

Guide for Undergraduate Communication Disorders Majors

This guide is designed to introduce students to the Communication Disorders department and the undergraduate major. All undergraduate majors take fundamental courses in both speech-language pathology and audiology. This is a liberal arts major that prepares students for careers and graduate programs in speech-language pathology, audiology, deaf education, special education, and related fields.

A master's degree and certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) are required to work as a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). State licensure is also required to work as an SLP in a school setting. A doctoral degree in audiology is required to practice as an Audiologist.

Equity and Inclusion in the Communication Disorders Department

Our students who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQ+ are an integral part of our program. We acknowledge our students' experiences of racism and bias and their frustration with persistent, institutionalized inequality. We recognize that we need to do better to address bias in the present and the future, and we ask our students to join in our commitment to taking the time to do the necessary work. We intend to:

- Seek out, hear, and reflect upon the experiences of our BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students
- Participate in campus-wide anti-racism initiatives
- Explore our own explicit and implicit biases and their influence on instruction, learning, and the department environment
- Revise existing programs to ensure inclusivity for the benefit of our students, clients, and families.

Getting Started

We recommend the following actions for students who are considering a major in Communication Disorders:

1. Investigate careers in speech-language pathology, audiology, and related fields. Resources are available in the [Career Resource Center](https://www.newpaltz.edu/careers/) (<https://www.newpaltz.edu/careers/>) located in the Humanities Building, Room 105.
2. Consider taking CMD200-Survey of Communication Disorders. This course provides a good introduction to professional fields associated with the major.

3. Become familiar with the wealth of information on the [ASHA website](https://www.asha.org/) (<https://www.asha.org/>). ASHA is the organization that certifies SLPs nationwide, and they oversee the accreditation of graduate programs offered by schools in the U.S.
4. Consider clerical work in the Communication Disorders Department office and the Speech-Language and Hearing Center (SLHC). Work-study positions may be available for those who qualify, and there may be temporary service positions, which are open to all students.

Senior students who are majoring in something other than Communication Disorders but are interested in pursuing a master's degree in Communication Disorders are encouraged to meet with the Communication Disorders Department Chair. They may be eligible to enroll in the [Post-Baccalaureate Program in Communication Disorders](https://www.newpaltz.edu/commdis/postbacertificate.html) (<https://www.newpaltz.edu/commdis/postbacertificate.html>) upon graduation.

Next Steps

Declare the Major

To declare the major, students must have completed at least 30 college credits – see “Recommended Courses” below. Students must also have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. This GPA must include all college-level coursework completed to date, at New Paltz or elsewhere.

To declare, contact the Communication Disorders Department and request a meeting with the Department Chair.

49-50 Credit Major

- 36 credits of required core courses
- 3-4 credits of core elective courses
- 6 credits of other/cognate elective courses
- 4 credits of required capstone experience

Join a Club

There are four student-led clubs, the National Student Speech-Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) New Paltz Chapter, the Audiology Club, the Association of Students of Color in Communication Disorders, and the American Sign Language Club. These clubs may not be active every semester, and new clubs may be established. Clubs provide opportunities for faculty mentorship and involvement in professional activities, academics, leadership, volunteerism, and fundraising. Members may also provide tours at the open house for prospective students and help with department events. NSSLHA typically hosts fall and spring banquets each year.

Minors

Some students take minors along with the Communication Disorders major. Suggested minors include:

Deaf Studies

Psychology

Linguistics

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Black Studies and other minors in ethnic and racial studies

Spanish and other language minors

When considering a minor, students are encouraged to discuss these and other options with their academic major advisor and an advisor in the minor department.

Recommended Courses

General Education (GE) requirements should be fulfilled in the first two years of college if possible. **Students may select GE courses that also satisfy ASHA certification requirements.**

Courses shown below include GE and non-GE recommendations. Students should consult with their advisor every semester to stay on track.

Recommended for first and second year students, and transfer students (30 credits):

Category	Courses
GE FLNG	CMD101, CMD102, CMD203, CMD205 (placement level testing available)
GE USST	EDS340 (required by New Paltz SLP graduate program and some other SLP graduate programs for New York State teacher certification in SLP)
GE NSCI / ASHA Physical Science and Biology	For Physical Science: PHY208 strongly recommended (PHY208 or other qualifying physics course is the prerequisite for CMD304-Speech & Hearing Science, a required core course for the major)

Category	Courses
	For Biology: BIO112, BIO119, BIO135, BIO170, or BIO201. BIO170-Human Biology is recommended as some graduate programs specifically require human biology.
GE Math / ASHA Statistics	MAT145, MAT241 or PSY275 or SOC307. Avoid research methods as those courses are not accepted for ASHA.
GE SSCI	LIN201 (prerequisite for some SLP graduate programs) OR EDS371 or EDS372 (required by New Paltz SLP graduate program and some other SLP graduate programs for New York State teacher certification in SLP)
Language skills	ENG226
Communication skills	CMM104, CMM202, or CMM204
ASHA Social/Behavioral Science (2 courses)	Select from courses in these areas: Psychology, Ethnic and cultural studies, Gender and sexuality studies, Sociology, Anthropology
New Paltz SLP graduate program / New York State teacher certification	EDS367, EDS371, EDS372 or developmental psych course AND SPE350 or SPE385 (after taking EDS340)

Major in Communication Disorders

Required Core Courses (36 credits):

Course	Cr	Course	Cr
CMD200 Survey of Communication Disorders	3	CMD401 Observations & Clinical Methods	3
CMD202 Deaf Culture & Heritage (DIVR)	3	CMD317 Audiology	3
CMD302 Phonetics	4	CMD409 Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation	3
CMD304 Speech & Hearing Science	4	CMD415 Disorders of Child Language	3
CMD306 Language Development in Children	3	CMD419 Research in Communication Disorders	3
CMD310 Anatomy & Physiology of Speech & Swallowing	4		

Core Elective Courses (select 3-4 credits):

Course	Cr	Course	Cr
CMD314 Autism Spectrum Disorders	3	CMD453 Research Plans & Projects	3
CMD315 Disorders of Fluency and Voice	3	CMD474 Clinical Participation in Audiology	3
CMD402 Clinical Participation I (Senior yr.)	2	CMD293/393/493 Selected Topics	3
CMD403 Clinical Participation II (Senior yr.)	2	SAB339 Ethiopia Deaf Study Abroad	3

Related Elective Courses (select 6 credits):

Course	Cr	Course	Cr
CMD203 Intermediate Amer Sign Lang 1	3	LINxxx Any Linguistics course	3
CMD205 Intermediate Amer Sign Lang 2	3	SOC350 Introduction to Human Svcs	3
CMM104 Public Speaking	3	SPA363 Spanish Phonetics & Oral Practice	3
EDS371 Child Psychology & Development	3	SPE350 Creating Inclusive Elem Sch Clrms	3
EDS372 Developing Adolescence	3	SPE385 Differentiating Instr in Secndry Sch	3
ENG226 Practical Grammar	3	Other core electives by advisement	3

Capstone – Writing Intensive (select 4 credits):

Course	Cr
CMD406 Diagnosis in Speech-Language Pathology	4
CMD420 Seminar in Communication Disorders	4
CMD473 Clinical Methods in Audiology	4

Glossary of Useful Terms

Audiologist – a specialist in hearing science and the assessment and remediation of hearing loss. These professionals measure hearing ability and identify, evaluate, manage, and work to prevent and treat disorders of hearing and balance.

ASHA or the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association – the national professional association for speech-language pathology and audiology.

Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) – This certificate is awarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) upon completion of a master's degree in communication disorders, a year of paid experience known as the Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY) or (CF), passing the national examination in the field, and completion of the certificate application. Separate certificates are awarded in speech-language pathology and audiology.

Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY) or (CF) – A minimum of nine months of full-time professional employment or comparable part-time employment that is supervised by an ASHA-certified professional. The CFY is obtained following the master's degree.

Clinical Clock Hours – Time spent observing assessment and/or remediation of a speech, language, or hearing disorder. These hours must be documented and include the 25 hours of supervised observations which are obtained in CMD401-Observations & Clinical Methods.

Code of Ethics – Refers to the principles and requirements described by ASHA for the ethical conduct of professional speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) – This is a general, lengthy examination required by many graduate schools as a requirement for admission. It is required for admission to SUNY New Paltz graduate school. It may be taken during the senior year of undergraduate study.

Further Information

Visit the [Communication Disorders website](https://www.newpaltz.edu/commdis/) (<https://www.newpaltz.edu/commdis/>) for more information about Communication Disorders programs and the Speech, Language & Hearing Center. If you have questions, contact the Communication Disorders Department:

Phone: (845) 257-3620

Email: commdis@newpaltz.edu