



About Valdosta State University

Valdosta State University offers the best of both worlds: the extensive academic, cultural and social opportunities of a major university, and the small classes and close personal attention found at smaller institutions. Students are attracted to the close-knit community where learning occurs in a supportive environment and faculty members challenge each student's potential.

VSU has a legacy as a major provider of education services for South Georgia. As a regional university, it focuses on the long-term, total educational experience, providing a variety of catalysts for student growth in all areas of life. Study abroad and exchange opportunities at institutions around the world give students exceptional opportunities for learning. Closer to campus, VSU offers internships and experiential learning opportunities to expand students' horizons.

The James L. and Dorothy H. Dewar College of Education and Human Services

The College of Education and Human Services provides quality instruction through offering comprehensive degree programs in the liberal arts, pre-professional, and professional service areas at the associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels. In addition to a primary focus on preparing future teachers and other professionals, faculty members of the College of Education and Human Services also maintain a commitment to engage in the scholarly pursuits of research and service for the advancement and sharing of knowledge.



**Department of Communication
Sciences & Disorders**
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VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of

Communication Sciences & Disorders

Doctorate of Speech-Language Pathology
(SLPD)





Clinical Doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology

About the Program

The objective of the program is to prepare advanced practitioners and future university clinical faculty in Communication Sciences and Disorders through provision of an affordable, rigorous, high quality clinical doctorate. The clinical doctorate would have emphasis on the social and cultural aspects of communication sciences and disorders (speech and language pathology) as it applies to both allied health care and educational services to under-served populations.

This clinical doctorate is designed to deepen the knowledge, leadership, and problem-solving skills of current practitioners with a focus on coursework and applications that incorporate current research, ethical decision-making, and models of best practice. The curriculum will prepare doctoral students to analyze, synthesize, and apply research-based theory to their current work environment and through the development of the applied dissertation. Individuals completing this program will receive a Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology (SLPD) in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Program Requirements

Program requirements

- 56 credit hours of planned coursework and experiences.
- Comprehensive examination.
- Research-based applied dissertation.
- Limited on-campus activities.
- Online hybrid coursework.

SLPD graduates will be able to:

- Design and deliver professional development programs focused on improving service deliver to under-served populations.
- Analyze, apply and evaluate evidence-based interventions for clients.
- Successfully participate in professional publication, grant writing, teaching and presentations.
- Demonstrate the ability to supervise a wide range of individuals.
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge and intervention expertise in a major content area and a minor content area.
- Produce a relevant, high-quality applied research dissertation.

For Major/Minor topic focus students can choose from one of the following topical areas. Additional topical areas may be added with permission of advisory committee:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Dysphagia
- Neurogenics
- Fluency and related Disorders
- Early Intervention (birth-5 years)
- School Aged Language Disorders
- Voice and related Disorders
- Alternative/ Augmentative Communication
- Phonological Disorders
- Adult Language Disorders

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