The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) offers an undergraduate major in Communication Disorders, a graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology, and a Deaf Studies Certificate. Additionally, the pre-SLP program consists of a series of courses that prepare students without an undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders to apply to graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology.

The undergraduate Communication Disorders program provides broad-based instruction to prepare students for graduate study in speech-language pathology, audiology, and related fields. Students who complete the undergraduate program receive a Bachelor's of Science in Communication Disorders and must complete a master's degree to practice speech-language pathology and a Doctorate of Audiology (AuD) to practice audiology.

The graduate degree program in Speech-Language Pathology prepares students for the clinical practice of speech-language pathology. A certified speech-language pathologist works with both children and adults to evaluate and diagnose disorders associated with speech, language, cognition, communication, and swallowing. The Speech-Language Pathology graduate program has two cohorts, one offered on the Bowling Green Campus and one distance-learning cohort that is primarily offered online but with one required summer clinical experience on the Bowling Green Campus.

The minor in American Sign Language provides students with communication competency in a visual language and an understanding of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing culture. A Deaf Studies Certificate will broaden a student's knowledge of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, with an emphasis on Deaf Culture. The Deaf Studies Certificate will not qualify students to become licensed interpreters.

Students in the pre-SLP program must have an undergraduate degree from a field other than communication disorders at the time they begin taking courses in the pre-SLP program. The pre-SLP program is a fully online distance-learning program. Students considering a major in Communication Disorders, a graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology, a minor in American Sign Language, a Deaf Studies Certificate, or the pre-SLP program, should contact the appropriate program director for admission timelines, requirements, and advisement.

**Degree**

- Communication Disorders, Bachelor of Science (595R 595) (http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/communication-sciences-disorders/communication-disorders-bs)

**Minor**


**Certificate**

- Deaf Studies, Certificate (1738) (http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/health-human-services/communication-sciences-disorders/deaf-studies-certificate)

**Faculty**

**Professor**

Jean Neils-Strunjas PhD (Communication Sciences), Case Western Reserve University, 1984

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Lauren E. Bland PhD (Communication Disorders), University of Cincinnati Main Campus, 1995

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Richard A. Dressler PhD (Audiology & Speech Pathology), University of Memphis, 2001

Jo L. Shackelford EdD (Educational Leadership, Postsecondary Leadership), Western Kentucky University, 2012

**Assistant Professor**

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Leisa S. Hutchison MSED (Special Education, Speech and Communication Disorders), University of Kentucky, 1986

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**Instructor I**

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**Instructor II**

Janice C. Smith PhD (Rehabilitation Sciences), University of Kentucky, 2015