

The Master of Health Sciences Degree in Communication Disorders

Planning for your program

Welcome!

I am excited to welcome you into the graduate program in Communication Disorders at GSU. You are joining a program that is innovative, community-oriented, and diverse. We have challenging and rewarding courses and programming, and many opportunities for you to individualize your education to help explore special areas of interest.

As you prepare to meet with your academic advisor, be sure to visit www.govst.edu/chhs/cdis/mhs for a wealth of program information, including the department's student handbooks and calendars. We have launched a new resource – the CDIS Resource webpage on Blackboard (www.bb9.govst.edu). Once you have a username and password for your registration and email, you can use Blackboard as well. Check out the CDIS Resource page on Blackboard, where you will be able to find information and submit paperwork required for your program.

On the next few pages, you will receive specific instructions for preparing for your advising visit and setting up a plan of study. You will also see suggestions for other things you may do over the summer to be ready to hit the ground running in the fall.

I look forward to meeting you on July 8th, 2015!

*Dr. Catherine Balthazar
Department Chair*

Planning your course sequence

- Print out a copy of the department's projected two-year course schedule.
- Print out the list of requirements for the MHS program from the department's webpage www.govst.edu/chhs/cdis/mhs/. If you did not graduate from GSU, please also print out the requirements for the BHS program.
- Review the Graduate Student Handbook on the department's webpage.
- Notice that all 3-credit graduate and undergraduate courses are taught once per week for 3 hours. Also notice that 1-credit courses are on individualized schedules or online.
- Begin building a schedule for your entire program. Schedule all academic courses to be completed before practicum courses begin.

Planning your course sequence

- Develop a potential plan which includes 3 graduate courses per semester if you are full time, or 1-2 graduate courses per semester if you are part time.
- If you have not had equivalent courses to those listed in the BHS program requirements, you must include any missing undergraduate courses in your first two semesters of graduate study. Highlight these to discuss with your advisor.
- Schedule the 6000 level courses in your first year.
- Consider whether you might be interested in completing a thesis. If so, you should begin working on a plan with your advisor during your first semester in the program.

Planning your course sequence

- Schedule CDIS 8000 Current Topics in any semester, or take more than one time if more topics interest you.
- Schedule CDIS 8100 for the semester after you have finished 6 graduate courses.
- Schedule CDIS 8200 for your last semester of academic coursework (semester before practicum)
- Schedule CDIS 8300 for the semester you start practicum. This is a qualifying examination which is administered the week before the semester begins.

Summer Preparations

- During May or June, meet with your advisor to develop a study plan
- Once you have a study plan developed, register for your fall classes.
- Take and pass the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) from the ISBE. If you have taken the ACT Plus Writing with a composite score of 22 or higher, or the SAT with a score of 1030 or higher, within the past 10 years, you may have these scores reported instead of taking the TAP. A passing score on the TAP or its equivalent is required for all MHS candidates in CDIS. You will not be permitted to register for the spring semester until you have fulfilled this requirement.

Summer Preparations

- Send copies of your official transcripts to GSU as instructed by the Office of Admissions.
- Submit your immunization verifications to the university.
- Take undergraduate courses you need online or at community college.
- Attend the mandatory orientation on July 8th, 2015, from 8:30 – 3:30.

Your Advisor

- Go to your advisor with any questions about the program, courses, or policies that are not answered in the Department of Communication Disorders Graduate *Student Handbook*.
- Asking fellow students may result in incorrect or confusing information. It is your advisor's intention to ensure your academic and professional progress.

Registration – Authorization

- After your advisor has approved your SSP, including the Study Plan Grid, enter your sequence in the Course Authorization Book.
- Do not sign up for academic courses in the authorization book which already have 25 students listed.
- Your approved study plan grid should match your requests in the authorization book.

Registration – Authorization

- By signing up for your courses in the Course Authorization Book, you are reserving a place in that section of the graduate course.
- If you wish to make changes to your approved study plan grid, you are required to have your changes approved by your academic advisor. These changes then must be reflected in the course authorization book.
- Authorization will permit you to register, it does not replace your registration.

Registration

Once authorized, you still
need to register!

Registration Options

- Do not attempt to enroll concurrently in a course and its prerequisite. Special permission from the instructor is required for this.
- It is important to remember that undergraduate CDIS courses are not authorized. **You must register as early as possible in order to ensure a space in the course.**

Checklist of Steps to Complete M.H.S. Degree Requirements

- ✓ View Orientation Slide Show
- ✓ Schedule Advising Appointment
- ✓ Develop SSP and Grid with Advisor
- ✓ Register for Fall 2015 courses
- ✓ RSVP/register for July 8th Orientation
- ✓ Required: Attend Orientation and Practicum Information Session on **Wednesday, July 8th, 2015, 8:30-3:30.**

THANK YOU!