

Accelerated Master's Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders Overview

What is an Accelerated Masters (AM)?

The Accelerated Master's program is available to current, eligible UNH CSD majors to:

- Gain a direct pathway to the MS program
- Begin taking graduate courses toward the MS degree in their fourth year at UNH
- Complete the BS and MS degree in 5½ years.

The AM program meets all of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) competencies for the MS, meeting all of the standards that are required to begin the Clinical Fellowship (CF).

Eligibility to Submit an AM Application*:

- Current UNH student in good standing
- Overall GPA of 3.5+ at the time of application (i.e., including grades from fall semester junior year), GPA must be based on a minimum of 3 semesters at UNH
- Completed a minimum of 86 credits earned/completed (i.e., not including credits in progress). Ideally, 89 credits is preferred.
- Complete all CSD-required courses for Years 1 and 2 (see curriculum)
- Completed KIN 706 Neurology, COMM 504 Intro to Audiology, and COMM 741 Speech-Language Pathology I.
- Enrolled in COMM 742 Speech-Language Pathology II (and all its prerequisite coursework) and COMM 705 Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation for spring semester junior year

The AM program is designed for and best suited to students who begin the CSD program as Freshmen (in Year 1). Students who transfer into the major may be eligible for the AM program but will need to meet all the above criteria.

***Eligibility does not ensure acceptance to the AM program.**

After acceptance, your AM program will involve the following:

- You will take 11 800-level credits during the senior (4th) year. Credits for these courses will count toward undergraduate degree and will be counted automatically toward the graduate degree upon enrollment in the graduate program. These courses for AM students include:
 - 2 graduate courses in the summer between the junior and senior year –
 - *COMM 801: Principles of Assessment*
 - *COMM 802: Principles of Intervention*
 - 3 graduate courses in the fall semester of the senior year
 - *COMM 803: Ethical and Professional Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders*
 - *COMM 811: Brain and Behavior*
 - *COMM 821: Speech Sound Disorders*
 - Note: To apply toward the master's degree, 800-level courses have a minimum grade of B-, as set by the UNH Graduate School.
- Graduate with the BS in December of year 4 at UNH
- Begin registering through the graduate school the subsequent Spring
- Graduate with the MS in summer of year 5.5 at UNH (graduation date: September 1)
 - Note: if all paperwork, including a letter of completion and clinical experience record from the department, is submitted to the NH licensing board as soon as the master's program is completed, students can obtain a provisional license by early September. Other states may have different licensing requirements, which may include submission of an official transcript. In these cases, licensing can take 2-3 months following graduation. This may affect the types of positions for which AM students are eligible.

Advantages:	Disadvantages:
Finish the MS a semester early	Must be 'on track' with course selection early in the undergraduate career
Simpler application process	Cannot go abroad for a full semester - J-term, summer, & spring break are options, with added cost
Save time and money	More challenging to complete university/ department honors, an additional major, and/or minor(s) due to early graduation
Graduate application fee is waived	Not eligible for graduate assistantship (& associated stipend/tuition reduction)
Familiar with university/faculty <i>(advantage compared to attending a different graduate institution)</i>	Don't experience a different academic environment (faculty, campus, etc.) for your graduate studies <i>(disadvantage compared to attending a different graduate institution)</i>
	Lose part of the experience of senior year due to the substantial increase in workload/rigor of graduate school compared to undergraduate, requiring an increased time commitment
	Do not graduate at the same time as cohorts for BS or MS (can walk at graduation with cohort in both cases)

How to Apply:

1. Meet with AM advisor to confirm eligibility
2. Look at the application requirements and deadlines on the UNH CSD website at <https://chhs.unh.edu/communication-sciences-disorders/program/ms/communication-sciences-disorders>
3. Steps for graduate school application are at <https://gradschool.unh.edu/admissions/apply>
4. Required documents:
 - a. Official transcript(s) – submitted after grades are posted for Fall of junior year
 - b. Two letters of recommendation, preferably from academic faculty at UNH
 - c. Personal Statement
 - i. In no more than two pages, respond to the following prompts:
 1. We are interested in learning about you as a person. Describe your unique talents, interests, and/or experiences that make you who you are. Speculate about how these might contribute to your experience in our graduate program and/or to your future career.
 2. Describe your career path for the next 10 years - where do you see yourself professionally five years from now? Ten years from now?
 3. Discuss one issue in the field of communication sciences and disorders that currently interests you most. Why does this issue interest you?
 4. Briefly discuss how research is important to the field of communication sciences and disorders.
 5. **OPTIONAL (may increase page limit to a total of three pages)** If you currently have interest in participating in research, pursuing a master thesis, and/or wish to be considered for a graduate research assistantship, briefly describe:
 - a. why you are interested in research
 - b. any prior research experience you may have, and/or
 - c. any knowledge or skills you have that would support your participation in research.

Application Deadlines:

- Declare eligibility by the ***first day of classes of junior year***.
- The application deadline for eligible candidates is ***January 15, Junior year***.
- Acceptance decisions will be made after January 15, Junior year.
- To reserve a place in the AM program, you must submit your intention to accept our offer of admission by ***April 15, Junior year*** by 1) emailing csd.department@unh.edu, and 2) completing and returning a document indicating your intention to the Graduate School.
 - Both notifications should be completed at your earliest convenience but not later than April 15.