

Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders Program Level Learning Outcomes (2025 to 2028)

The undergraduate program at WTAMU prepares students to have an exceptional foundation in speech, language, communication, and swallowing sciences. This background emphasizes recalling, understanding, and applying fundamental concepts specific to the academic discipline with adequate exposure to other fields required for a baccalaureate degree in the State of Texas. Traditionally, the program prepares students for advanced study in the professions of speech-language pathology or audiology. Many students, however, have utilized the knowledge and skills from the bachelor's degree to enter careers in education as teachers or other opportunities. The following five (5) program level learning outcomes (PLLO) are developed and addressed in major-specific courses to ensure students are competent and confident in knowledge upon graduation. Although there are no accreditation standards or requirements for undergraduate programs in communication sciences and disorders, these PLLOs are based upon those most essential to prepare students for advanced study.

LO1. Knowledge of Basic Communication and Swallowing (Based upon ASHA Certification Standard IV-B)

Students will explain basic human communication and swallowing processes including biological, neurological, physical, social, developmental, and related bases.

LO2. Knowledge of Differential Processes (Based upon ASHA Certification Standard IV-C)

Students will distinguish between typical, individual, and atypical human communication and swallowing processes with consideration to biological, neurological, physical, social, idiopathic and other etiologies for the following domains:

- Speech Sound Production
- Fluency
- Voice and Resonance
- Receptive and Expressive Language (including subdomains and literacy)
- Hearing
- Swallowing
- Cognition
- Social Interaction and Pragmatics
- Communication Modalities (e.g., augmentative and alternative communication)

LO3. Knowledge of Clinical Management (Based upon ASHA Certification Standard IV-D)

Students will summarize the foundational principles of clinical management including common techniques to prevent, identify, diagnose, plan, and treat communication disorders.

LO4: Demonstration of Effective Communication (Based upon ASHA Certification Standard V-A)

Students will communicate ideas and concepts, either orally or in writing, to promote future competency in effective interprofessional, patient/client and family, and public interactions.

LO5: Engaging in Experiential Learning (Based upon ASHA Certification Standard V-B)

Students will engage in various experiences pertaining to speech and hearing sciences and communication disorders in order to develop future emerging critical thinking, advocacy, and problem-solving skills associated with professions in the health and human services.

The undergraduate curriculum is designed to cover all of the LOs with more specific course outcomes or objectives per course with respect to each instructor's academic freedom. A variety of assessment and teaching approaches are demonstrated throughout the program to achieve these learning outcomes. Although all PLLOs are addressed throughout the program, not every individual course may address all PLLOs.