



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

School of Health Professions

Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

Frequently Asked Questions Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC)
School of Health Professions (SHP)
Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS)

I. What do I need to know about the TTUHSC Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Sciences and Disorders?

A. Degree/TTUHSC:

1. What is the objective of pursuing a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders?

The objective of the Doctor of Philosophy program in Communication Sciences and Disorders is to prepare students for careers in research and teaching. Applicants for the Ph.D. program may specialize in audiology, speech-language pathology, or speech and hearing sciences.

2. Is TTUHSC an accredited university?

Yes, TTUHSC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, masters, doctoral, and professional degrees. You may look in the SHP Student Catalog for more information by clicking on the following link: <http://www.ttuhs.edu/health-professions/catalog.aspx>

B. Application/Admissions Process:

1. What are the minimal standards for admission?

The admission requirements and standards are the minimal eligibility requirements for consideration and do not guarantee admission to the program. Admission to the program is competitive. Each student's file will be evaluated by the Department's Ph.D. Admissions Committee.

2. What are the admission requirements for the Ph.D. program in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and what needs to be included in my application?

- Completed and submitted online application
- Official transcripts from all universities attended (whether or not a degree was earned)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
- Graduate degree in Speech-Language and Hearing Sciences or other related fields
- Cumulative graduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better
- Letter of intent specifying area of interest
- Writing sample (Copy of master's thesis OR research paper)
- Interview with at least one faculty member
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) scores, if English is the second language
- Resume
- Proof of appropriate immunizations against infectious diseases

3. What are the two categories for admission?

- Full admission status: Students will be admitted to the Ph.D. program with no academic restrictions.
- Conditional admission status: Students may be admitted conditionally and enrolled in the Ph.D. program for up to two consecutive semesters. During this timeframe, the student is expected to maintain a minimum graduate GPA of 3.0 (per semester and cumulative) in doctoral coursework. At the end of the second semester, students in this category will be subjected to a formal committee review of their educational progress, which will result in either full status admission or termination from the program.

4. Where can I find application materials?

Application materials can be found at <http://www.ttuhs.edu/health-professions/admissions/application.aspx>

Indicate that you are applying for a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

5. When will I learn of my application status?

We will attempt to notify students of their application status at least 2 months prior to the beginning of the semester.

6. When are the deadlines for applying to the TTUHSC Ph.D. program in Communication Sciences and Disorders?

APPLICATION DEADLINE				
	Start in FALL	Start in SPRING	Start in SUMMER	OPEN APPLICATION DATE
COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS (Ph.D.)	Apply by: April 30	Apply by: October 15	Apply by: February 28	Application is available starting September 1

7. Is a graduate degree in Speech-Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) or Communication Disorders (CD) absolutely required for admission?

A graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, or other related field is required. Applicants who have earned graduate degrees in fields other than speech, language, and hearing sciences should contact program directors based on area of interest to discuss an individual plan of study.

8. Is every applicant required to have an interview?

All applicants who are ultimately admitted into the program will have an interview. Some applicants do not have GPA, GRE, TOEFL, and/or IELTS scores that are sufficiently competitive with the applicant pool to qualify for an interview. Applicants who do qualify will be notified via email or telephone to schedule their interview.

9. What GRE scores and GPA are expected in order to be competitive for admission to the TTUHSC Graduate Program?

For competitive admission, GPA should be at least a 3.0, and GRE scores should be at or above the 20th percentile.

10. What TOEFL and/or IELTS scores are expected in order to be competitive for admission to the TTUHSC Graduate Program?

Applicants who are internationally trained in a non-English speaking country must submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) scores regardless of residency. Minimum acceptable scores for the TOEFL are 79 on the internet-based test and 550 on the paper test. The minimum acceptable IELTS score is 6.5. This test is waived only for graduates of U.S. universities or universities in countries in which the native language is English. The TTUHSC's institution code for the TOEFL is 6851. TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for only 2 years.

11. What are the requirements for international students?

Requirements for international students may be found on the SHP website and at the following link:http://www.ttuhs.edu/health-professions/prospective/international_applicants.aspx

12. What is the cost of tuition for the Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders Program?

For current tuition rates, please visit <http://www.ttuhs.edu/health-professions/prospective/tuition.aspx>.

C. About the Program:

1. What size is the TTUHSC Ph.D. Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders?

The doctoral research program typically has ~10 total students. We admit 1-3 students per year.

2. How long is the Ph.D. Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders?

On average, full-time students complete the Ph.D. program in 4 years (12 semesters). However, length of the program varies from student to student due to an individualized course of study. Thus, the number of years one spends in the Ph.D. program depends to a large extent on the motivation of the student and her/his mentor.

3. Do you offer a part-time or distance learning Ph.D. program?

The Ph.D. program does not offer distance learning. Part-time may be an option. Contact the respective program director for specific questions. Stipends are not available for part-time students, and total time in the program will be extended.

II. Now that I've been accepted into the TTUHSC Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Sciences and Disorders program, what information do I need to know?

A. Orientation:

1. When will I receive my orientation information regarding course registration, immunization requirements, parking permits, TTUHSC ID badge, required online training, etc.?

All necessary information regarding registering for classes and the orientation process will be emailed to you approximately 2 months before beginning the program.

2. What is the cost of tuition for the Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders Program?

For current tuition rates, please visit <http://www.ttuhs.edu/health-professions/prospective/tuition.aspx>.

3. When do I need to be in compliance with all of my immunizations?

Your immunization records must be in compliance 10 days prior to the first day of class each semester. Information regarding immunization requirements will be sent electronically to students who are accepted into the program. If you have any questions about immunization requirements or the status of your immunizations, please contact the Office of Institutional Health at 806-743-3019.

B. Coursework:

1. What are the course requirements for the Ph.D. Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders?

Course Requirements	Semester credit hour requirements
1. Foundation courses (Choose 1 of the following options)	Graduate degree in communication disorders – may transfer up to 24 graduate hours
	Graduate degree in a field other than communication disorders – may transfer 12 graduate hours and complete an additional 12 graduate hours within the department
	24 hours if no graduate degree earned
2. Required courses	9 hours of statistics/research design
	3 hours of pre-dissertation project
	9 hours of dissertation project
	9 hours of lab rotations
	12 hours within the department prior to the comprehensive examination
3. Prescribed elective courses	9 hours outside of the department prior to the comprehensive examination, excluding statistics/research design requirements
4. Freely elected courses	6 additional hours either within or outside the department
5. Other	3 hours for students without a completed Master's Thesis
Total degree hours	Minimum of 81

2. How do I decide which classes to take for my individualized degree plan?

Students will enroll in courses from several departments within TTU and TTUHSC. Courses from departments such as psychology, special education, linguistics, physiology, neurology, human development, rehabilitation sciences, and electrical engineering will complement each student's area of interest/specialization. All courses must be approved by the student's planning committee. For more details about potential classes, please visit the TTU and TTUHSC Catalogs at: TTU: (<http://catalog.ttu.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=597>) TTUHSC: (<http://www.ttuhs.edu/health-professions/catalog.aspx>) Once you have decided upon some courses in which you are interested, check the schedule to see if/when they are offered. In preparation for your first semester, schedule an appointment with your temporary advisor 1-2 months prior to the semester start date.

3. Are assistantships available in the SLHS department?

- Many of our full-time students receive half-time assistantships (20 hours per week). Assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis. We also have several part-time students who do not receive funding.
- The funding is approximately \$18,000 per year. Some fee waivers are available for students who are on a half-time assistantship.

4. Are comprehensive exams required at the end of the program?

- Yes, each student will be required to pass a comprehensive examination.
- The pre-dissertation research project must be completed and defended, and all coursework requirements must be met prior to the onset of the comprehensive examination.
 - The written comprehensive examination will consist of a 3-week, take-home examination of 3-4 questions composed by the student's Comprehensive Examination Committee.
 - The student will also be required to pass a formal oral defense of the comprehensive examination.

5. In what research areas are faculty members actively engaged?

Our department currently houses the following research labs:

- Adult Neurogenic Language Disorders (Corwin)
- Applied and Clinical Linguistics (Kroll)
- Auditory Cognition Lab (Guan)
- Auditory Processes (Gustafson)
- Child Language Disorders (Schmitt)
- Child Phonology (Lee)
- Pediatric Audiometric Science (Hicks)
- Signal Processing & Communications (Yoon)

- Behavioral Hearing Laboratory (Reel)
- Speech Science (Dembowski)
- Vestibular/Auditory Integrated Biomedical Lab (Zupancic)

For more information, see the Center for Speech, Language, and Hearing Research (CSLHR) website: <http://www.ttuhs.edu/health-professions/cslhr.aspx>

6. Other resources:

- SHP Catalog: <http://www.ttuhs.edu/health-professions/catalog.aspx>
- TTUHSC Handbook: http://www.ttuhs.edu/student-services/documents/HSC_Institutional_Student_Handbook.pdf
- Department Website: <http://www.ttuhs.edu/health-professions/phd-communication-sciences-disorders/>