

# **Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders (MCSD) Program**

## **Curriculum Course Descriptions**

(Revised August 18, 2025)

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### *CMDS 5110 Neurological Bases of Communication Disorders (3 credits)*

A study of the structures and functions of the central and peripheral nervous systems as they relate to human speech, language, and cognition.

### *CMDS 5120 Language Disorders in Young Children (2 credits)*

This course examines the communicative behaviors of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are at risk for or have been diagnosed with communication disorders. It describes prevention, assessment, and intervention strategies suitable for children between birth and five years of age.

### *CMDS 5125 Advanced Clinical Methods (3 credits)*

Advanced instruction in evidence-based therapeutic methods in communication disorders. General principles of speech and language treatment as well as special topics including autism, birth-3, situational mutism, and AAC. Includes: treatment plan development, clinical report writing, treatment methods, and professional issues related to clinical service delivery.

### *CMDS 5220 Language Disorders in School-Aged Children and Adolescents (2 credits)*

This course examines oral and written communication disorders in children, adolescents, and young adults between the ages of 5 and 21 years. It describes prevention, assessment, and intervention strategies as well as the process of transition to post-secondary education and employment.

### *CMDS 5230 Augmentative and Alternative Communication (3 credits)*

This course reviews the basic concepts of the field of augmentative and alternative communication, including aided and unaided symbols. Evaluation and intervention principles are discussed. Access methods, positioning considerations, and exceptional cases will be addressed.

### *CMDS 5310 Speech Sound Disorders (3 credits)*

Overview of etiologies and characteristics of common disorders of articulation and phonology in children. Includes principles of prevention, assessment, and intervention, as well as specific evidence-based methodologies. Addresses cultural and linguistic influences on phonological systems and speech sound disorders.

### *CMDS 5410 Diagnostic Methods (3 credits)*

Overview of procedures used in the assessment of speech and language disorders. Includes principles of measurement, including reliability and validity—calculation and interpretation of standardized test results, as well as informal measures of communication skills. Procedures for evaluation, diagnosis, report writing, and referral are included.

### *CMDS 5420 Clinical Audiology for Speech-Language Pathologists (2 credits)*

This course examines techniques employed in assessing hearing function in adults and children. Studies the pathologies of the auditory and related systems. Emphasis is on the knowledge and skills required of the speech-language pathologist.

*CMDS 5455 Fluency Disorders/Counseling (2 credits)*

Examines issues related to the prevention, evaluation, and treatment of disorders of voice and fluency, including contemporary research in the areas of voice and fluency. Topics include etiologies of vocal pathologies and disorders of resonance. Discussion of the affective, behavioral, and cognitive components of stuttering. Additionally, this course will provide students with advanced knowledge and skills related to the goals and practice of counseling in daily interactions with clients with communication disorders, their families, and significant others.

*CMDS 5470 Speech-Language Pathology in the School Setting (2 credits)*

This elective course instructs graduate students in the design, organization, and administration of a school speech-language pathology program. Addresses unique features of a school program, including federal and state regulations; determining eligibility for services; service delivery models; and IEP development. This course requires a community engagement activity.

*CMDS 5620 Language Disorders in Young Children Application (1 credit)*

This seminar course is a corequisite for CMDS 5120 Language Disorders in Young Children. This seminar will enable students to engage in discussions and other interactive learning methods, thereby developing a deeper understanding of the course topics.

*CMDS 5621 Language Disorders in School-Aged Children & Adolescents Application (1 credit)*

This seminar course is a corequisite for CMDS 5220 Language Disorders in School Age Children and Adolescents. This seminar will enable students to engage in discussions and other interactive learning methods, thereby developing a deeper understanding of the course topics.

*CMDS 5900 Clinical Methods Application (2 credits)*

This course will focus on clinical methods for treating speech and language disorders, as well as procedures related to the campus Speech and Hearing Clinic. Students will gain knowledge and experience through a combination of course lectures, guided observations, and supervised clinical experience.

*CMDS 5901 Clinical Practicum I (2 credits)*

This course provides supervised clinical practicum hours in the therapeutic management of speech and language disorders in the campus Speech and Hearing Clinic.

*CMDS 5902 Clinical Practicum II (3 credits)*

Prerequisites: CMDS 5901 Clinical Practicum I

This course provides a supervised clinical practicum at an off-campus facility.

*CMDS 5903 Clinical Practicum III (3 credits)*

Prerequisites: CMDS 5901 Clinical Practicum I and CMDS 5902 Clinical Practicum II. This course provides a second supervised clinical practicum at an off-campus facility.

*CMDS 5904 Specialty Clinical Practicum (May be offered for 1 to 3 credits)*

This **elective course** provides additional supervised clinical practicum hours in a specialty area under the direction of a licensed faculty member. Specialty areas may include child language and literacy, bilingual populations, adult speech/language disorders, or others.

Bilingual Specialty Clinic: This **elective course** is open to all MCSD students; however, it is required for students enrolled in the Bilingual English Spanish Specialization (BESS).

*CMDS 5905 Diagnostic Methods Application (2 credits)*

Students will engage in supervised experience with diagnostic procedures commonly used in speech-language pathology across the age span. This course will provide opportunities to practice skills learned about in CMDS 5410, Diagnostic Methods, as well as other courses that cover principles of evaluation.

*CMDS 6110 Research in Communication Disorders (2 credits)*

An examination of research methods commonly used in communication disorders, including the nature and purposes of research designs, validity and reliability of research procedures and instruments, and analysis and interpretation of data. Focuses on the use of external and internal research evidence in evidence-based clinical practice.

*CMDS 6210 Acquired Adult Language Disorders (3 credits)*

This course examines the cognitive and linguistic deficits associated with acquired neurological deficits in adults. Differential diagnosis and treatment methodologies are addressed.

*CMDS 6420 Advanced Topics in Medical Speech-Language Pathology (2 credits)*

Prerequisites: CMDS 6430 Dysphagia and CMDS 6210 Acquired Adult Language Disorders. This elective course provides students with an advanced-level overview of speech, language, and dysphagia assessment and intervention in a medical setting. Differential diagnosis and clinical decision-making will be emphasized in medically fragile populations across the life span.

*CMDS 6430 Dysphagia (3 credits)*

This course covers assessment and intervention for feeding and swallowing disorders across the lifespan. The implementation of clinical examination procedures and the interpretation of instrumental diagnostic procedures are addressed. Both instructional strategies for rehabilitation and compensatory feeding strategies are covered.

*CMDS 6440 Motor Speech Disorders (3 credits)*

This course examines the neurological bases of acquired and congenital motor speech disorders (dysarthria and apraxia) and the accompanying communication disorders that result from damage to the central and peripheral nervous systems. Principles and procedures for assessing and intervening in motor speech disorders are covered.

*CMDS 6450: Advanced Culturally Responsive Practices in Speech-Language Pathology (2 credits)*

Prepares graduate students to work with culturally and linguistically diverse populations in all clinical settings. Discussion of cultural differences, cultural competence/humility, child-parent socialization practices, accents/dialects, second-language acquisition, bilingualism, working with interpreters, and evidence-based assessment and intervention methods for bilingual/multicultural populations. Requires a community engagement activity.

*CMDS 6460 Communication & Feeding Disorders in Special Populations (3 credits)*

Communication and feeding issues in special populations, including individuals with genetic syndromes, developmental disorders, autism, craniofacial anomalies, and prematurity. Topics include genetic and biological characteristics, developmental and lifespan issues, prevention, evaluation, treatment, family-centered care, and culturally and linguistically responsive practice.

*CMDS 6480 Voice Disorders (3 credits)*

This course examines issues related to the prevention, evaluation, and treatment of voice disorders, including contemporary research in the field of voice. Topics include etiologies of vocal pathologies and disorders of resonance.

*CMDS 6600 Communication Sciences and Disorders Capstone (1 credit)*

Prerequisite: CMDS 6450: Advanced Culturally Responsive Practices in Speech-Language Pathology

The capstone course is a method of summative evaluation that provides MCSD students with an opportunity to demonstrate integrated knowledge and growth through self-reflection on various issues discussed in the social justice modules and across the MCSD curriculum. Social justice issues modules consist of topics related to anti-racism and allyship, microaggressions, implicit and explicit biases, culturally responsive practices in speech-language pathology, and cultural humility.

*CMDS 6610 Research in Communication Disorders Application (1 credit)*

This seminar course is a prerequisite for CMDS 6100 Research in Communication Disorders. This seminar will enable students to engage in discussions and other interactive learning methods, thereby developing a deeper understanding of the course topics.

*CMDS 6630 Research Seminar (May be offered for 1-3 credits)*

This seminar provides students with hands-on experience with the research process. Students have the option of assisting with faculty research or developing an independent research project. The course may be repeated as needed with the instructor's permission.

**Stockton University**  
**Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders**  
**Person- and family-centered Care Curriculum**  
**CAA Accreditation Standard 3.4B**  
Developed June 25, 2021  
Implemented September 1, 2022

**FALL YEAR I**

- **Module I in Person- and family-centered Care Curriculum [CAA Accreditation Standard 3.4B] (Zero credits)**

**Topics:**

- *ASHA Multicultural Resources*
- *Racism, Anti-Racism & Allyship*

**SPRING YEAR I**

- **Module II in Person- and family-centered Care Curriculum [CAA Accreditation Standard 3.4B] (Zero credits)**

**Topics:**

- *Implicit & Explicit Biases* (Project Impact website)
- *LGBTQIA+ Safe Zone Training*
- *The NJSHA Multicultural Committee (MC) Annual Student Symposium*

**SUMMER YEAR 1**

- **Required Course: CMDS 6450 Advanced Culturally Responsive Practices in Speech-Language (2 credits)**

**Topics:**

- *ASHA Code of Ethics/Scope of Practice with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) Populations*
- *Ethical Issues & Solutions Working with English Language Learners (ELLs)*
- *Health and Educational Disparities in Medical & School Settings*
- *d/Deaf and Deaf cultural identities*
- *Providing culturally responsive clinical practice- ethnic, religious, and LGBTQIA+ communities*
- *Bilingualism & Second Language Acquisition*
- *Adult-Child Language Socialization Practices*
- *Factors Impacting Language Development in CLD Children*
- *Accents & Nonstandard Dialects*
- *Collaborating with Interpreters*
- *Ethnographic Interviewing*
- *Preassessment Considerations: CLD Populations*
- *Assessment Practices: CLD Populations*
- *Intervention Practices: CLD Populations*

## FALL YEAR II:

- **Module III in Person- and family-centered Care Curriculum [CAA Accreditation Standard 3.4B]: (Zero credits)**

**Topic:** *Microaggressions*

## SPRING YEAR II:

- **Required Course: CMDS 6600 Communication Sciences and Disorders Capstone (1 credit)**

**Student Assignments:**

*Applied Capstone Project*

*MCSD Comprehensive Examination*

*Finalized MCSD Portfolio, including Person- and family-centered Care Curriculum (CAA Accreditation Standard 3.4*

