



WSU Communication Sciences and Disorders Department background

- The Wichita State University Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Department provides an undergraduate degree that prepares students for eligibility to enter graduate education, which is required for entry into the professions of speech-language pathology or audiology. The department offers a master's degree in speech-language pathology and the Doctor of Audiology, which enables graduates to serve individuals who face communication challenges across their lifespan. As such, the Evelyn Hendren Cassat Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic is central to the academic program, providing WSU students the opportunity to develop their clinical competencies under the supervision of licensed professionals.
- Throughout students' graduate preparation, they are engaged in clinical education with individuals who may experience impaired speech, language, swallowing, literacy or hearing due to developmental problems; congenital disorders, such as cognitive or motor impairments; acquired disorders resulting from stroke, head injury, degenerative conditions or other neurologic diseases; deafness or hearing impairment; autism spectrum disorders; and other forms of communicative impairment. Together with their classroom experiences and under the guidance of WSU faculty and clinical educators, students are prepared to enter the professions, working in medical, educational and rehabilitative facilities throughout the community and the nation.
- The Evelyn Hendren Cassat Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic is central to our academic program and provides an essential service to the Wichita community. In our clinic, we provide individual and group intervention services for adults, as well as children and youth, which include family members as essential to the intervention. For example, we offer a licensed preschool program called Kaleidoscope that provides essential early intervention for children 3-5 years old who are challenged by significant communication delays. We serve children of all ages who are challenged by language-literacy difficulties or exhibit disfluent speech, which has significant implications for their psychosocial development that goes beyond the communication disruption alone.

- Our audiologists provide comprehensive assessment and intervention for suspected hearing impairments through our state-of-the-art audio suites. Individuals experiencing hearing loss, balance problems, tinnitus (ringing in the ears) or other types of hearing problems will receive individual evaluation and treatment recommendations, which may include fitting of hearing aids when appropriate. Students in the clinical doctoral program in audiology learn from licensed audiologists as they work with patients, developing their clinical skills that build on their academic preparations.
- Also housed in the clinic are three research labs that are each equipped with the most advanced research instrumentation, providing faculty and students the opportunity to engage in ground-breaking research. The Wichita community is benefitted not only by the services provided in the clinic, but by the scientific investigations that lead to advancements in the science and professional practices of our graduates. The CSD program also includes a Ph.D. program, providing an advanced degree for future researchers and faculty. This program is interdisciplinary in nature and attracts a diversity of students who come to WSU-CSD from varied educational, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Through the Ph.D. program, faculty guide students to become independent researchers who will carry the science of the discipline to the coming generations

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