

Introduction and General Information:

The Department of Communication Disorders is a graduate department within The School of Health and Human Services. The Department serves three Deans; The Dean of The School of Health and Human Services, The Dean of The School of Education (for teacher preparation programs) and The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. The Department offers the Master of Science Degree in Communication Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology).

The Department offers a Bachelor of Science major in Communication Disorders. Courses in this major are prerequisites to graduate program courses.

The Department houses The Center for Communication Disorders, a public service, University-subsidized, clinical facility for the diagnosis and treatment of speech, language and hearing disorders. The Center serves as a training facility for the Department.

The academic program in Speech-Language-Pathology (SLP) is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA).

Mission Statement for the School of Graduate Studies:

Southern Connecticut State University graduate programs empower students with the knowledge, values, and skills to be continuous learners and practitioners who can, in turn, provide visionary leadership in addressing current and future challenges in their diverse fields of study. The School of Graduate Studies provides students with access and the opportunity to pursue their personal aspirations and to achieve their professional goals.

(School of Graduate Studies 2009-2010 Catalog)

School of Health and Human Services Mission Statement:

Vision: The School of Health and Human Services is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of well-being and empowerment through professional interventions with individuals, families, communities and populations with diverse backgrounds.

Mission: The School of Health and Human Services is a multi-disciplinary school that prepares undergraduate and graduate students for professional careers in Communication Disorders, Marriage and Family Therapy, Nursing, Public Health, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Social Work and Urban Studies. The School is committed to educating students through state-of-the-art teaching strategies that integrate and emphasize discipline-specific and interdisciplinary research, scholarship, professional practice, and community service. The professional programs within the school rely on an integrated liberal arts and sciences foundation and specialized knowledge to

prepare beginning and advanced practitioners who demonstrate mastery of knowledge in their field, are able to communicate effectively, develop creative solutions to problems, are flexible and adaptable to changes in their professional field, are cognizant of local and global environmental effects on their practice and are committed to continuing their professional development.

Department of Communication Disorders Mission Statement:

The mission of the Department of Communication Disorders is to prepare graduates for professional careers in speech-language pathology. The Department is dedicated to excellence in academic and clinical education and is committed to an outcome-based education that facilitates students' professional growth. The Department emphasizes the importance of a diverse student body and recognizes its obligation to promote communicative health through professional service to individuals, families, communities and populations representative of our urban setting and a multicultural society.

The Department prepares the graduate learner for professional competence, life-long inquiry, leadership and adaptation to change through exposure to state-of-the-art instructional techniques including case-based teaching and integration of current technology, supported clinical practice and opportunities for original research. Detailed understanding of normal as well as disordered communication provides a base on which clinical skills, problem solving abilities, and professionalism may be developed.

As an academic environment, the Department is committed to supporting faculty and professional staff in teaching, research, clinical service and creative activities in a continuing quest for innovative instructional techniques, scholarship, and the production of knowledge in our discipline. The Department supports interdisciplinary professional development and encourages faculty and staff to be both receivers and disseminators of current information in our field and in related fields.

[Department of Communication Disorders Long Term Strategic Plan:](#)

The Department of Communication Disorders maintains a Long Term Strategic Plan which is congruent with the University's Strategic Plan.

Department of Communication Disorders Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

The overall objective of the graduate program in Communication Disorders is to prepare professionals to be knowledgeable, clinically skillful, and capable of applying that knowledge and those skills to diverse clinical settings and situations in a cooperative, compassionate, and ethical manner.

Academic objectives and learning outcomes include the following:

- a. Upon successful completion of an appropriate course of study, each graduate student will:
 1. Understand the role of a specialist in communication disorders;
 2. Understand the legal and ethical standards of the profession;
 3. Demonstrate knowledge in the following areas: linguistics; socio-linguistics; normal developmental processes; hearing science; speech science; diagnostic audiology; rehabilitative audiology; research in the field of communication disorders; diagnostic and remedial principles in communication disorders; learning theory, cognitive development; dysphagia; literacy;
 4. Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate collaborative practice and team functioning involving families, consumers, and other professionals;
 5. Demonstrate effective expressive and receptive communication skills in speaking, writing, listening and reading;
 6. Demonstrate knowledge of research findings and an interest in continuing education in order to develop and maintain clinical competencies to meet the needs of the speech-language-hearing impaired person;
- b. To contribute to and advance knowledge in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology through basic science and applied research;
- c. To maintain the academic program, clinical activities, faculty and professional staff accomplishments, contributions and development, and the general conduct of the business of the department at a level consistent with or surpassing university review boards, state accreditors, and the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Clinical objectives and learning outcomes include the following:

- a. Upon successful completion of clinical practice each graduate student will:
 1. Demonstrate skills in goal setting, motivation, evaluation, interpersonal management, counseling and professional report writing;
 2. Exhibit professional behaviors and ethical attitudes appropriate to the professional discipline;
 3. Implement appropriate clinical services in a variety of settings including multicultural/multiethnic communities;
 4. Select appropriate diagnostic approaches and execute procedures for modifying communication behavior;
 5. Establish appropriate collaborative practice and team functioning involving families, consumers, and other professionals;

- b. To provide appropriate speech, voice, language and hearing services to the public through our on-campus clinical training programs;
- c. To maintain the clinical program and clinical services at a level consistent with or surpassing university review boards, state accreditors, and the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

University Non-Discrimination Policy:

Southern Connecticut State University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, disability, race, color, national origin, or sexual orientation in admission to, access to, employment in, and treatment in its programs and activities.

[Disability Resource Center \(DRC\):](#)

The DRC serves all students who provide current documentation of a disability that substantially impacts them in an educational setting. Students with verifiable disabilities -- visible or hidden -- qualify for services.

Call: (203) 392-6828 (voice) or (203) 392-6131 (TTY)
Engleman Hall, room C105A

[Center For Adaptive Technology \(CAT\):](#)

The center enables people with physical, visual and learning disabilities to gain access to computer technology to achieve their academic goals.

Call: (203) 392-5799, visit: Engleman Hall B017.

New Student Orientation:

Once each academic year, at the start of the fall semester, the Department holds a new student orientation meeting. All newly matriculated students are required to attend. Students are informed by email of the date, time, and location of the event.

[The ASHA Knowledge and Skills Acquisition \(KASA\) Summary Form for Speech-Language Pathology](#)

All students who apply for Certification in Speech-Language Pathology must use the KASA form to track their acquisition of the knowledge and skills required for ASHA clinical certification. During program planning and new student orientation, the KASA form will be reviewed and questions regarding department and student responsibilities concerning the form will be addressed.

Student Folder:

Students are advised to develop a folder containing copies of all documentation concerning the Department, University, ASHA, State Department of Health Services (licensing), the State Department of Education (teacher certification) and other professional agencies. Copies of all information which refer IN ANY WAY to program activities, clinical clock hours, or any of the certifications or licenses needed in the future should be retained. Students should retain copies of all University catalogs which pertain to all semesters in which courses were taken. Course dates, titles, instructors and course catalog descriptions may be required by certification and/or licensing agencies after graduation.

The Department and University attempt to maintain all critical students' documentation, however, they cannot be held responsible for lost or misplaced documents.

[The National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(NSSLHA\):](#)

The Department NSSLHA Chapter is subsidized by the University through student fees. It maintains a slate of officers and holds to student generated, University approved, by-laws. Regular meetings are held during academic semesters. Activities are planned for the benefit of the Department, student, clinical community and University. NSSLHA maintains a bulletin board across from the Department entrance on which events and other important information are posted. Membership in NSSLHA is strongly encouraged.

NSSLHA membership is open to any University master's degree candidate or undergraduate student who is interested in the study of normal and disordered human communication behavior. NSSLHA national dues are very reasonable. Some advantages of NSSLHA membership are:

1. receiving the "ASHA Leader" and one other ASHA journal of choice;
2. ordering ASHA publications at reduced rates;
3. registering for ASHA conventions, conferences, and workshops at reduced rates;
4. qualifying for savings in ASHA's Student-to-Certified Member Conversion Program.

NSSLHA Membership Applications may be obtained from the [NSSLHA website](#).

[Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(CSHA\) Student Membership:](#)

CSHA offers free membership for current graduate students. [Application forms](#) may be obtained from the Department Secretary, or may be downloaded. The Department strongly encourages CSHA membership.

[Department Scholarships:](#)

During the beginning of the spring semester, competition for several Department Scholarships is announced. Those who request scholarship information (after the announcement date), will receive a packet which contains all necessary forms and instructions for scholarship application. All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted to the scholarship coordinator on or before the posted deadline date in order to be considered in the scholarship competition.

Department Lockers:

The Department has a limited number of lockers for graduate student use. Students who are participating in clinical practicum will be given priority in locker assignments. The lockers are located at the far end of the main ground level hallway in Davis Hall, through the double doors. Please see the Department Secretary to be assigned a locker.

Department Equipment And Supplies:

The Department maintains many pieces of office equipment and office supplies for the exclusive use of the Department Secretary and her staff, the faculty and the professional staff. Students are asked to refrain from using any of the Department office equipment and supplies unless formally requested to do so by faculty or staff. The Department office equipment includes: all office computers, typewriters, copy machines, FAX machines, and any incidental equipment such as staplers, punches, etc. Students may use office phones only in an emergency situation, or for clinical work with supervisor approval.

The Department requires that students supply all school supplies and equipment necessary for successful work in the academic and clinical programs.

Clinical Equipment and Supplies:

The Department maintains clinical equipment and supplies for student use. Clinical supervisor(s) are responsible for monitoring students' proper and appropriate use of clinical equipment and supplies. Clinical equipment and supplies may not be used without their authorization. Procedures for obtaining use of clinical equipment and supplies are presented in initial clinic orientations and may be found in the "Center for Communication Disorders Manual of Operations."

Speech Science and Voice Laboratory Regulations:

The Department equips and maintains a Speech and Hearing Science Laboratory and a Voice Laboratory for faculty, staff and student use. In order to keep the laboratories in working order the following regulations are presented:

1. Bringing or consuming food or drink in the laboratories is prohibited;
2. The laboratories may be used only during official operation times;

3. Individuals may not use equipment unless they have been instructed in its use;
4. Individuals are responsible for restoring equipment to its original condition and place unless it is part of a research project;
5. When leaving, remove all belongings. Materials left in the laboratories will be disposed.

Student Workroom/Departmental Library:

Room # 009B has been equipped for student use. A small refrigerator and a microwave oven are available for student use.

Books, journals, software, and some clinical materials are located in the student workroom and may be used by students.

It is the students' responsibility to keep this room clean and neat.

Buley Library On-Line Department User Guide:

For assistance in student research or grant related projects (references, book and journal holdings, internet resources, funding agencies), help in writing papers (APA on-line help, School of Graduate Studies guidelines for theses, writing labs) and other library services, visit the on-line [Department User Guide for Communication Disorders](#) at the [Buley Library website](#).

Student Mailboxes:

Mailboxes for all graduate students are located in room # 012C.

School of Graduate Studies Commencement and Departmental Pre-commencement Activities:

The Department expects all graduating students to take part in formal commencement activities presented annually by the School of Graduate Studies at the end of the spring semester. Those who complete degree requirements in the prior fall semester, the spring semester or will complete requirements at the end of the summer session of the same year as the spring graduation ceremony are eligible to participate in the commencement. The Graduate Commencement is a gala affair held in the Lyman Center for Performing Arts. A hooding ceremony is the keynote activity of the commencement. Those graduate students participating receive a medallion with the year of graduation imprinted across the State of Connecticut shield surrounded by the University name and "Graduate Commencement."

The Department and our NSSLHA chapter host graduate pre-commencement activities for parents, family and friends. At this social gathering, faculty are introduced and all graduating students are individually recognized for their successful completion of the program. A formal invitation to the

event is sent to each student according to the eligibility guidelines indicated above.

[Graduate Student Affairs Committee \(GSAC\):](#)

The University GSAC is responsible for developing procedures for the use of student activity funds collected from graduate students. Through its activities, the GSAC supports educational, social, and cultural activities directed toward enriching the experiences of graduate students. The Departmental Chapter of NSSLHA is sponsored by the GSAC. The committee is made up of graduate students and a faculty advisor. Students who are interested in becoming involved with this committee should see the NSSLHA advisor.

Use Of University Computers:

The Department does not maintain computers for student use except those for clinical, teaching or research work. Word processing and scholastic activities which require computers must be completed using personally owned devices or the University Computer Centers' equipment. There are several Computer Centers for use throughout the campus. The closest one is located on the first floor in Davis Hall in room #118. Students should become familiar with the location, operating hours and procedures of the center.

Student Email Account:

Each student is automatically assigned an email address during matriculation. Students may access their email account name from the SCSU home page as follows:

1. Go to homepage – www.southernct.edu
2. Click on Current Student
3. Click on BannerWeb
4. Click on BannerWeb Secure Login
5. Enter UserID & Pin Number
6. Click on Personal Info
7. Click on SCSU email address

The student's SCSU email address will be shown. Students should provide the Department secretary with this email address. SCSU email should be checked frequently since the Department and the University will use this address to contact students. Mail from this account may be auto-forwarded to another email address.

Miscellaneous:

The Department Secretary is responsible to the faculty and staff of the Department and performs tasks associated only with the operation of the Department. Students are requested to refrain from

making demands of the secretary.

Outside of Davis Hall, there is an emergency box with a push button. When the button is activated it will summon the campus police. The campus police phone number is 392-5375. From on campus, dial 25375. In an emergency, dial 888 from any campus phone or pick up any red phone.

A directory of faculty and Departmental phone numbers may be found in [Appendix A](#).

The Department maintains an active [website](#). Information regarding programs, admissions, clinical activities, facilities, courses, and department current events among other things, may be found at the site. Please visit. Comments are welcome.