

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

About Communication Sciences and Disorders

The School provides both professional and research training in communication sciences and disorders at the graduate level through its **M.Sc. (Applied)**, **M.Sc.**, and **Ph.D.** degrees. We were the first department in Canada to provide both clinical and research degrees. Our M.Sc.A. program aims to educate the next generation of well-prepared and innovative speech-language pathology professionals by providing enriched classroom training, clinical laboratory activities that enhance the transition from theory to practice, and outstanding clinical practicum experiences. Our research degrees are designed to develop leading researchers and scholars, who will go on to train future investigators in the field of communication sciences and disorders and who, through their research, will advance our understanding of the processes of human communication and its breakdown.

Our applied and research degrees may lead to employment in healthcare or educational facilities, academic settings, or private industry.

Interdisciplinary interactions are at the core of our research training approach, which includes preparation to conduct both fundamental and clinically applied investigations. Our professors have collaborative ties with many departments and institutes at McGill, including:

- psychology
- linguistics
- neuroscience
- otolaryngology
- biomedical engineering
- Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital
- other Montreal universities

They also maintain national and international collaborations. Students can access this rich collaborative network via the McGill Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music, a world-class interdisciplinary research centre established by the School. The multilingual context in which we reside provides a unique environment for language research.

The School offers:

- a professional degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the M.Sc. (Applied) level with specialization in Speech Language Pathology
- two research degrees: an M.Sc. (Research) and a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Requirements for Licensure

The majority of provinces in Canada and certain states in the U.S. require that those intending to practice as speech-language pathologists within their borders comply with special provincial or state licensing regulations. Graduates wishing to practice in the province of Quebec must be members of the *Ordre des Orthophonistes et Audiologistes du Québec* (OOAQ) in order to call themselves speech-

language pathologists. Further information is available from the OOAQ at:

630 Sherbrooke St. W., bureau 800
Montreal QC H3A 1E4
Telephone: 514-282-9123
Email: info@ooaq.qc.ca
Website: www.ooaq.qc.ca

Quebec law requires that candidates seeking licensure in provincially recognized professions demonstrate exceptional verbal and written knowledge of the French language. Please refer to Language Requirements for Professions .

Funding

IODE Canada funds a "Silence to Sound" award for studies in hearing impairment. These in-course awards are based on academic merit, Canadian citizenship, financial need, and potential for excellence, and are awarded by the School with approval of funds by IODE Canada.

Montreal League for the Hard of Hearing Award – Candidates must be enrolled at the graduate level in the School and working in the area of hearing impairment. Awarded by the School.

Communication Sciences and Disorders Admission Requirements and Applications Procedures

Admission Requirements

McGill University Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies requires that applicants to graduate programs hold an undergraduate degree with a minimum B average (3.0 on a 4.0 point scale) or better, however as admission is highly competitive the mean GPA of admitted students is generally much higher. Please note that incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

English Language Requirement for Non-Canadian Students

Applicants to graduate studies whose mother tongue is not English and who have not completed an undergraduate or graduate degree from a recognized foreign institution where English is the language of instruction or from a recognized Canadian institution (anglophone or francophone), must submit documented proof of competency in oral and written English **prior to admission:**

- the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 95 on the Internet-based test with minimum component scores of 24 in both Speaking and Writing and 21 in both Reading and Listening;
OR
- the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum overall band score of 7.0.

M.Sc. (Applied)

An applicant must hold an undergraduate degree in any discipline. The program is highly competitive and we have space for fewer than 10% of applicants; the mean cumulative undergraduate GPA for admitted students falls at around 3.8 on a 4.0 scale. There are 21 credits of prerequisite coursework, including 3 credits in statistics, and a total of 18 credits across the disciplines of Linguistics and Psychology or related areas (with a minimum of 6 credits each in Linguistics and

Psychology). Please refer to mcgill.ca/scsd/programs/slp/how-apply/prerequisite-courses for important details on the nature of these prerequisites.

M.Sc. in Communication Sciences and Disorders

The M.Sc. provides research training for:

- students who are also taking courses for professional qualification;
- students who have a non-thesis professional degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders; and
- students with degrees in related fields who wish to do research but not obtain professional qualification in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Applicants should normally have a master's degree with thesis or its equivalent in Communication Sciences and Disorders or a related field (e.g., psychology, linguistics).

Students who possess an appropriate bachelor's degree or master's degree without thesis will also be considered for the Ph.D. program, but, if admitted, must first complete a Qualifying year of coursework and a research project. All applications received by the application deadlines are automatically considered for any internal funding or awards made available to the Department for recruitment purposes. Students who apply for Fall admission generally have the most options with respect to applying for external funding as well as for being considered for internal support.

Application Procedures

McGill's online application form for graduate program candidates is available at mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply.

See University Regulations & Resources > *Graduate* > *Graduate Admissions and Application Procedures* > Application Procedures for detailed application procedures.

Please see the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders website for required application materials.

Additional Requirements

The items and clarifications below are additional requirements set by this department:

M.Sc. (Applied)

Casper Online Test

- 21 credits prerequisite coursework, provide details via the online application management system, as specified
- Brief personal statement
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two reference letters (one professional and one academic)

M.Sc. (Thesis) and Ph.D.

- Personal statement
- Curriculum Vitae
- Writing sample
- Acceptance by a research supervisor
- Two reference letters (academic)

If available, applicants are encouraged to submit reports of their performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Application Dates and Deadlines

Application opening dates are set by Enrolment Services in consultation with Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS), while application deadlines are set by the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders and may be revised at any time. Applicants must verify all deadlines and documentation requirements well in advance on the appropriate McGill departmental website; please consult the list at mcgill.ca/gps/contact/graduate-program.

Information on application deadlines is available at mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/how-apply/application-steps/application-deadlines.

Available Programs

- Communication Sciences & Disorders (Non-Thesis): Speech-Language Pathology (M.Sc.A.) (82 credits)
- Communication Sciences and Disorders (Ph.D.)
- Communication Sciences and Disorders (Thesis) (M.Sc.) (45 credits)
- Communication Sciences and Disorders: Language Acquisition (Ph.D.)

Program Overview

Master of Science, Applied (M.Sc.A.) Communication Sciences & Disorders (Non-Thesis): Speech-Language Pathology

The professional degree leads to a Master of Science (Applied) with a specialization in Speech Language Pathology. The program involves two academic years of full-time study and related practical work followed by a Summer internship. To prepare students as creative professionals, the program emphasizes the understanding of principles and theories, and their present or potential clinical applications, in addition to the teaching of specific techniques for assessment and intervention. Active participation in the learning process is encouraged.

The profession of speech-language pathology concerns assessment and intervention in speech, language, and swallowing disorders. At present, most speech-language pathologists in Canada work in hospitals, public school systems, rehabilitation centres, special education facilities, and in private practice nursing homes and extended care facilities.

Students pursuing the M.Sc.A. complete the basic academic content and clinical practica required in preparation for clinical practice as outlined by Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC). Our M.Sc.A. program is completed in two years. The emphasis on bridging theory and clinical practice is very strong in our program. Our admission requirements emphasize basic sciences and do not require completion of a specific undergraduate degree. This flexible entry accommodates students with undergraduate degrees in different fields and promotes diversity within our student body. Our goal is to recruit and train skillful therapists and problem-solvers who can rely on a strong foundation in theory to address challenging clinical issues. Our M.Sc.A. graduates typically pursue professional careers working in schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, or in private practices. A subset of our graduates will enter a doctoral program (immediately or after a period of clinical employment) to pursue a research career.

Research Degrees – M.Sc. and Ph.D.

Master of Science (M.Sc.) Communication Sciences and Disorders (Thesis)

Selected candidates may be accepted into the M.Sc. research degree program. Each student's Advisory Committee designs an individualized program of study in collaboration with the student. The program can include graduate courses offered by the School and by other departments at McGill.

This program is designed for students who wish to combine research training with their clinical (M.Sc.A.) program or students from related fields who wish to gain research experience in communication sciences to prepare for doctoral studies. Students are required to take two semesters (6 credits) of statistics and complete a thesis. Admission to the M.Sc. research program requires identification of an SCSD professor(s) with relevant expertise to mentor the student through the thesis process. Graduates of our M.Sc. research program follow diverse career paths, some working in clinical settings (if they also have a clinical degree) or settings that combine clinical and research activities, and others continuing their research training at the doctoral level.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Communication Sciences and Disorders

Selected candidates may be accepted into the Ph.D. research degree program. Each student's Advisory Committee designs an individualized program of study in collaboration with the student. The program can include graduate courses offered by the School and by other departments at McGill.

Students pursuing a Ph.D. in SCSD have varied educational backgrounds, including both clinical and related non-clinical fields. Students who enter the program from a related field (e.g., Psychology, Linguistics) or without a master's thesis complete a Qualifying year, which includes coursework and a research project. This flexible entry attracts independent scholars with diverse backgrounds and interests, which creates a stimulating and enriched training environment. The main component of the Ph.D. program (beyond the Qualifying year) has minimal required coursework and is structured to support students as they develop and pursue an innovative, individualized program of doctoral studies. Admission to the doctoral program requires identification of a SCSD professor(s) with relevant expertise to mentor the student in this process. Ph.D. students have the opportunity to pursue an interdisciplinary specialization in language acquisition through the McGill Language Acquisition Program, which intersects with McGill departments of Linguistics, Psychology, and Education. Our Ph.D. graduates typically pursue academic careers in universities or research institutes, but some work in settings that combine research and professional activities.

Location

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