

Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education, BS, BA

Department: Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education Department

College: Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services

Overview

About This Degree

A bachelor's degree in communicative disorders and deaf education is a pre-professional degree that prepares students for graduate school in [speech-language pathology](#) or clinical or educational [audiology](#). Students in USU's program choose to focus on either speech-language pathology or audiology.

Speech-language pathologists work with individuals of all ages who have difficulty communicating, learning to communicate, feeding, or swallowing. This may include infants with feeding disorders or children with speech, language, hearing, or literacy development problems. It may also include children and adults who stutter, have voice disorders, or suffer from speech, language, and swallowing problems as the consequence of neurological disease or stroke.

Audiologists evaluate and manage individuals who are suspected or have been identified as having differences associated with hearing. Audiologists conduct testing to help identify hearing loss, select and fit hearing aids, program cochlear implants, and provide aural rehabilitation.

Students receive a **BS** by completing all required courses in the major. To receive a **BA**, students must also gain proficiency in one or more foreign languages.

Distance Education

The [communicative disorders and deaf education degree \(BS\)](#) is available online through [USU-Online](#) for students who are unable to attend classes on campus. The online and on-campus programs cannot be combined. Students should consult with the Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education Department advisor before beginning the program.

Career Options

With a bachelor's degree in communicative disorders and deaf education, students may be qualified for the following careers:

- Clinical aide
- Assistant or technician in speech-language pathology
- Assistant in clinical audiology and educational audiology

Most undergraduate students go on to receive graduate degrees in MS, MA, MEd, or AuD, allowing certification and/or licensure as a professional speech-language pathologist or audiologist. With graduate degrees in these fields, students will be eligible to work in the following areas:

- Hospitals
- Schools
- Rehabilitation centers
- Nursing facilities
- Home health care centers
- Community centers
- Private practice settings

[Career Services](#) provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's [admissions requirements](#), the communicative disorders and deaf education program has additional requirements:

- **Freshman:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to the communicative disorders major. However, during the first semester of their junior year, students must formally apply for admission into the communicative disorders and deaf education undergraduate professional preparation program.
- **Transfer Students:** Transfer students from other institutions and students transferring from other USU majors need a 3.0 overall GPA by the end of the first semester of their junior year for admission to the professional program.

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

Major Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Science**.

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Arts**.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a [New Student Orientation](#) program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: ASHA is the professional, scientific, and credentialing association for members and affiliates who are speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists in the United States and internationally.

National Association of the Deaf: NAD is the nation's leading civil rights organization of, by, and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States. It believes in the right of the American deaf community to use sign language, to congregate on issues important to them, and to have its interests represented at the national level.

National Association for the Education of the Young: NAEY is dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8. NAEYC is committed to becoming an increasingly high performing and inclusive organization. NAEYC is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children.

American Sign Language Club: USU is home to an ASL club for students from all majors interested in sign language.

Deaf Education Student Association: DESA is a place where future teachers and professionals who work with deaf people gain the opportunity to interact with professionals already in the field. DESA also educates the public about the deaf community through activities and mini-workshops. The professional network allows students to connect

with professional communities and search for career opportunities.

National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association: NSSLHA is the national organization for students interested in the study of normal and disordered human communication. The USU chapter is an active group that provides service to the community in the areas of language and literacy, elementary school student tutoring projects, as well as support for humanitarian efforts to orphanages with children with communication disorders.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest [undergraduate research](#) program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The [Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities](#) program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's [Honors Program](#) prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

Center for Persons with Disabilities: The CPD is a nationally recognized research center that joins the expertise of researchers and faculty with community partners to address the most difficult challenges facing persons with disabilities and their families. Research addresses issues that cross fields ranging from biomedicine to education. In clinical experiences, learners join teams of professionals, family members, and individuals with disabilities to deliver services and supports.

Emma Eccles Jones Early Childhood Research Center: This center houses investigators who study the cognitive and linguistic mechanisms that underlie language and literacy development, methods for assessing language and literacy abilities, and instructional strategies that improve language and literacy.

SKI*HI Institute: The SKI-HI Institute enhances the lives of young children with special needs, their families, and care givers. The institute's training and services focus on early intervention and early childhood programming for infants and young children, ages birth to five years, with hearing and vision impairments and other disabilities.

Speech-Language-Hearing Center: The USU Speech-Language-Hearing Center (USUSLHC) center provides a full range of evaluation and treatment services to both children and adults with speech, language, and hearing disorders.