



Mission Statement

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

West Chester University

West Chester University's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers programs leading to a Bachelor of Arts (BA), Pregraduate Certification (PC), and a Master of Arts (MA). The mission of these programs is to provide students with the academic coursework and clinical practicum experiences required by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) in fulfillment of the requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence. More specifically, the BA and PC programs provide students with a firm theoretical and empirical foundation for understanding the nature of normal communication processes and with an introduction to communicative disorders. For the MA program, the academic component provides students with research opportunities to prepare them for graduate work beyond the master's level and with theoretical and evidence-based frameworks for understanding clinical management, including the prevention, assessment, and treatment of communicative disorders. The clinical component of the MA program provides students with opportunities to apply knowledge and problem-solving skills in closely supervised on- and off-campus clinical practice settings. Specific program outcomes are documented on the Knowledge and Skills Acquisition (KASA) form, which is consistent with recommendations by ASHA. In cooperation with other programs within the West Chester University community, these programs support students in becoming individuals who are broadly educated, and who possess the ability to think analytically, critically, and in a manner which allows them to excel at evidence-based problem solving. In pursuing its mission, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders advances values consistent with ASHA's Code of Ethics and with the Mission of West Chester University.