

**COMMUNICATION DISORDERS GRADUATE STUDY
TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI
TELEPHONE: 660-785-4669 FAX: 660-785-7424
Web site: <http://cmds.truman.edu>
Email address: chelton@truman.edu**

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

1. The master's (M.A.) education program in speech-language pathology (residential) at Truman State University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700. Truman has been offering this degree since 1967.
2. Graduate internships which are full-time, full-semester, off-campus clinical experiences.
3. A well-qualified faculty.
4. Small classes; frequent student-faculty interactions.
5. Availability of clients to provide clinical clock hours in appropriate categories.
6. Excellent supervision of practicum.
7. An attractive university clinic which is well-stocked with equipment and clinical materials.
8. Opportunity to work with faculty on clinical research projects.
9. Use of State-of-the-art technology, with emphasis on technology as a partner in the client-clinician interaction.
10. Excellent job placement.

PROGRAM SIZE

2024-2025 ENROLLMENT WAS: 100 undergraduate students
25-30 graduate students are admitted per year

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

1. A cumulative overall grade point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 point scale is considered the minimum requirement.
2. Apply through Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS) <https://csdcas.liaisoncas.org/csdcas-students/>
3. Completed Graduate Applications will be reviewed beginning in January with a priority deadline of February 15 of each year. [Priority deadline for Spring Admission is September 15 of each year.]
4. In addition to full offers of admission, when seats are still available, the admissions committee may choose to offer a "non-degree seeking" option to students on our waitlist. Please see more information on our application portal on CSDCAS or contact the department for more information.

LENGTH OF STUDY AND REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE MASTER'S DEGREE

1. Five terms of study are typical for meeting all ASHA-CCC academic and clock hour requirements.
2. Clinical practicum including an internship in the public schools and hospital setting following satisfactory experience in the Truman State University Speech and Hearing Clinic.
3. The Clinical Process Commentary (CPC) an alternative to Comprehensive Examinations.
4. Take the National Examination in Speech-Language Pathology [PRAXIS].

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP: Applicants are invited to apply for a limited number of graduate fellowships that are awarded on a competitive basis. Application to the program must be completed by the priority deadline in order to be eligible. By accepting the award, the student is expected to carry a minimum of a 9.0 semester hour course load. The graduate fellow, depending on the award, will be assigned to work 2-10 hours per week with a faculty member in his/her area of research, clinic, or teaching.

FULL-TIME FACULTY

The faculty/staff members in Communication Disorders hold ASHA certification in CCC-SLP or CCC-A. The faculty received advanced degrees from the following institutions:

Amy F. Teten, Ph.D.	Associate Professor and Chair	CCC-SLP	University of South Alabama
Megan Batzer, M.A.	Instructor	CCC-SLP	Truman State University
Julia D. Edgar, Ph.D.	Professor	CCC-SLP	University of Minnesota
Ilene G. Elmlinger, Au.D.	Professor	CCC-A	Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University [Elkins Park, PA]
Patricia L. Hanson, M.A.	Instructor	CCC-SLP	Truman State University
Jillian Pulis M.A.	Instructor	CCC-SLP	Truman State University
Melissa S. Passe, M.A.	Director of Clinical Education, Speech and Hearing Clinic	CCC-SLP	Truman State University
Andrea G. Richards, M.Ed.	Instructor	CCC-SLP	Northeastern State Univ-Tahlequah, OK

Praxis Examination Pass Rate*

Academic Year	Number taking test	Number passing test	Pass rate*
2024/2025	16	16	100%
2023/2024	14	14	100%
2022/2023	22	22	100%
3 yrs. ave pass rate:	52	52	100%

* Truman CMDS graduate students are required to take the national Praxis exam in speech-language pathology prior to graduation; most take it during their internship semester. This pass rate represents first attempts. As far back as we have records, no Truman grad student has failed the test on their second attempt.

Program Completion Rate

Academic Year	Number completing program in expected time	Number taking longer than usual*	Number not completing the program	Percent completing in expected time
2024/2025	16	0	1	94%
2023/2024	14	0	1	93%
2022/2023	22	0	0	100%
3-yr average	52	0	2	96%

* We make every effort to accommodate non-traditional students, some of whom have family and other obligations that prevent them from following the curriculum in exactly the usual way or on the usual schedule. Some students also elect to complete a thesis or extend their program for other reasons that are part of an individualized academic plan. For the purposes of this table, "taking longer than usual" means that the student required more than the planned amount of time due to difficulties fulfilling academic or clinical requirements on schedule.

<http://www.truman.edu/majors-programs/graduate-studies/communication-disorders/cmds-graduate-program-stats/>

Application Deadline: Applications for acceptance into the Master of Arts in Communication Disorders program are due on the following dates:

- Fall: June 1 (Priority Deadline: Feb. 15)
- Spring: Nov. 1 (Priority Deadline: Sept. 15)
- Summer: No Summer Applications Accepted

Typical Length of Graduate Program: With an Undergraduate Major in CMDS: 5 semesters
With Undergraduate Major in another field: 6-8 semesters

Research opportunities: Graduate students meeting minimum program requirements may choose to complete a thesis project under the direct supervision of a CMDS faculty member. In addition, many other informal opportunities are available for mentored student research.

Hours of Graduate Academic Credit: 48 minimum required

Apply at Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS)

<https://csdcas.liaisoncas.org/csdcas-students/> website. **Materials needed include: transcripts, three (3) letters of recommendation, and personal essay.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CMDS M.A. PROGRAM SHOULD DIRECTED TO

Connie Ikerd, Secretary
Communication Disorders Department
Health Sciences Building 2252
Truman State University
Kirksville, MO 63501
(660) 785-4669 | Fax: (660) 785-7424
chelton@truman.edu

"It is the policy of Truman State University not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs, activities, admission practices, and employment policies as required by the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972." We are an equal employment opportunity/affirmative action organization.

The Communication Disorders (CMDS) program and the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Truman State University comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and executive orders prohibiting discrimination, including laws that prohibit discrimination based on age, citizenship, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran status or status as a parent.

Name: _____

Date of plan: _____

Master of Arts in Communication Disorders PLAN OF STUDY**Truman State University****FALL Admission: Typical Course Sequence (5 semesters, with electives)**

Assumes: Typical CMDS undergrad courses as well as basic Biology, basic Chemistry OR Physics, statistics, and development courses have already happened. At least 25 documented clock hours of clinical observation are required prior to enrollment in CMDS 681G. Any undergraduate deficiencies can be addressed in the graduate plan of study. [Most common deficiencies are CMDS 590, Professional Issues in Communication Disorders, and CMDS 550, Counseling in Communication Disorders].

Fall Semester (first)**Credit Hours**

CMDS 567G Neural Bases **// CMDS 662G Aphasia ***	2/2
CMDS 667G Research Methodology	3
CMDS 660G Fluency Disorders ** // CMDS 568G Speech Sound Disorders ***	2/2
CMDS 681G Advanced Clinical Practice	1
(CMDS 590G Professional Issues in CMDS if needed)	(3)
CMDS 661G Lang Disorders in Early Childhood	2
	<hr/>
	12-15

Spring Semester (first)

CMDS 684G Lang Disorders in School-Aged	2
CMDS 671G Adv Audiology	2
CMDS 669G Neurogenic; Motor Speech Disorders ****	2
CMDS 685G Acquired Cog-Ling Disorders ***	2
CMDS 564G Voice Disorders	2
CMDS 681G Advanced Clinical Practice	1
CMDS 676G Clinical Process Commentary (CPC1)*	1
(CMDS 550G Counseling/CMDS 473 Aural Rehab if needed)	(3-6 UG)
	<hr/>
	12+

(May Interim option: MEX 510G 3 credits)

Summer Semester

CMDS 563G Swallowing Disorders	3
CMDS 663G Oro-facial Anomalies	1
CMDS 680G Elective Seminar (various topics)	1
CMDS 680G Elective Seminar (various topics)	1
CMDS 681G Advanced Clinical Practicum	1-3
(CMDS 689G Thesis - optional)	(1-3)
ED 621G Psychology of Reading	3
	<hr/>
	(6-9)

Fall Semester (Second)

CMDS 566G Diagnostics	3
CMDS 660G Fluency Disorders ** (if not taken Fall 1)	2
CMDS 578G Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2
CMDS 681G Advanced Clinical Practice	2
(CMDS 689G Thesis - optional)	(1-3)
CMDS 520G Interprofessional Healthcare	1
Elective: CMDS 680G Adv Dysphagia Seminar)	(3)
	<hr/>
	(9-12)

Spring Semester (Second)

CMDS 682 Internship: Medical	4
CMDS 683 Internship: School	4
CMDS 677G Clinical Process Commentary (CPC2)*	2
	<hr/>
	10

Take Praxis exam, finish 375 clinical clock hours prior to Graduation.

*Note: 3 hrs. total of CPC credit is required – you may take it in amounts that even out your load

** Indicates 1st block class*** Indicates 2nd block class held at the same time as the corresponding 1st block class.**** Offered as a 2nd block class

07/16/2025

2025-2026

Name of student: _____

Date Plan started: _____

Master of Arts in Communication Disorders PLAN OF STUDY**Truman State University****SPRING Admission: Typical Course Sequence (6 semesters, with electives)**

Assumes: Typical CMDS undergrad courses as well as basic Biology, basic Chemistry OR Physics, statistics, and development courses have already happened. At least 25 documented clock hours of clinical observation are required prior to enrollment in CMDS 681G. Any undergraduate deficiencies can be addressed in the graduate plan of study. [Most common deficiencies are CMDS 590, Professional Issues in Communication Disorders, and CMDS 550, Counseling in Communication Disorders].

Spring Semester (First)

CMDS 567G Neural Bases** // CMDS 669G Neurogenic: Motor Speech Disorders***	2/2
CMDS 671G Adv Audiology	2
CMDS 681G Advanced Clinical Practice	1
(CMDS 550G Counseling/CMDS 473 Aural Rehab if needed)	(3-6 UG)
CMDS 564G Voice Disorders	2
CMDS 685G Acquired Cog-Ling Disorders ***	2

 11-15+

#(May Interim option: MEX 510G 3 credits)

Summer Semester (First)

CMDS 563G Swallowing Disorders	3
CMDS 663G Oro-facial Anomalies	1
CMDS 676G Clinical Process Commentary (CPC1)*	1
CMDS 680G Elective Seminar (various topics)	1
CMDS 681G Advanced Clinical Practicum	1-3
(CMDS 689G Thesis - optional)	(1-3)

 6-9
Fall Semester (First)

CMDS 662G Aphasia ***	2
CMDS 667G Research Methodology	3
CMDS 660G Fluency Disorders ** // CMDS 568G Speech Sound Disorders ***	2/2
CMDS 578G Augmentative and Alternative Communication	2
CMDS 681G Advanced Clinical Practice	1
Elective: CMDS 680G Adv Dysphagia Seminar)	(3)
(CMDS 590G Professional Issues in CMDS if needed)	(3)
CMDS 661G Lang Dis. Early Childhood	2

 14
Spring Semester (Second)

CMDS 566G Diagnostics	3
ED 621G Psychology of Reading	3
CMDS 681G Advanced Clinical Practice	2
CMDS 520G Interprofessional Healthcare	1
(CMDS 689G Thesis - optional)	(1-3)
CMDS 684G Lang Dis. School-Aged	2

 10-13
Summer Semester (Second)

CMDS 682 Internship: Medical	4
CMDS 677G Clinical Process Commentary (CPC2)*	2
(CMDS 689G Thesis - optional)	(1-3)

 6
Fall Semester (Second)

CMDS 683 Internship: School	4
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Take Praxis exam, finish 375 clinical clock hours prior to Graduation.

*Note: 3 hrs. total of CPC credit is required – you may take it in amounts that even out your load

** Indicates 1st block class

*** Indicates 2nd block class

07/16/2025

2025-2026

*Note all fees may not be known

Communication Disorders Department, Truman State University

Cost Comparison: Sample of SLP Graduate Programs in Communication Disorders Missouri Schools

Please Note: Amounts are subject to change

School	Tuition (In-State)	Tuition (Out of State)	Fees *
Truman State University (48 credit hours required)	\$544.00/hour \$9,792.00 (for 9 credits, 2 semesters) \$26,112 (entire program)	\$544.00/hour \$9,792.00 (for 9 credits, 2 semesters) \$26,112 (entire program)	\$ 150 Application Fee
University of Missouri Columbia (63 credit hours required)	\$622/hour \$11,196 (for 9 credits, 2 semesters) \$39,186 (entire program)	\$1,460.90/hour \$26,296.20 (for 9 credits, 2 semesters) \$92,036.70 (entire program)	\$191.10/sem Rec Center Fee \$254.70/sem Student Activity Fee \$110.10/sem Student Health Fee \$15.70/hour Technology Fee \$918 Books & supplies
Saint Louis University (58 credit hours required)	\$45,590 (entire program)	\$45,590 (entire program)	\$30/sem Activities Fee \$30 Student Government Fee \$75 Doisy Technology Fee \$200 Orientation Fee \$ 435 University fee \$55 Application Fee \$220/sem Commuter Parking Fee
Rockhurst University (48 credit hours required)	\$1,013.00/hour \$48,624 (entire program)	\$1,013.00/hour \$48,624 (entire program)	\$17.30/per credit hr Technology Fee \$145/sem Student Activity Fee \$2900/year Mandatory Health Insurance [all grad students] \$163 University Fee \$40 Clinical Fee \$135/sem Parking Fee \$220 Graduation Fee
Missouri State University (59 credit hours required)	\$25,160 (entire program)	\$46,612 (entire program)	\$1010.5/sem student service fee \$13 Family Care Registry \$52 Clinic Attire (Scrubs/Polo)
University of Central Missouri (50 credit hours required)	\$399.50/hour \$19,975 (entire program)	\$600/hour \$30,000 (entire program)	\$30 Application fee \$50 Graduation fee
Southeast Missouri State University (59 credit hours required)	\$439.80/hour \$27,412 (entire program*)	\$439.80/hour \$27,412 (entire program*)	\$35/credit hour program fee \$36.49/course Textbook Rental \$30 Installment Payment Plan \$150 Enrollment Fee (New Student) \$200 Enrollment Fee (International Student) \$180 Parking Permit
Maryville University (57 credit hours required)	\$900/hour \$54,875 (entire program)	\$900/hour \$54,875 (entire program)	\$475/semester technology fee \$1200/semester One Fee

* Including program fees per credit hour

Information included in this table current as of 08/23/2025

Truman State University:

<https://www.truman.edu/majors-programs/graduate-studies/financial-information/graduate-tuition/>

<https://www.truman.edu/majors-programs/graduate-studies/communication-disorders/>

University of Missouri - Columbia:

<https://cashiers.missouri.edu/cost/graduate-tuition/>

Saint Louis University:

<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/index.php>

Rockhurst University:

<https://www.rockhurst.edu/graduate-tuition-fees>

Missouri State University:

<https://www.missouristate.edu/Costs/graduate-costs.htm>

University of Central Missouri:

<https://www.ucmo.edu/future-students/tuition-and-costs/>

Southeast Missouri State University:

<https://semo.edu/student-support/financial-services/cost/>

Maryville University:

<https://www.maryville.edu/admissions/graduate-tuition-and-fees/>

**Truman State University
Communication Disorders
Graduate Student Financial Planning Guide**

Please Note: Amounts are subject to change

Expense Item	Truman	Other Grad Program
Graduate Application Fee	CSDCAS fee (\$150)	
School Expenses		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition 	In State and Out of State: \$/credit hour In-state and Out of State Graduate: \$544/credit hour \$26,112 (total for 48 credit hours) (\$9,792 for 9 credits, 2 semesters)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Books 	\$400.00/semester (on average)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking fees (optional) 	Parking decal: \$55-135/year Motorcycle Registration – \$30	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Dues (NSSLHA) 	\$60/year (optional) Renew-\$60	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSHA membership 	\$15/year (optional)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer (optional but recommended) 	\$1,500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internship Fees – (inoculations, CPR training, criminal background check) 	\$200.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation Fees 	\$40.00 Plus cost of cap, gown, tassel	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRAXIS registration and test fees 	\$146.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarships/Grants/Fellowships 	Graduate Assistantships: several \$4,000 assistantships per year are available	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background Check 	\$15.00 at initial clinician's meeting	
Living Expenses		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Commuting (including car payments, car insurance, gas, maintenance, or public transportation) 	- Car Payment/Insurance: Average \$350/month - Gas: Average \$60/month for in town driving only	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing 	\$300/month (on campus apt) \$400-\$700/month (off campus)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilities 	About \$150/month	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food 	About \$200/month (groceries)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation/Entertainment 	About \$50/month	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing/Professional Dress 	About \$300 for a basic set of clinic clothes for a semester/season (if starting out with little) CMDS Scrubs = \$48	
Other Possible Expenses to be Considered		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Meetings/Conferences 	- \$120 for MSHA (average cost if you're presenting and registration is paid for) - \$500 + for ASHA (depending on location, hotel, etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Materials (digital recorder, stopwatch, therapy materials, rewards, etc.) 	(Truman has extensive available collection of materials) Depending on the client, about \$20/semester	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel Home 	Depending on distance About \$140/month in gas for 2 trips home.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Expenses 	- Research Methodology Project Expenses: About \$10 - Thesis Expenses (if thesis option chosen): About \$30	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Fines and Parking Tickets 	Parking Tickets \$50: Improper use of parking permit \$25: parking in a designated lot with the wrong sticker - Library Fines (vary) .15/day for overdue general collection books \$1.00/day for overdue Interlibrary Loan Materials \$10.00/per hour for Study room keys	

Not all fees may be known.

Information included in this table current as of 08/27/2025

Finances and Grad School

Thinking about how to pay?

1. Graduate student aid is generally from fellowships, assistantships, and loans. Graduate students are not eligible for Pell Grants, SEOG (grants), or Missouri Grants. They are eligible for some of the federal aid programs that are not grants, some requiring financial need: Stafford Loan, Perkins Loan, and Work-Study. At Truman, Master's students rely heavily on work and loans. Graduate fellowships are allocated by the CMDS department depending on available funds. Loans are processed by Truman's Financial Aid Office. <http://financialaid.truman.edu/>
2. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) has to be filled out to determine eligibility for the Perkins Loan or the Stafford Loan. File online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. You should have a FSA ID (personal identifier) so you can electronically sign your FAFSA online and can access your student aid information online. This can be obtained <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out> if you do not already have a FSA ID. FAFSAs have to be filed annually, but FSA IDs last forever. FAFSAs are available after January 1 for the next year.
3. You will be considered an *independent* student on the FAFSA if you will be enrolled in a master's or doctorate program. This means you will report your/and your spouse's income and assets instead of reporting your parents' income too. You must be fully admitted to the graduate program. Taking prerequisites does not satisfy "fully admitted" status.
4. Students seeking a second undergraduate degree are not considered graduate students. These students are reclassified at an undergraduate class level based on hours needed to finish the new degree, and loan amounts are calculated accordingly for that class level.
5. Loan limits for graduate students:

Annually for Unsubsidized Stafford Loans	\$20,500.00
TEACH Grant (repayment waived if you serve in high-need public school – for details see: http://financialaid.truman.edu/teachGrant/index.asp and https://www.truman.edu/admission-cost/cost-aid/grants-loans/federal-government-aid/teach-grant-fact-sheet/)	\$8,000.00

6. Half-time enrollment is required for receipt of Stafford Loans (or 6 credit hours per semester). Incompletes or in-progress hours do not carry over to the next semester to obtain deferment of loan repayment. There is a 6-month grace period (after graduating, withdrawing, or dropping below half time) before you begin repayment.

7. Students who don't qualify for federal student loans or receive enough assistance from them may look into *alternative student loans*. These are loans offered by commercial lenders. Truman's Financial Aid Office may have recommended lenders. Then you may go online to their web sites to check out loan terms and your eligibility.
8. With a big reliance on student loans for graduate study it is important to weigh the cost of education against future income and the ability to repay loans. It has been recommended that student loan repayment be limited to 8 percent of gross income. Realize differences in earning power exist between majors, and those in certain majors accrue larger student debt.
9. If you already have loans for undergraduate study, you may seek deferment of the loan repayment while attending graduate school at least half-time. Be sure to keep your lenders informed of your continuing enrollment. Each semester they need to know you are still in school.
10. Look at some friendly websites for additional information:

<http://www.finaid.org> (for financial aid for graduate school and calculators to estimate results you will see from filing a FAFSA)

<https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/graduate-professional-funding-info.pdf> (various resources regarding financial aid at the graduate level)

<https://www.ed.gov/higher-education/paying-college> (government site with section on funding your graduate education, including links to tax benefits)

www.bls.gov/ces/ (information on various careers and earnings)

Still have questions? You may contact the Truman Financial Aid Office to set up an appointment to talk to a financial aid staff member.
Stop by McClain Hall #103 or call 785-4130
<http://financialaid.truman.edu/>

FAQ

As of the 2025-2026 school year, graduate tuition at Truman is equalized for in-state and out-of-state students.

****<http://catalog.truman.edu/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=1190&hl=graduate+tuition&returnto=search>