

10 REASONS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER A MAJOR IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCE

1 You specifically want to work with children or adults with communication difficulties.

An undergraduate degree in Communication Science (CS) provides you with a wonderful background in communication and the communication problems that may affect a person during his or her lifetime. This major prepares you to pursue an entry level degree in the field of speech-language pathology (SLP) or audiology, and we are dedicated to providing our students with the solid foundational knowledge needed for a successful career in either branch of communication science and disorders (CSD).

2 You may have come to college with an interest in one of many related areas of study.

These may include language/linguistics, general communication, biology, physics, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, psychology, special education, or even music or engineering. Like many students, once you learn about Communication Science and Disorders, you may find that you are attracted to it because it can provide you with an opportunity to combine your interest in science with a dynamic clinical career helping others, specifically with communication - a skill so fundamental to us in all aspects of life.

3 You want to pursue a career in a science or health-related profession but you are worried about future job opportunities.

Both SLP and Audiology are rated as two of the fastest growing health-related professions and job prospects are anticipated to be very good for many years to come.

4 You may know that you want to pursue graduate studies in a specific health-related field but you want to pursue a major that sets you apart a little.

This CS undergraduate degree will complement many fields in rehabilitation (e.g. OT, PT) or medicine or science (e.g. medicine, dentistry, physician assistance, neuroscience). As well as being a very interesting major, it can provide you with knowledge about communication disorders that will be very helpful to you in your future career. Plus, it's easy to complete the additional requirements needed for those fields in conjunction with our undergraduate degree.

5 You may not have made up your mind yet and want to keep your options open in terms of which path you pursue at the graduate level.

The Communication Science major offers this opportunity by preparing you for either SLP or Audiology, but also letting you take the prerequisites to apply to graduate programs in other fields. Along the way, you can continue to shadow and research other fields to help you make your decision. You will also learn a great deal of valuable information that will serve you well in whichever related field you choose.

6**You are interested in pursuing a research career in a health or science-related field.**

Human communication is a topic of research in many fields of academia – neuroscience, linguistics, education, psychology, neuropsychology, cognitive psychology, neurolinguistics, to name just a few. In addition, there is much active research focused on our understanding of the nature and causes of communication disorders and the development of effective treatment and management approaches. Within CSD specifically, it is predicted that there will be teaching and research positions available for many years to come.

7**You are particularly interested in a career in education.**

Many students who are interested in graduate studies in elementary or special education pursue this major. It is attractive because it provides invaluable insights into issues of normal speech, language and hearing development and potential developmental difficulties. Prerequisites for education programs can be taken in conjunction with the CS degree requirements.

8**You are particularly interested in physics and/or acoustic science.**

This may be a perfect field for you to pursue, especially if you are interested in acoustics. Many of our clinical or research audiologists and SLPs started off with a physics or acoustics interest.

9**You are particularly interested in technology.**

Rehabilitation technology is a field that is increasingly involved in developing technologies to help individuals with communication disorders. This may be an interesting major for you if you have an engineering, physics or other technology-related focus or background.

10**You are a singer or actor and want to take that interest beyond performance or teaching.**

Many students in the performing arts develop an interest in understanding the science behind voice production and the treatment of voice disorders. As they investigate further, they are attracted to an understanding of communication more broadly and the possibility of working as a clinician or researcher in the field.

Visit www.asha.org to learn more about the field of Communication Science and Disorders – the speech, language and hearing sciences and the clinical professions of SLP and Audiology.

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