Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences (CDS)

The Speech-Language Pathology Program at SUNY Plattsburgh prepares tomorrow’s Speech-Language Pathologists by offering graduate students a strong academic and clinical background.

The Master of Arts Degree in Speech-Language Pathology is designed to serve the educational needs of students seeking a terminal clinical degree or to provide a foundation for those who desire an advanced graduate degree.

The Speech-Language Pathology Program at SUNY Plattsburgh motivates each student to probe in depth all aspects of human communication disorders, enables the development of superior clinical skills, and provides opportunities to engage in research.

Advantages of the CDS Program

- **A comprehensive curriculum**
  In addition to the traditional disorders classes, the program contains separate courses on augmentative/alternative communication disorders, dysphagia, cognitive rehabilitation, and socio-communicative, cognitive and behavioral correlates of communication disorders (i.e., autism, auditory/language processing disorders, ADHD, selective mutism, etc.).

- **A student-centered education**
  Students have full access to faculty, an open-door policy emphasizes the departmental philosophy that our students’ education, including their professional development, is our first priority. Faculty members meet often with students, beginning with the pre-admission on-campus interview which allows applicant to interact with faculty, to familiarize themselves with the program, and to visit the college and our clinical facilities. During the two-year program, students continually meet with clinical supervisors and their graduate advisor to monitor progress in meeting academic and clinical learning objectives.

  - **A large on-campus speech-language-hearing clinic**
    Adults and children from the community and Northern New York State are served in our large (14 therapy and observation rooms) on-campus speech and hearing clinic. Students obtain experience with a wide variety of clients seen for individual therapy or for group therapy (e.g., Alzheimer’s disease, aphasia, traumatic brain injury, English as a second language).

  - **Diverse off-campus clinical experiences**
    Students obtain experience at the local hospital with in-patient and out-patient evaluation/treatment services. Area public schools also provide many clinical placements for our students. Other experiences include: private practices concentrating on early intervention services, institutions for developmentally delayed individuals, nursing homes, etc.

  - **State-of-the-art lab experiences**
    The voice/speech science lab contains state-of-the-art equipment including digital stroboscopy, swallowing signals lab, nasometer, airflow measurement, computer speech lab, VisiPitch II with ESL software, electroglottographic equipment, and five computers with multispeech software. The audiology clinic also contains state-of-the-art equipment including videoscope, automatic imitation machine, otoacoustic emissions and auditory brainstem response equipment, and equipment for analog and digital programmable hearing aids.
About the Program

Programs are tailored to meet individual needs and professional goals. The programs follow academic and practicum standards designed by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) leading to ASHA certification and licensure in the State of New York, as well as in most other states.

For students who desire teacher certification, the program is registered with the New York State Department of Education.

While each student, through advisement, can augment the curricula to pursue areas of professional interest, there currently are opportunities within the program to specialize in the following career areas:

- **Speech-Language Pathology (Licensure without Teacher Certification).** Designed for individuals who are not interested in teacher certification. Typically, students who graduate with this degree work in medically related jobs (e.g., hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes).

- **Speech-Language Pathology (Licensure with New York State Teacher Certification).** Designed for individuals who wish to obtain teacher certification. Students who graduate with this degree may work in a medically related job, a public school setting, or an agency that serves young children.

The exact program of study and specific time requirements can only be determined after the student and advisor have had an opportunity to determine academic goals. The complete program typically takes two years, including off-campus internships.

Students completing our graduate program also can apply for membership in the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

For students whose baccalaureate background does not include courses in speech-language pathology, the CDS Department has a one-year sequence of undergraduate courses that prepares students for applying to the graduate school of their choice, including the Master’s degree program at SUNY Plattsburgh. (Visit the following website: www.plattsburgh.edu/cds/certificate)

Financial Aid

Several forms of financial aid—including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for New York State residents, Federal Direct Loans, and college work-study awards—are available to qualified graduate students. The college also offers a limited number of scholarships and assistantships.

Access the following webpage for more information on graduate assistantships: www.plattsburgh.edu/admissions/graduate/assistantships/.

Part-time employment opportunities in counseling-related areas exist on campus and in the community. The graduate catalog and application packet have further information about financial aid. For information, email finaid@plattsburgh.edu.

SUNY Plattsburgh

High teaching standards, strong faculty involvement with students, and challenging scholarship combine in a safe community environment with great scenic beauty. The college is located in a small city that is situated on the shores of Lake Champlain.

Plattsburgh also borders the Adirondack Mountains and is one hour from America’s winter playground, Lake Placid. The college’s proximity to Canada, especially cosmopolitan Montreal, adds distinct international dimensions to a graduate student’s experience.

Easy access to arts and entertainment locally, in Burlington, Vermont, and in Montreal make living in the region unique, active, and fulfilling. These geographic advantages augment Plattsburgh’s welcoming and supportive campus community.

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**CDS Faculty**

Nancy Allen, M.A., CCC-SLP
Patrick Coppins, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Carrie Coty, M.A., CCC-SLP
Bob Davis, Ph.D., CCC-A
Raymond Domenico, Chairperson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
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