

The Master of Health Sciences Degree in Communication Disorders

Planning for your program

Welcome!

I am excited to welcome you into the graduate program in Communication Disorders at GSU. You are joining a program that is innovative, community-oriented, and diverse. We have challenging and rewarding courses and programming, and many opportunities for you to individualize your education to help explore special areas of interest.

In preparation for the upcoming mandatory orientation or if you haven't met with your advisor, please visit www.govst.edu/chhs/cdis/mhs for a wealth of program information, including the department's student handbooks and calendars.

Before meeting with your advisor, please read the information and instructions below to prepare you for the visit. If you have completed the advising process, you will find important reminders and suggestions for other things you may do to be ready to hit the ground running in the fall.

*I look forward to seeing you during New Student Orientation,
Dr. Jessica Bonner
Department Chair*

Planning your course sequence

- Print out a copy of the department's projected two-year course schedule.
- Print out the list of requirements for the MHS program from the department's webpage www.govst.edu/chhs/cdis/mhs/. If you did not graduate from GSU, print out requirements for the BHS program, review leveling courses and Professional Education Requirements (PEL).
- Review the Graduate Student Handbook on the department's webpage.
- Notice that all 3-credit graduate and undergraduate courses are taught once per week for 3 hours.
- Plan a schedule for entire program. We have developed course sequence paths to make this process easier.

Planning your course sequence

- Course sequence paths for full-time (3-4 graduate courses per semester) and part-time (2-3 graduate courses per semester) are provided. Identify a path that best fits your needs.
- If you have not had equivalent courses to those listed in the BHS program requirements, you must include any missing undergraduate courses (i.e., “leveling” courses) no later than the first two semesters of graduate study. You must also complete courses required for the PEL that are missing. Highlight these courses to discuss with your advisor.
- If you are interested in completing a thesis, you should begin working on a plan with your advisor during your first semester in the program.

Summer Preparations

- During April - June, meet with your advisor to develop a study plan using the course sequence paths.
- It is strongly recommended that you complete any undergraduate leveling or PEL courses during the summer before graduate study. (See the Course Sequence Path document).
- Once you have a study plan developed, register for summer classes to complete leveling/PEL courses or for Fall semester classes.
- Please be aware that the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) from the ISBE is no longer available. In addition, the ACT Plus (or SAT) is no longer required.

Summer Preparations

- Send copies of your official transcripts to GSU as instructed by the Office of Admissions. Also, provide a copy to your advisor with grades from your last semester(s) in your undergrad program.
- Submit your immunization verifications to the university.
- We encourage you to leveling/PEL courses here at GSU, and can help you do so. However, some PEL courses are offered at your local community college and as self-study “test-out” options.
- If you have not taken a biological and physical science (ASHA certification requirement), these can be completed in summer before graduate study.
- Put in your calendar the mandatory orientation.

Your Advisor

- Go to your advisor with any questions about the program, courses, or policies that are not answered in the Department of Communication Disorders Graduate Student Handbook.
- Asking fellow students may result in incorrect or confusing information. It is your advisor's intention to ensure your academic and professional progress.

Registration – Authorization

- After your advisor has approved your SSP, including the Study Plan Grid, enter your sequence in the Course Authorization Book.
- Do not sign up for academic courses in the authorization book which already have 20 students listed.
- Your approved study plan grid should match your requests in the authorization book.

Registration – Authorization

- By signing up for your courses in the Course Authorization Book, you are reserving a place in that section of the graduate course.
- If you wish to make changes to your approved study plan path, you are required to have your changes approved by your academic advisor. These changes then must be reflected in the course authorization book.
- Authorization will permit you to register, it does not replace your registration.

Registration

Once authorized, you still
need to register!

Registration Options

- Do not attempt to enroll concurrently in a course and its prerequisite. Special permission from the instructor is required for this.
- If you are taking undergraduate leveling courses during summer you require special permission as you are technically not a GSU student yet. Please work with the department chair for summer registration.
- It is important to remember that undergraduate CDIS courses are not authorized. **You must register as early as possible in order to ensure a space in the course.**

Checklist of Steps to Complete M.H.S. Degree Requirements

- ✓ View Pre-Advising Orientation document, Course sequence paths, and course schedule
- ✓ Schedule Advising Appointment
- ✓ Develop your study plan using Course Sequence Paths
- ✓ Register for and complete any Leveling/PEL courses
- ✓ Register for Fall 2020 courses
- ✓ Attend the mandatory Orientation and Practicum Information Session. Check your emails for a date and an agenda.