

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Dr. Heidi Taylor, interim dean

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The College of Nursing and Health Sciences is composed of the Department of Nursing, the Department of Communication Disorders, and the Department of Sports and Exercise Sciences. The academic programs of the college are supported by the West Texas A&M University Health Partners Clinic, a faculty practice, primary care clinic in Amarillo, Texas, the Bivins Nursing Learning Center, the WTAMU Speech and Hearing Clinic, and

the Sports and Exercise Sciences Human Performance Laboratory. Students learn in on-campus classrooms and laboratories and through distance-education methods. Clinical skills in all departments are practiced in numerous health-related agencies in the region.

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences is dedicated to developing professional and academic leaders in the health professions through educational programs that engage students effectively, provide high-quality clinical services to patients and clients, and contribute meaningful scholarship including evidence-based practice. This mission is achieved through the individual and collective efforts of highly qualified faculty and staff.

Department of Communication Disorders

Dr. Howard Wilson, department head

Classroom Center, Room 217B • WTAMU Box 60757
(806)651-5100 • Fax (806)651-5105
hwilson@mail.wtamu.edu • www.wtamu.edu

Full Graduate Faculty: Viswanath, Wilson.

Associate Graduate Faculty: Barnes, Clark.

The Department of Communication Disorders offers an undergraduate bachelor's and a master's degree in communication disorders. The graduate program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA). The department also offers the post-baccalaureate program for individuals who have an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than communication disorders and who desire to obtain a graduate degree in communication disorders. All of the communication disorder faculty members hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence from ASHA and also are licensed by the Texas Board of Examiners in speech-language pathology and audiology.

Degree and Major

- Master of Science (M.S.) Degree
- Major in Communication Disorders

Discipline	Course Prefix
Communication Disorders	CD

NOTE: See the "Academic Courses and Abbreviations" and "Course Descriptions" sections of this catalog for a complete list of courses offered by the University.

Master of Science (M.S.) Degree

Major in Communication Disorders

M.S. Degree Requirements (See requirements in the "Graduate School" section of this catalog.)

The WTAMU Communication Disorders Program is nationally accredited by the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA).

The primary goal of the master's degree program in communication disorders is to develop competent professional practitioners who are prepared to work with other disciplines and make contributions to the field of speech-language pathology and who are well grounded in diagnostic and therapeutic skills. Knowledge of and participation in research is strongly encouraged.

The length of the program may vary depending on the undergraduate background of the student; but the master's degree in communication disorders is available with a thesis or non-thesis option. In addition, enrollment in clinical practicum each semester is required in order to achieve a total of 400 clinic clock hours.

Admission Requirements

In addition to University and Graduate School admission requirements, the program requires:

- A 500-word essay discussing personal and professional goals.

Department of Communication Disorders

- Three letters of recommendation from undergraduate professors.
- Interview with the program director.

The essay and letters of recommendation should be mailed directly to:

Dr. H. Howard F. Wilson
Department of Communication Disorders
West Texas A&M University
WTAMU Box 60757
Canyon, Texas 79016-0001

Ongoing Program Requirements

- Documentation required within the first two weeks of classes:
 - Documented copy of liability insurance.
 - Evidence of a current CPR card.
- Immunizations:
 - Required—tuberculosis.
 - Strongly recommended—rubella (women only) and hepatitis B.
- Courses with grades of “C,” “D,” “F,” “I” (incomplete), “IP” or “X” (drop or withdrawal) can not be used to satisfy requirements for graduate degree.

Completion/Graduation Requirements

- Take the Praxis NESPA specialty area exam. (ASHA examination; 600 or better is passing.)
- Students must demonstrate mastery of all learning outcomes that are part of the Knowledge and Skills Acquisition (KASA). The KASA learning outcomes are incorporated into and listed on the syllabi of each graduate course in communication disorders. This requirement helps meet standards of the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- Pass comprehensive final exam.

Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

The master of science degree in communication disorders includes two options.

Thesis Option (36 hours)*

- CD 6305, 6310, 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335, 6350, 6355, 6370, 6375.
- CD 6301, 6302 (thesis).
- CD 6398, 6399 (to satisfy 400 clinical clock hours).

Non-Thesis Option (42 hours)*

- CD 6305, 6310, 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335, 6350, 6360, 6370, 6375, 6380, 6392.
- CD 6398, 6399 (to satisfy 400 clinical clock hours).

*Additional hours may be required to meet ASHA requirements.