



### ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

This department prepares professionals to provide services to individuals with special needs across the lifespan. The communication sciences and disorders program prepares students to provide prevention, evaluation and intervention services for clients from birth to adulthood with speech, language, voice, resonance, swallowing or hearing disorders. The special education program prepares teachers and teacher-educators and provides leadership in the field at local, state, national and international levels.

2 undergraduate degrees

8 graduate degrees

30 faculty, 12 staff

159 undergraduate students

198 graduate students

#### Bachelor's Degrees

(B.S.Ed.)

Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Specialization: Speech-Language  
Pathology

Special Education

Specializations: Field-based/General  
Education, Collaboration, Early  
Childhood or Middle School

#### Graduate Degrees

(M.A., M.Ed., Ed.S., Ph.D.)

Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Specialization: Speech-Language  
Pathology

Special Education

Specializations: Behavior Disorders,  
Early Childhood, Learning Disabilities  
Mild Mental Retardation, Moderate/  
Severe Mental Retardation

The Department of Communication Sciences and Special Education faculty rank among the nation's most productive researchers in their fields. Graduate programs in special education are perennially ranked among the Top 20 in the nation.

#### Accomplished Faculty

Department faculty have been awarded millions of dollars in external funding from agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institutes of Health, to study autism spectrum disorders, the standards of measurement, treatment and recovery of stuttering in preschool-age children, and to develop web-based programs to help undergraduate students, paraprofessionals, and mid-career professionals become certified special education teachers.

Faculty also serve on editorial boards and as reviewers of prestigious academic journals such as the *Journal of Speech-Language-Hearing Research*, *Exceptional Children*, the *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, and *Education and Treatment of Children*. Another faculty member has served on Georgia's State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention since 1998. Faculty are frequently invited to present at conferences and universities worldwide.

#### Stellar Undergraduate Programs

Communication Sciences and Disorders offers a bachelor's degree program which provides the foundation for graduate study in speech-language pathology, audiology, or education of the deaf or hard of hearing.

Special Education offers a bachelor's degree program leading to initial state certification as a special education generalist. Students develop skills to work with individuals who have mild disabilities (e.g., learning disabilities, behavioral disorders) at all age levels. Collaboration with general education is stressed. Graduates will be certified as inter-related special education teachers.

#### Accomplished Graduate Programs

Master's degree (M.A. and M.Ed.) programs offered in speech-language pathology combine academic curricula and clinical training to prepare students for the profession of speech-language pathology. The program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association and approved by the Georgia Department of Education. A master's degree prepares students to practice in a variety of settings including schools, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, home health and private practice.

Master's degree (M.A. and M.Ed.) programs in Special Education prepare teachers to have advanced competencies in the areas of assessment, positive behavioral supports and specialized instructional methods. Competency in these areas is obtained through didactic and field experiences. Students may major in behavioral disorders, early childhood special education, learning disabilities, or mental retardation. All programs are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission for State Teaching Certification and use the Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) standards for special education teachers.

The educational specialist program in Special Education provides a competency-based approach to advanced study for those preparing for leadership positions in applied settings. Obtaining this degree does not preclude the Ed.S. graduate from later becoming a candidate for the Ph.D. degree. Coursework and resident credit used to satisfy the Ed.S. degree, however, cannot be used to satisfy the requirements of a doctoral degree. Students may seek certification in behavior disorders, learning disabilities, mental retardation, special

education administration or early childhood special education.

The educational specialist degree in Speech-Language Pathology culminates in a T-6 teaching certificate.

The doctoral program in Special Education is available to a limited number of students who show promise of becoming leaders in the field. It emphasizes a competency based approach that is product-based. Doctoral students are prepared for college instruction, research, and school and/or clinical practice. Programs are planned to develop a mastery of the comprehensive field of each profession respectively and to encourage a breadth of understanding of related disciplines.

### Speech and Hearing Clinic

The department maintains the on-campus University of Georgia Speech and Hearing Clinic as its primary teaching and research clinical facility.

Expert, professional, comprehensive services are available through the clinic for prevention, assessment, and treatment of speech, language, swallowing and hearing disorders. Services for individuals from infancy to geriatrics are provided by student clinicians earning a master's degree in speech-language pathology under the supervision of licensed and certified audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

The Speech and Hearing Clinic provides a valuable service to the community by:

- seeing more than 1,000 different clients annually, and
- averaging an estimated 5,000 client visits a year.

The clinic also completed almost 2,000 free speech and hearing screenings in the community, increasing the opportunities for early identification and prevention of communication disorders. In addition to its general diagnostic and therapeutic services, the Clinic houses a number of specialty programs designed to meet the needs of certain populations with disabilities. Accent modification sessions are offered also.

### Other Research and Clinical Laboratories

The departmental faculty operates several laboratories and has collaborative access to several others for the scientific investigation of normal and disordered speech, language and auditory development and function. These include the:

- Center for Human Neurophysiologic Research
- Laboratory of Speech-Orofacial Physiology
- Speech Science Laboratory
- Stuttering Research Laboratory
- Child Language Laboratory
- Speech Physiology: Clinical Assessment Laboratory [includes Aerodynamic (AEROWIN) and Force Physiology (FORCEWIN) Workstation]
- Evoked Response Laboratory
- Hearing Aid Laboratory
- Otoacoustic Emissions Laboratory
- Pediatric Audiometric Laboratory
- Infant Vocalization Laboratory

Other on-campus research sites with which the department is affiliated include the Center for Clinical and Developmental Neuropsychology, the Adult Learning Disabilities Center, and the UGA's Clinic for Autism Spectrum Evaluation and Research (CASPER Clinic).

### SETWEB

(Special Education Training on the Web) SETWEB, an innovative online certification program launched in 2000, was originally designed for teachers with a clear, renewable teaching certificate who were teaching in special education on a provisional basis. Completion of this program, now called SETWEB Add-On Certification, leads to an add-on certification in interrelated (mild or high-incidence disabilities) special education.

### SETWEB Initial Certification

With the success of the original SETWEB program, a similar program of study, SETWEB Initial Certification, was begun



in 2001 for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree and seek initial certification in interrelated special education. More than 200 graduates of the program had been recommended for certification in interrelated special education by spring 2005.

### Study Abroad in Peru

The UGA Study Abroad in Peru program was first approved by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents in 1995, when five UGA undergraduate students in special education visited Peru and worked for four weeks with children with autism and other disabilities at Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru (CASP), an internationally recognized leader in providing high quality educational programs for children and adults with special needs.

The Study Abroad in Peru program was redesigned in 2001 as a "study tour." Participants visit and learn about the educational and social services available to children with developmental disabilities (autism, mental retardation) and their families in several regions of Peru. Orphanages, children's hospitals and senior citizen centers are also on the itinerary. Participants also visit archeological, historical and cultural sites dating back to the Inca Empire.

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