

Rockhurst University Mission Statement

Rockhurst University exists to transform lives by creating a learning community centered on excellence in undergraduate liberal education and graduate education. Rockhurst is Catholic and Jesuit, involved in the life and growth of the city and the region, and committed to the service of the contemporary world.

Rockhurst Communication Sciences and Disorders Department Mission Statement

The Rockhurst University Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is committed to preparing leaders in the profession of CSD and in their careers and communities.

Accreditation

Rockhurst University’s program in Communication Sciences & Disorders began in 1999 and is fully accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Praxis Pass Rates

Period	# of students taking exam			# of students failed exam			Pass Rate (%)		
	Re	DE	S	Re	DE	S	Re	DE	S
2011	31			0			100%		
2010	32			3			91%		
2009	34			3			91%		
3 year average							94%		

Program Completion Statistics

Period	# completed program within expected time frame			# completed later than expected time frame			# not completing		
	Re	DE	S	Re	DE	S	Re	DE	S
2011	31/97%						1/3%		
2010	31/100%								
2009	31/91%						3/9%		
3 year average	96%						4%		

Percentage of Job Offers to Graduates

Academic year	Employment Rate in Profession	
	#	%
2011	31	100%
2010	31	100%
2009	31	100%
3 year average	31	100%

Bachelor of Science Program Goals:

The goals and objectives of the undergraduate program in Communication Sciences and Disorders are:

- Providing a broad scientific base for the understanding of normal development of the basic human communication processes, and
- Providing an introduction to the study of disorders of communication, including their characteristics, evaluation, and treatment.

Bachelor of Science Program Objectives:

The undergraduate program has the primary objectives of:

- Developing students' knowledge of the principles of biological sciences and physical sciences, mathematics and the social/behavioral sciences;
- Providing students with a broad scientific base for the development of knowledge of basic human communication and swallowing processes, including their biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural foundations;
- Introducing students to the nature, prevention, causes, evaluation and treatment of speech, language, hearing, and communication disorders and differences, and swallowing disorders, inclusive of issues pertaining to culturally and linguistically diverse populations across the lifespan; initiating students to the principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for culturally and linguistically diverse individuals with communication and swallowing disorders;
- Promoting students' understanding of and appreciation for linguistically diverse individuals by developing basic communication skills in a foreign language;
- Helping students discover ethical principles and standards of ethical conduct in clinical decision making;
- Introducing students to the fundamentals of empirical research and its application to the discipline of communication sciences and disorders;
- Exposing students to the professional issues related to state and national certification, specialty recognition, licensure and the educational preparation of speech-language pathologists; and
- Developing students' oral and written communication proficiencies.

The Bachelor of Science program in communication sciences and disorders meets the requirements for certification by the State of Missouri as a speech-language pathologist and by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) as appropriate for an undergraduate program. However, to be eligible for state and ASHA certification, students must earn a graduate degree from a program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the ASHA. Other requirements for ASHA certification include successful completion of a Clinical Fellowship Year and receipt of a passing score on the PRAXIS examination.

Students are required to earn a grade of C or better in all CSD courses (a grade of C- will not satisfy the requirement). Students are encouraged to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the major as well as an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, as most graduate programs require a minimum GPA of 3.0 for admission.

Master of Science Program Goals:

The goals and objectives of the graduate program in Communication Sciences and Disorders are:

- To foster an active learning environment that is rigorous in expectations of excellence from students, yet also responsive to student needs.
- Engage students in supervised clinical practicum settings that are based in the community with culturally and linguistically diverse clients who exhibit a wide range of disorders and/or differences in communication and/or swallowing.
- To develop students' ethical, professional, and culturally sensitive conduct in assessment and intervention and in interactions with caregivers of individuals with communication and/or swallowing impairments and other professionals.
- To be actively involved in scholarship through writing and presentations and involvement of students in scholarly activities.
- To encourage continuous professional development and community service for the benefit of individuals with communication and swallowing impairments.

Master of Science Program Objectives:

The graduate with a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from Rockhurst University will use the knowledge and skills obtained in the program to:

- Develop a philosophy of practice that reflects professional, ethical, and culturally sensitive behavior as defined in cardinal documents of the ASHA.
- Apply knowledge of the principles of biological sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, and the social/behavioral sciences.
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic human communication and swallowing processes, including their biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental, and linguistic and cultural foundations.
- Provide evidence-based prevention, assessment and intervention services to children and adults from diverse backgrounds across the range of etiologies served within the scope of practice of Speech-language Pathologists.
- Engage in professional development and scholarly activity to advance the science and knowledge base of the profession of speech-language pathology.
- Demonstrate knowledge of state and national certification, specialty recognition and other relevant professional credentials.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skill in oral and written communication with consumers, professionals and the general public.

The Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders consists of 49-50 graduate credit hours, including 38 credit hours of required course work and a minimum of four credit hours of elective course work in speech-language pathology, and seven credit hours of clinical practice. Clinic registrations will include weekly class discussions on topics that support the development of knowledge and skills important to successful clinical experience and professional practice. The required course work provides a broad and solid foundation in both the theoretical and applied aspects of the discipline of communication sciences and disorders, while elective course work affords opportunities for more specialization or the pursuit of special interests.

The clinical phase of the curriculum introduces students to the clinical, educational, and rehabilitation process. Supervised experiences in evaluation, treatment, and consultation with children and adults are provided. Students will be required to participate in clinical experiences in a minimum of three different settings. Students complete a minimum of 375 supervised clinical clock hours in a variety of practicum sites. The academic and clinical curricular sequence has been designed to provide continuity of learning experiences. Students will be required to complete clinical experiences in three different clinical settings. Course work in a particular disorder area will be a pre- or co requisite to clinical practice in that area.

Student progression through the program is documented with the Knowledge and Skills Acquisition (KASA) form that identifies (a) the knowledge and skills to be acquired during the program and (b) courses and/or practicum experiences responsible for delivery of content or experiences for each area of knowledge and/or skill. Students not able to demonstrate mastery of each knowledge and/or skill will need to successfully complete remediation procedures. Before the degree is conferred, students must meet all KASA requirements.

The academic culmination of the program will be the capstone, an innovative research, administrative, or educational project or seminar paper that reflects integration of content across the curriculum. Students who plan to pursue a doctoral degree will be encouraged to engage in a traditionally structured research project. Work on this project will begin in the CD 6420 course. A formal presentation will be conducted in the CD 7430 course and is the final step in the academic portion of the master's program.