



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS
University of Wisconsin-Madison

GUIDELINES
for the
M.S./Ph.D. PROGRAM

2009-2010

Guidelines for the M.S./Ph.D. Program

Overview

The following guidelines apply to the combined clinical M.S. and research Ph.D. program in the Department of Communicative Disorders. While the Ph.D. portion of the M.S./Ph.D. program is expected to be variable in length according to the student's progress, the M.S. portion of the program will be 2.5 years, completed in December of the third year of full-time graduate study. Students who withdraw from the M.S./Ph.D. program at the end of the fall semester of their first year of full-time graduate study may complete the M.S. degree in the typical time for the clinical M.S. program (two years), providing they make satisfactory progress in the M.S. program. Completion of the M.S. for students who withdraw from the M.S./Ph.D. program *at any time after the end of the first semester of full-time graduate study* will require a minimum of 2.5 years of full-time study, with graduation in December of the student's third year of full-time graduate study, providing they make satisfactory progress in the M.S. program.

Admissions

The admissions committee initially will evaluate M.S./Ph.D. applications with all other applicants to the M.S. program. Once the initial decision to offer admission has been made, the admissions committee will coordinate a secondary review of students who indicate interest in the M.S./Ph.D. program. The first step will be to identify faculty members who are able to accept an M.S./Ph.D. student in the following year. Faculty members who are able to accept a student will be asked to review that student's file and contact the student directly, to decide if the student is a candidate for the M.S./Ph.D. program. At that time, the student will be notified in writing if he or she is admitted into the M.S. only or the combined M.S./Ph.D. program.

M.S. students who are not initially admitted into the M.S./Ph.D. program have an opportunity to apply to the program by February 1 of their first year of graduate study. This application must be made in writing, addressed to the Admissions Committee, and accompanied by a letter from the academic advisor who has agreed to mentor that student. If the applicant is accepted into the M.S./Ph.D. program at that time, they will meet with a clinical advisor to modify their existing clinic plan according to the M.S./Ph.D. clinic plan guidelines stated below.

Advisors

Based on the initial faculty contact during the admission process, each student will be assigned an academic advisor in his or her area of research interest. Students are free to change advisors, with advisory consent, but there is no guarantee that the new advisor will provide funding. Advisors are free not to continue funding students who choose another area of research interest, and a new advisor is free to take on or refuse a new student. Students also will be assigned a clinical advisor at the time of their admission to the program (with advisor consent).

Creating a Clinical and Academic Plan

In the first semester of study, each student will meet with his or her clinical and academic advisor to create a plan for academic and clinical activities over the 2.5 years of the M.S. portion of their M.S./Ph.D. program. The [M.S./Ph.D. Program – Academic and Clinical Plan](#) will be designed on an individual basis by discussion between the student and his or her academic and clinical advisor. The clinical advisor will discuss the plan with clinical professors who will be instructing the student in the future.

The aim of the planned courses and clinical and research experiences will be to provide the student with an early introduction to research, while allowing time to complete the requisite coursework and clinical hours to meet the M.S. degree requirements by the end of the fall semester of their third year of full-time study.

Students are encouraged to take courses outside of the department that will support their area of interest and development of their research skills. This may include coursework in research methods and statistical analysis. Students also are encouraged to attend the departmental Professional Seminar (ProSem) lecture series, which is required for doctoral students (see Doctoral Handbook, SATISFACTORY PROGRESS WITHIN THE GRADUATE PROGRAM).

The plan will be signed by the student and the clinical and academic advisors and a copy will be put into the student's file. The plan may be modified with the agreement of both advisors.

M.S. Thesis

Students must complete a Master's thesis by the end of the M.S. portion of the M.S./Ph.D. degree. For the thesis, the student will select an advisory committee of three full-time tenure-track faculty members, two of who must be from within the department. All other M.S. thesis requirements will be in accordance with the Graduate School guidelines.

Progress Evaluation

The student's academic advisor and clinical advisor will review his or her progress at the end of the second semester of full-time graduate study (end of Spring of Year 1) using the M.S./Ph.D. Student Progress Report, to determine if the student should continue in the M.S./Ph.D. program. If the student has not made satisfactory progress or chooses not to continue in the M.S./Ph.D. program, he or she will be counseled into the M.S.-only program at this point and will graduate in December of his or her third year of study. It is not possible to accommodate an earlier graduation for students who transfer into the M.S.-only program in their second semester of study or later.

Making the Transition into the Ph.D. Program

The M.S./Ph.D. Student Progress Report will be completed again at the end of the second year of the M.S. program. Student progress will be reviewed by the student's advisor and the departmental doctoral student review committee. If the student, advisor, and review committee agree that the student should continue into the doctoral program, the student will choose a minor and a committee for his or her preliminary examinations, and will follow established departmental and university guidelines for doctoral study from that point forward. The student does not need to re-apply to the graduate school for the doctoral program but must notify the departmental Student Status Examiner so that it can be indicated on the warrant for graduation that the student is returning for a Ph.D.

Clinical Fellowship

The Clinical Fellowship (CF) for certification in speech-language pathology is independent of the M.S./Ph.D. program. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a fellowship position. The CF may take place between the M.S. and Ph.D. portions of the program, or during or after the Ph.D. as determined by the student and his or her Ph.D. major advisor. Students who choose to complete a CF will be subject to the guidelines of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. According to the 2005 ASHA standards, the guidelines for time spent during the CF are as follows:

The clinical fellowship is defined as no less than 35 weeks of full-time professional employment. At least 80% of the clinical fellowship workweek must be in direct client contact (assessment, diagnosis, evaluation, screening, habilitation, or rehabilitation) related to the management process. Thus, in a 30-hour workweek, at least 24 hours must be devoted to direct clinical activities. The clinical fellowship requirement can also be met by less than full-time employment. For example, if the clinical fellow works:

- 29-34 hours per week, the length of the clinical fellowship must be at least 48 weeks.
- 22-28 hours per week, the length of the clinical fellowship must be at least 60 weeks.
- 15-21 hours per week, the length of the clinical fellowship must be at least 72 weeks.