Speech-language pathologists diagnose and treat communication disorders related to fluency, articulation, voice, swallowing, cognitive-communication and auditory processing. Texas State University has a long history of preparing well-qualified speech-language pathologists to work in a variety of professional settings and offers both a master of science and a master of arts in communication disorders.

The graduate communication disorders program (CDIS) is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). Graduates meet all requirements for licensure in Texas and the requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology issued by ASHA.

The curriculum is clinically oriented and designed to prepare clinicians for employment in a variety of settings. The Texas State Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic facilities offer opportunities for students to use state-of-the-art technology and equipment to diagnose and treat individuals with a wide variety of communication disorders. Off-campus clinical practicum sites include hospitals, private nonprofit facilities, long-term care facilities, private practice, and public schools throughout Central Texas.
**Course Work**
The master of science degree requires a minimum of 36 academic hours, with 27 hours in the communication disorders major, nine hours in an approved minor area of study or cognate, plus a clinical practicum in each semester enrolled.

The master of arts degree requires a minimum of 39 academic hours, with 27 hours in the communication disorders major, six hours in an approved minor area of study cognate plus six hours of thesis, and a clinical practicum each semester enrolled.

Texas State’s master’s program in communication disorders offers a bilingual speech-language pathology specialty. It was the 14th program of its kind established in the United States.

**Practicum**
To obtain the required clinical hours for certification, students must enroll in a clinical practicum each semester. Students participating in an on-campus clinical practicum in speech-language pathology must enroll in CDIS 5344. To earn supervised clock hours in audiology, students must enroll in CDIS 5321. Students earning clinical hours in both speech-language pathology and audiology during the semester must enroll in both CDIS 5344 and CDIS 5321 concurrently. Students participating in an off-campus clinical practicum must enroll in CDIS 5689. Academic hours for clinical practicum do not count toward the degree.

**Admission Policy**
Admission to the Texas State graduate program in communication disorders is selective and competitive. The graduate sequence begins in the fall semester. The typical program spans two academic years and one summer session.

To be considered for regular admission, applicants must have an undergraduate degree in communication disorders, a minimum 3.0 GPA for undergraduate academic courses in communication disorders and a minimum 3.0 GPA on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work leading up to the degree.

Each applicant must submit the following to the Graduate College:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each college or university attended
- completed résumé form (Use form and format provided; the Graduate Admissions Committee will not consider any personalized résumés.)
- statement of purpose
  1. What areas of speech pathology practice or research interest you most and why?
  2. Why are you applying to the Communication Disorders graduate program at Texas State University?
  3. Briefly describe any life experiences, situations, and/or research interests that distinguish you as an applicant.
- two letters of reference (Use only the reference forms provided and place each in a sealed envelope with the respondents signing their signatures across the flap.)
- completed prerequisites form

Visit [www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply) for access to an online application, where to send application documents and additional details. The application deadline is February 1.

**Financial Assistance**
The Department of Communication Disorders has several sources of financial assistance available for graduate students, including graduate assistantships and SERTOMA scholarships. To learn more, go to [www.health.txstate.edu/cdis/Student-Resources/Scholarships.html](http://www.health.txstate.edu/cdis/Student-Resources/Scholarships.html).

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines visit the Graduate College website at [www.gradcollege.txstate.edu](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu) and click on *Financing Your Graduate Education*. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

**Contact**
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“The communication disorders program involves both academic and clinical training with opportunities to participate in research. Faculty members are very accomplished and genuinely care about the success of the students, and they are passionate about their research interests. The faculty and the rigorous curriculum make this a graduate program of the highest quality. Texas State is an amazing institution that is diverse, welcoming, and allows for personal and academic growth of its students.”

— Veronica Contreras
Communication Disorders alumna