Doctor of Philosophy in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology

The Intercampus Program in Communicative Disorders offers Ph.D. programs in both speech-language pathology and in audiology for post-baccalaureate study of normal and disordered aspects of communication. These programs are designed to prepare suitably qualified individuals for leadership positions in research and academia. A major focus of these programs is to advance the science of these fields, and to elucidate the scientific basis for the procedures and processes used in clinical practice.

A combined Au.D./Ph.D. track also is available. This track facilitates the completion of both degrees in a 6-year post-baccalaureate period. Students who wish to earn both Au.D. and Ph.D. degrees should contact their advisor.

Eligibility and Requirements

1. **Undergraduate Degree**
   A bachelor's degree with a cumulative 3.0 GPA is required. It is expected students will have obtained a broad general education to serve as a background prior to graduate study. Ideally students will have completed an undergraduate degree in speech pathology, audiology, or a related field that will prepare them for advanced study in their chosen area of focus.

   Degrees earned outside the United States must be evaluated for equivalency.

   Please note: students may be accepted on a provisional admission basis if some requirements have not yet been met at the time of application.

2. **Graduate Record Examination Score**
   An official score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test is required and official results must be sent directly to the KU office. Recommended scores for the sections of the GRE are 300 combined total for Verbal and Quantitative, and 3.5 and above for Analytical Writing. For GRE information, visit www.gre.org (http://www.gre.org).

3. **Grade Point Average**
   The applicant must meet the general KU requirements for admission as a graduate student. The minimum GPA requirements for regular admission to this program are as follows:
   a. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
   b. Evidence of successful completion (equivalent grade of B or higher) of undergraduate or graduate course work relevant for advanced study in the student’s chosen area of focus

4. **Prior Research Engagement**
   The Ph.D. is a research degree where students pursue an individualized plan of study. Therefore, it is recommended students engage in research prior to applying to the program. Prior research engagement helps the prospective student identify the area of focus for doctoral study and allows the admissions committee to evaluate potential aptitude for this work. A wide array of research engagement will be considered (e.g., employment on research grants, mentored research projects, research related course work).

5. **Ph.D. Program Mentor**
   Because Ph.D. students pursue an individualized plan of study, a faculty mentor is a critical requirement of the program. Without a good match between the applicant’s interest and the faculty, even well-qualified applicants can be denied admission into the program.

   Potential applicants should investigate by (1) reviewing faculty bios and laboratory information (http://ipcd.kumc.edu), and (2) reading recent research articles written by KU faculty. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact faculty who may be a good match to their interests prior to applying.

   Within the guidelines established by Graduate Studies, no credit is actually transferred toward the doctorate; however, relevant prior graduate work will be taken into consideration in setting up individual programs of study leading to the Ph.D. degree.

   All students are expected to have strong command of the English language. Both domestic and international students may be subject to evaluation of English proficiency.

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**International Students:**
An applicant is considered an international student if he or she requires a visa, or currently resides in the U.S. with non-immigrant status, or currently resides in the U.S. while applying for permanent residency. Additional requirements and documentation, such as proof of English language proficiency (http://iss.ku.edu/send-test-scores), are required for international students to become eligible for KU programs. Please visit the KU Office of International Student Services before applying. (http://iss.ku.edu)

Please see the Admission to Graduate Study (http://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study) policy for additional information on admission.

Submit your graduate application online (http://graduate.ku.edu/application-process).

Contact ipcd@ku.edu with any questions.

Upon admission, the student and his or her adviser choose a doctoral advisory committee. The committee is responsible for guiding the student’s progress through the selected program of study.

Incoming students who have not completed a substantive graduate research project (e.g., a master’s thesis, Au.D. research project, etc.) must initiate a thesis-equivalent research project, under the direction of a
three-member committee, during the first year of enrollment. This project must be completed before the comprehensive oral examination.

**Doctor of Philosophy in Speech-Language Pathology**

Acquiring a doctorate in speech-language pathology at a minimum requires the following:

- Completion of academic coursework
  - A minimum of 24 graduate hours in a major area of interest
  - A minimum of 12 graduate hours in a correlative area
  - A minimum of 15 graduate hours in research skills/responsible scholarship
- Completion of a preliminary research experience
- Satisfactory performance on annual reviews
- Satisfactory performance on written and oral comprehensive examinations
- Satisfactory completion of a dissertation including written and oral prospectus, and written dissertation and oral defense of the dissertation
- Submission of the dissertation to the KU Office of Graduate Studies

Note that the above are the MINIMUM requirements. Each student’s plan of study will vary depending on entry skills (i.e., relevant knowledge and skills acquired through prior training, work or research experience), chosen specialization, and career aspirations.

Students in this program must meet the general requirements of the university including the research skills and responsible scholarship requirement (https://documents.ku.edu/policies/Graduate_Studies/Research_Skills_and_Responsible_Scholarship.htm) and fulfill the basic program requirements to receive the Ph.D. degree.

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**Different entry paths:**

Students without a graduate degree (e.g., MA, AuD) have several options in pursuing the Ph.D. degree. Some decide to pursue a research emphasis plan of study. Others opt to work on clinical certification in the speech-language pathology or audiology programs while also in the Ph.D. program. This combined degree track involves a higher course load. Details may be found in the Ph.D. student handbook (http://www.kumc.edu/Documents/shp/hearing-speech/PhD_Handbook_July2016(0).pdf).

Students entering the Ph.D. program with a graduate degree will complete the Ph.D. program requirements outlined in the curriculum on this page, with some adjustments based on relevant skills acquired during prior graduate study. Details may be found in the Ph.D. student handbook (http://www.kumc.edu/Documents/shp/hearing-speech/PhD_Handbook_July2016(0).pdf).

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**Doctor of Philosophy in Audiology**

Acquiring a doctorate in audiology at a minimum requires the following:

- Completion of academic coursework
  - A minimum of 24 graduate hours in a major area of interest
  - A minimum of 12 graduate hours in a correlative area
  - A minimum of 15 graduate hours in research skills/responsible scholarship
- Completion of a preliminary research experience
- Satisfactory performance on annual reviews
- Satisfactory performance on written and oral comprehensive examinations
- Satisfactory completion of a dissertation including written and oral prospectus, and written dissertation and oral defense of the dissertation
- Submission of the dissertation to the KU Office of Graduate Studies

Note that the above are the MINIMUM requirements. Each student’s plan of study will vary depending on entry skills (i.e., relevant knowledge and skills acquired through prior training, work or research experience), chosen specialization, and career aspirations.

Students in this program must meet the general requirements of the university including the research skills and responsible scholarship requirement (https://documents.ku.edu/policies/Graduate_Studies/Research_Skills_and_Responsible_Scholarship.htm) and fulfill the basic program requirements to receive the Ph.D. degree.