What Can I Do With A Major In: Communication Sciences & Disorders

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development
828.227.7133, careers.wcu.edu

DESCRIPTION
A Degree in communication sciences and disorders focus on the basics of understanding speech, language, and hearing processes. Careers focus on assessing and treating persons with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders, educating individuals about alternative communication systems and their use and performing research related to speech and language problems.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

| Administration | Bilingual Speech Pathologist | Researcher |
| Educator for Deaf/Hard of Hearing | Sign Language Interpreter | Special Education |
| Audiologist | Assistive Technology | Educational Clinician |
| Audiology Technician | Speech Language Clinician | Articulation Specialist |
| Speech Language Pathologist | Speech Therapist | Aphasia Specialist |
| Speech Language Pathologist Aide | Communication Specialist | Fluency Specialist |

WHO EMPLOYS STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?
- Elementary and Secondary Schools
- Office of Occupational and Speech Therapists
- State and Private Hospitals
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Community Clinics
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Private Practices
- Children’s Hospitals

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION
At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?
Listening Skills | Information Handling & Organization | Critical Thinking Skills | Oral & Written Communication | Innovative Talents | Problem Solving | Technical Skills | Teamwork | Patience

KNOWLEDGE
- Understanding of the development of anatomical and functional processes specific to normal speech, hearing, and language acquisition, and the normal swallow.
- Knowledge of disorders and differences of speech, language, and swallowing built upon a strong understanding of normal processes.
Contemporary issues in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders including but not limited to professionalism, cultural competence, nondiscriminatory practice, technological advances, and evidence-based service delivery.

Evaluation of research and treatment methods in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Interested in the classes you’ll be taking? Check your eight semester program here:
Eight-Semester Plan for B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

- Communication Service for Deaf: http://www.csd.org
- American Academy of Private Practice in Speech Pathology and Audiology: http://www.aappspa.org
- National Student Speech Language Hearing Association: http://www.asha.org/nsslha/
- Tip: Join LinkedIn groups that are related to your career interest. Need help finding groups? Check out the “Groups You May Like” link under the Interests/Groups tab. Review the groups that professionals in your field of interest have joined and consider joining them as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES


FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Communication Sciences & Disorders
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