings in the Department, seminars, and independent study experiences, depending on the student's particular area(s) of interest. Graduate courses intended primarily for students in clinical training programs may be taken by Ph.D. students, with permission of their advisor/committee and the instructor of the course, and may involve additional requirements.

2. Related Area: a minimum of 9 hours

The related area of study may include advanced course work in another content area (e.g., developmental psychology, linguistics, computer science) or within the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders with a concentration in one of the areas of Audiology, Hearing Science, Speech Pathology/Science, or Language Pathology/Science that does not overlap the major area of study.

3. Research Tools: a minimum of 12 hours

A. Research Design - CSD 7930: Advanced Research Design (3 hours, plus lab), OR CSD 7825: Single-subject research design (If CSD 7825 is unavailable through CSD department, EDPSY 7410 may also fulfill this requirement.)

In addition to the lecture portion of CSD 7930 (which is also taken by M.S. students), Ph.D. students are required to attend a weekly "lab" to familiarize them with areas of faculty research, scientific writing, and related issues/topics. If CSD 7930 was taken at the master's level, it may not need to be repeated in its entirety by Ph.D. students, but the lab is required.

B. Statistics: Three courses for a minimum of 9 hours

a. Two-course sequence in an advanced inferential statistics series, to be selected from the following options:

EDPS 7010 Quantitative Methods I: Foundations of Inferential Statistics

EDPS 7020 Quantitative Methods II: ANOVA and Multiple Regression

NURS 7201 Statistics I

NURS 7202 Statistics II

PSYCH 6500 Quantitative Methods I

PSYCH 6510 Quantitative Methods II

SO WK7201 Statistics I

SO WK7202 Statistics II

b. Additional 2-3 credit hours (one course) in advanced statistics. Students must take an additional course regardless of the number of credits earned in the two-course sequence, to be selected from the following options:

EDPS 7300 Psychometric Theory

NURS 7880 Nonparametric Statistics (only 2 credits)

EDPSY 7400 Advanced research design

PSCH 6556 Analysis of Temporal data (1-2 credits)

EDPS 7570 Multivariate Statistics

PSYCH 6540 Multivariate Statistics

NURS 7070 Multivariate Statistics (2 credits)

4. Doctoral Instructional Methods (CSD 7935): 3 hours

Students intending to pursue an academic career must complete a 3 credit hour course in Instructional Methods (CSD 7935 Doctoral Instructional Methods: Mentored Teaching Experience). As part of this course, they will be required to teach a departmental class under the supervision of a full-time faculty member, usually the student's major professor. The faculty mentor is responsible for designing a teaching experience that is appropriate to the skills and needs of the student. The intent of this experience is to acquaint doctoral students with the practice of creating and operating a high-quality, university-level course. The goal is to help students become effective instructors, and in so doing, to increase the likelihood that they will compete successfully for university-level teaching positions. Students who do not intend to pursue an academic career may elect not to take this course and instead replace it with another appropriate course in statistics, research design, etc., as approved by their committee.

Doctoral students are eligible to enroll in CSD 7935 if they meet the following criteria. Each participant is expected to:

- (1) be making satisfactory progress toward the Ph.D. degree;
- (2) be within a semester of completion of degree coursework;

(3) have a strong commitment to initiating a career that involves college-level instruction;
(4) dedicate sufficient time during the semester that the course is offered so as to be involved in the course planning (i.e., syllabus development), classroom management, lecturing, test construction and grading, proctoring exams, maintaining class records/grades, and addressing diversity issues.

5. Pre-Dissertation Research Practicum (CSD 7940): a minimum of 9 (or 12) hours across 3 (or 4) semesters

Doctoral students are expected to enroll (for variable credit) in the research practicum for a minimum of 9 credit hours, if they have previously completed a Master's Thesis (all 9 hours are typically directed by a student's primary advisor). Students who have not previously written a Master's Thesis must complete at least one additional 3 credit hour project with a different faculty mentor.

The (primary) practicum will culminate in a pre-candidacy research project, supervised by a faculty member in the Department, which students will present and defend to their committee in conjunction with their third (or fourth) semester registration for this course; the defense is typically open for any CSD faculty and students to observe. Successful completion of this requirement fulfills part of the Qualifying Examination requirements (see below), which is necessary for students to continue in the program.

6. Dissertation Research (CSD 7970): a minimum of 14 hours

Each student must complete a minimum of 14 hours of dissertation research, which typically requires at least 2 semesters (see below).

Summary of Minimum Required Hours and Courses to be Taken

Major Content Courses:	18
Related Content Area:	9
Research Tool Courses:	12
Instructional Methods:	3
Research Practica:	9 (12 if no previous thesis research)
Dissertation Research:	<u>14</u>
TOTAL	65 (68)

Additional Requirements for Students without Speech and Hearing Backgrounds (or with other special circumstances)

1. Students with a degree in a different field who do not intend to seek clinical certification will be expected to take course work in speech-language pathology and audiology that was not part of their previous studies. Students and their advisors determine which courses are most appropriate, but general guidelines for background courses to be taken are as follows. A minimum of 18 credits dealing with normal aspects of human communication and its disorders are required. At least 9 of these credits should cover normal aspects of speech, language, and hearing and their development, with at least three credits in each of the following areas: the anatomical and physiological bases of communication; linguistic and

psycholinguistic factors affecting communication. A minimum of 9 credits should cover disorders of speech, language, and hearing. These hours are considered a prerequisite to Ph.D. coursework, not part of the Ph.D. program. Some of these background courses may be waived, if a student has had certain equivalent courses as part of his/her previous training (e.g., Psychology of Language, Introduction to Linguistics, etc.)

2. In general, students with a degree in a different field who wish to earn clinical certification in speech-language pathology or audiology will initially follow a program leading to clinical certification. (For details of the academic and practicum requirements needed for clinical certification, the guidelines of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association should be consulted.) Students should expect to devote approximately 2-3 years to complete the master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology or its equivalent. Approximately 3-4 years of training is needed to earn the clinical degree in Audiology. A majority of hours taken in conjunction with clinical training in Speech and Language Pathology or Audiology are considered a prerequisite to the Ph.D. and are not accepted as part of the Ph.D. program. However, a limited number of courses taken for completing the Master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology or the Au.D. degree may be able to count for credit toward both degrees (e.g., Research Design or an "Advanced Topics" seminar).

3. Students wishing to concurrently pursue a Ph.D. and M.S. or Au.D. degree must work with their advisor and committee to plan an appropriate and acceptable plan of study, including coursework and research experiences. Ideally, a certain amount of overlap in courses and research requirements can be achieved so that a student's program for obtaining both degrees would be shortened by 1-2 semesters, if possible.

Qualifying Examination

Because the Ph.D. degree is defined in terms of competency in areas of emphasis rather than completion of a specified number of courses, members of the supervisory committee examine each student on the basis of those competencies and not specifically on the Program of Study. The Program of Study is a plan of action for preparing the student to acquire a thorough knowledge in his/her field of study. The scope of the examination by the supervisory committee is, therefore, in no way restricted to only those courses listed in the Program of Study. The Ph.D. student preparing for the qualifying examination typically reads widely beyond regular course work. Although each member of the supervisory committee is typically charged with the task of examining the student in a specific area of emphasis, s/he is not restricted to that specific area in the examination, which may range over any and all areas in the student's field(s) of interest.

Permission to take the qualifying examination should be approved by the chair of the supervisory committee and a call for questions/projects should be sent to each committee member at least 30 days prior to the date of the examination (to be coordinated by committee chair). Students may contact members of the supervisory committee to request direction in preparing for the examination. However, supervisory committee members may or may not choose to provide such direction.

The qualifying examination may consist of different formats, which will be decided on by the student, his/her advisor, and the other committee members.

Option A consists of 12 clock hours of written examinations and a 1-hour oral examination, for a total of 13 hours. The supervisory committee determines the number of hours to be spent in the written examination on specific questions prepared by different committee members, but it typically involves 6 hours for the primary advisor and 3 hours for each of 2 other members of the committee. The written examinations are scheduled by the supervisory committee and normally take place over a period of 3 consecutive days. The written examination is conducted on campus, at a specified location within the CSD department. Normally, the committee chair is responsible for administering the written examination, unless other arrangements are made. The supervisory committee and student will agree upon the method by which the student will respond to questions (e.g., hand written answers, written answers prepared on a computer supplied by department, etc.).

Option B involves various research-oriented projects (e.g., developing a research grant proposal, preparing a series of journal article reviews, “take home” exam topics, etc.) that are addressed by the student. The supervisory committee also determines the amount of time to be spent on these research-oriented projects overseen by different committee members, but they typically involve 2 weeks for the primary project and 1 week for each of 2 other projects. The timing of these projects is scheduled by the supervisory committee and normally occurs within a period of 1 month.

Option C involves some combination of Options A and B, as approved by the student’s committee.

The oral examination associated with any of these options is scheduled after all of the written examinations/projects are graded (which should be within two weeks of completion) and successfully completed; the oral exam cannot be scheduled unless all members of the committee can be present for the full examination period.

Written Examination Grading: Each committee member grades the written answer(s) to his/her specific question(s) and assigns one of the following grades: high pass, pass, low pass, fail. In order for the written examination to be successfully completed, all questions must receive a passing grade and no more than 1 question may receive a “low pass” grade.

Oral Examination Grading: Each committee member carries one pass/fail vote for performance on the oral examination. Grades will be assigned as described above. In order for the oral examination to be successfully completed, all committee members must assign a passing grade, and there may be no more than 1 “low pass” grade.

In keeping with University policy, “an examination or parts of an examination may be repeated only once and only at the discretion of the student’s supervisory committee” (p. 39, University of Utah Bulletin, 99/00). A committee member may require a student to be re-tested on a specific written or oral portion of the examination or to complete additional work in a specific area.

A student who successfully completes the qualifying examination will be advanced to the status of "Ph.D. Candidate." A candidate will no longer be required to pay differential tuition beginning the semester following successful completion of the Qualifying Examination (see "Differential Tuition" below).

Dissertation

The Prospectus: Upon successful completion of the qualifying examination, the candidate may begin formal preparation of the Doctoral Dissertation Prospectus. Following approval from his/her committee chair, the candidate requests a meeting of the entire supervisory committee for evaluation of the prospectus. The prospectus must be submitted to each committee member at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. All committee members must vote to approve the prospectus and a copy of the signed approval will be placed in the student's file.

At the discretion of the committee chair and the candidate, the prospectus meeting may be open to all faculty and graduate students. In this case, the candidate is responsible for posting notice of the meeting at least 1 week prior to the meeting.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval: All research projects involving human subjects must be approved by the University's IRB prior to beginning data collection. A prospectus meeting can be scheduled pending IRB approval, but IRB approval must be secured before the supervisory committee can give final approval to the prospectus. The student should consult with his/her dissertation advisor when preparing the IRB proposal. The original signed IRB approval must be on file in the CSD office (in the candidate's file) prior to the start of any data collection.

Guidelines and forms for preparing the IRB proposal can be found on the University webpage (<http://www.research.utah.edu/irb/>). The IRB Office is located in Room 101D of the Medical Research and Education Building (581-3655).

Composition of Doctoral Committees: Doctoral committees will be constituted according to the general University of Utah catalogue that states that:

"Doctoral supervisory committees consist of five faculty members, the majority of whom must be regular faculty in the student's major department. One or more members of the supervisory committee must be from another department" (p. 45, 2004-2006 General Catalogue). In addition, departmental rules state that all 5 members must have a doctoral degree and the Chair must be a member of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Dissertation Registration: The candidate must complete at least 14 hours of thesis research (CSD 7970). However, s/he may not enroll for more than 3 credits of CSD 7970 until the supervisory committee has formally approved the prospectus.

Manuscript Preparation/Publication Requirements: Candidates should follow the guidelines for preparation of dissertations provided in "A Handbook for Theses and Dissertations." This handbook is published by The Graduate School and may be

purchased in the Thesis Office, Room 208 Building 44. The candidate should also note the Thesis Office deadlines for each semester (included in the handbook).

Final Examination

The candidate must pass a final oral examination, i. e., a defense of the dissertation. The candidate should submit a complete draft of the dissertation to the chair of the committee at least 4 weeks prior to the scheduled final examination. The committee members should receive copies of the dissertation at least 2 weeks prior to the examination.

The final oral defense is scheduled by the supervisory committee and is a public examination. All committee members have one pass/fail vote, and a successful defense is determined in the same manner as the written and oral qualifying examinations.

The dissertation defense should demonstrate to the supervisory committee the candidate's understanding of the research project, the concepts related to the project, the contribution the project makes to the field of knowledge, and the adequacy of executing the project. Candidates should be ready to accept revision suggestions during the oral examination. If revision suggestions are stipulated as conditions for acceptance, the chair of the supervisory committee is responsible for working with the student and overseeing the revisions.

The candidate must be registered for at least 3 credits during the semester in which the final examination is taken. The candidate should be aware that the Graduate Records Office must receive the Report of the Final Examination by the last day of the semester in which the student intends to graduate.

After successful defense of the dissertation (see "Final Examination," below), the student should schedule an appointment with the Thesis Editor to review the procedures for preparing a completed manuscript and complying with University publication requirements (581-8893).

Residency, Continuous Registration, and Differential Tuition

See the University of Utah General Catalog for complete information on these topics.

Residency: All doctoral students must spend at least one year (i.e., 2 consecutive semesters) of their program in full-time academic work at the University. Full-time work is considered to be 9 credit hours.

Continuous Registration: All doctoral students must be continuously registered from the time of admission through the completion of all requirements. Continuous registration requires that the student register and pay applicable tuition for at least 3 credit hours. Registration for summer semester is not required to maintain continuous registration. Continuous registration is not required after the candidate has successfully defended his/her dissertation.

Differential Tuition: All doctoral candidates must pay differential tuition through the semester in which they pass their qualifying examination. Beginning the semester following successful completion of the qualifying examination, students are no longer required to pay differential tuition.

**Sample Ph.D. Program (with previous graduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders)*

Year 1, Fall Semester: courses; research practicum

Year 1, Spring Semester: courses; research practicum; complete Year 1 research project

Year 1, Summer Semester: (optional, but encouraged)

Year 2, Fall, Semester: courses; research practicum

Year 2, Spring Semester: courses; teaching practicum (or research practicum, if no previous thesis)

Year 2, Summer: prepare for qualifying exam and/or work on research project

Year 3, Fall, Semester: take qualifying exam; teaching practicum (or begin prospectus)

Year 3, Spring Semester: complete prospectus and/or teaching practicum

Year 3, Summer Semester: begin dissertation

Year 4: Complete dissertation

*(The time for completing the Ph.D. program varies according to a number of factors that can shorten or lengthen the actual timeline for an individual student.)

Approved & Updated: October, 2005