

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution: University of Louisville
Program Name: Communication Sciences and Disorders
Degree Destination: Bachelor of Science

CIP Code: 51.0201

Credit Hours: 120

Implementation Date: 1/8/2025

Program Description

The proposed program focuses on the biological, physical, sociocultural, and linguistic aspects of human communication, as well as human communication disorders and differences. Successful completion of a graduate degree in the field is required for licensure, so the proposed baccalaureate program will facilitate students' progression into Louisville's Master of Science program in Speech-Language Pathology and the Audiology doctorate (AuD) program.

Creating an undergraduate pipeline into graduate programs will reduce the time-to-degree for students. Without an undergraduate program, many graduate students must first complete a 23-credit "leveling year" prior to beginning graduate-level coursework.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- identify the basic processes and influences related to the developmental, biological, neurological, acoustical, psychological, and cultural correlates of human communication;
- demonstrate foundational knowledge of typical and disordered communication, including areas of prevention, evaluation, intervention, and treatment;
- think critically by analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating data based on existing research;
- examine their own individual and professional identities while learning with, from, and about one another through inter-professional paradigms; and
- apply for admission to graduate programs in speech-language pathology and/or audiology.

A unique aspect of this program is offering an accelerated track to students who also plan to earn the Doctor of Audiology. Undergraduate students will be permitted to apply to the doctoral program during their junior year. Students will earn the bachelor's degree after successfully completing the first year of doctoral coursework.

Connection to Other Programs

Faculty from institutions with similar programs will continue to regularly serve as guest lecturers at other institutions.

The University of Louisville's proposed program in Communication Sciences and Disorders will facilitate a student's completion of a graduate program that is required for licensure. The

program will enhance both the existing master's program in Speech-Language Pathology and the AuD Audiology by facilitating continuity between undergraduate and graduate research activities and relationships. The proposed program will also create a pipeline of students into the related graduate program and reduce the time to degree.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 10

Year 2 – 23

Year 3 – 41

Year 4 – 64

Year 5 – 79

Employment Demand

Upon graduation, students who do not pursue a graduate degree will be qualified to be Speech-Language Pathology assistants, working under the supervision of licensed practitioners.

Positions for speech-language pathologist assistants are projected to grow in Kentucky by 10% from 2020 to 2030.

For students who progress to a graduate program, the projected job outlook for Speech-Language Pathology (2020-2030) is 29% growth with 16% projected growth for Audiology during the same period. This is substantially faster than the average growth of 8% for all occupations. The state of Kentucky ranks 19th in the United States for personnel-to-population ratio for Speech-Language Pathologists.

Budget

No additional faculty lines are being requested for the program. Revenue projections are conservative and account for expected, possible attrition. The program will be revenue neutral in its first year, although revenue is expected to increase in conjunction with the growing undergraduate enrollment.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 1,806,776

Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$): \$ 1,250,000