

Prospective CSD PhD Student Handout

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

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We're on the Web!

<http://csd.uncg.edu>



Welcome to UNCG

Thank you for your interest in the CSD PhD program!!!

The CSD doctoral program is designed to prepare students for a traditional research-based Ph.D. and for a career in the Academy. The program features research in *intersecting disciplines* and formal instruction in the areas of best teaching practices, clinical supervision, administration, and grant writing. CSD doctoral students work with doctoral students and faculty

in other departments in the School of Health and Human Sciences and with other faculty on our campus and at our research affiliates at and North Carolina A & T State University.

UNCG has research programs available to Duke University, Chapel Hill, Wake Forest University, potential students, including programs



and centers in genetics/genomics, special education, arts wellness, healthy aging, child development, neurosciences, and women's health and wellness.

The Application Process: Who Can Apply?

The CSD PhD program is designed for admitting both full-time approach and part-time approach students. **The CSD PhD degree is a**

post Masters degree. Students holding a masters degree or clinical doctorate (such as the Au.D.) in speech-language pathology, and audiology, can apply to

the CSD PhD program. Students in related fields, such as hearing science, linguistics, and other related fields, may also apply.

*Do
something
bigger
altogether!*

Online Application Process with UNCG Graduate School

The UNCG Graduate School application is completed online. UNCG uses a program called **APPLY YOURSELF** for this online admission process. All your admission documents—letters of recommendation, GRE and TOEFL scores, transcripts—will be

uploaded to this online system. The GRE and TOEFL scores need to be reported to the UNCG Grad School by the end of January. Application materials are due in the UNCG Grad School by Feb 1st. It usually takes 3-4 weeks for online applications to be

processed. CSD grad faculty will review and make admission decisions sometime in mid- to late March. The UNCG Graduate School sends out the official admission letter, then award letters concerning Graduate Assistantships and tuition stipends are sent out mid May to early June.

Application Requirements

1. **UNCG Application:** Complete the UNCG Graduate School application online. Instructions are found online under the UNCG Graduate School webpage at <http://www.uncg.edu/grs/>
2. **GRE and TOEFL scores.** You must take the GRE test. If your previous GRE scores are 5 years old or older, you will have to take the GRE again. The GRE is available in local testing centers in computer format (paperless). You get your score immediately.
 - a. **OUR REQUIREMENTS:** New GRE scores system is now used at UNCG. Verbal score: Minimum of 146; Combined score: Minimum of 286. We strongly recommend a combined score of 286 or more.
 - b. If you are a foreign student and English is not your first language, you must take the TOEFL test. Minimum scores are found online at the UNCG Graduate School website.
3. **Transcripts** showing your bachelors and masters work. Remember the CSD PhD is a post-masters degree program. We also accept audiology students with an AuD degree.
4. **3 letters of recommendation.**
5. **Sample of your writing.** This can be something you wrote during your masters program, an article (research) you have published, or something you have written for your professional practice.
6. **Interview** with CSD Faculty member: The purpose of the interview is to match up prospective students with potential faculty mentors/sponsors. Each doctoral student will have a CSD faculty mentor/sponsor who has some expertise in area of study.
7. Applications are due to the UNCG Graduate School by Feb 1.



Full Time vs. Part Time Approaches

One unique feature of the UNCG CSD PhD program is that we allow students a part-time study option. We realize some of our students have to work and have families to support. So this is one reason this new PhD degree was created, to allow students to work part-time while working

towards their PhD. Students taking 9-12 hours per term and summer courses can finish their degree in approximately 3-4 years. We call these students “full time approach”. It is important to understand that the Graduate School considers “full time

status” as taking 6 hours (2 classes) or more per term as full time. For our UNCG CSD PhD program, full time approach means students are going to school FULL TIME (ie not working) and taking 3-4 classes per term. They are eligible for tuitions waivers (determined each year). Note that tuition waivers are tied to graduate assistantships.



UNCG was founded in 1891 and became coeducation in 1963. The University of North Carolina Greensboro is classified by The Carnegie Foundation as a Research University with High Research Activity. UNCG is located one mile from the center of Greensboro, which is located in the heart of the North Carolina Piedmont Triad. Greensboro is a city with a moderate climate. Situated in the center of the state, we experience all four seasons here. We are about 4 hours from the beach and 2 hours from the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The CSD PhD Program

Course Work: The CSD PhD is 66 hours, 54 hours of coursework and 12 hours dissertation.

CSD doctoral students will be required to take the following courses

- **CSD courses: 18 hours.** These include Advanced Seminars, Independent studies, transfer CSD courses, and CAPCSD summer doctoral courses. Students may take up to 1/3 of their classes in transfer credit. So, students can work with their advisors on the possibility of taking courses at other area institutions (perhaps in a minor area, for example) and transfer those courses in. Note: Doctoral students cannot take an independent study until they have completed 15 hours of credit.
- **“Tools” courses: 21 hours.** These are the “tools” for becoming a member of the Academy. They include courses in teaching, teaching practicum, grant writing, supervision, administration, and yes, statistics! Doctoral students are to take a teaching course their first year and a grant writing course
- **Professional Seminars: 3 hours.** This is a one hour class that is offered every fall. Some “meetings” of this class may be done online, depending on the professor leading the Seminar.
- **Intersecting Disciplines: 12 hours.** Minor area of study. These courses will be in a student’s outside areas of interest. Examples include neuroscience, genetics, education, psychology, aging, etc.
- **Dissertation: 12 hours**
- ☐ **Written and Oral Exams** after course work or when 2/3rd of coursework is completed. Format of the exam is determined by faculty sponsors.

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Finding a UNCG Faculty Sponsor

Part of the admission process for you and for us is determining if we have a UNCG CSD faculty member with expertise in your area of research interest(s). When you first contact us, we will ask you about your area(s) of research interest. Then we will determine if we have someone with that same expertise and research interest who can oversee your research. This match is important, and if we determine we do not have someone in your area of research interest, we will recommend other degree programs to you.

Your UNCG faculty sponsor will work with you in course selection, in helping you create a “Plan of Study, and in setting up your research at UNCG. As a new CSD PhD student, you should meet with your faculty sponsor in the summer prior to beginning your first set of classes. We admit new students in spring, so typically new CSD PhD student begin in the following Fall term. Your UNCG CSD PhD faculty sponsor will also go over all the UNCG Graduate School forms that are completed as you progress through your studies here at UNCG. You will work with your sponsor in setting up a faculty committee as part of your Plan of Study. There is an official Plan of Study Form that must be signed by committee members and submitted to the UNCG Graduate School.

Financial Aid and Student Fees

Tuition waivers and Graduate Assistantships: The CSD Department may have tuition waivers and/or graduate assistantships for fulltime approach doctoral students (see page 3). These waivers are not guaranteed each year, and funding can vary year to year due to the economy. For GA-ships, full time approach students will work about 15-20 hours per week. GA-ship funding runs for fall and spring terms (September to May) and does not extend over summers. Typically we try to fund our doctoral students for 3 years, enough to cover the time they take their coursework and qualifying exams. Amounts for GA ships varies year to year as funds are made available.

Summer Terms: The state of North Carolina doesn’t extend tuition waivers over summer terms. This is a state policy, not a UNCG policy. There are, however, some grants, such as summer assistantships, that can cover summer. Students are encouraged to work with their faculty sponsors in identifying and applying for summer funding if students wish to take classes over the summer.

Other awards: UNCG has some excellent awards and scholarships that all potential doctoral students can apply for. You can learn more about those at the UNCG Grad School website. Students can also go to the ASHA website for additional information on national scholarships.

Fees. Be prepared to pay student fees, even if you get a full tuition waiver. Graduate fees run about \$1600 per year and cover things like library services, information technology (computer), recreation center, student center, health center, etc.

Dissertation Funding: We encourage our CSD PhD students to look for external funding (grant funding) to help support their dissertation project. There may be some School of Health and Human Sciences funding available. There are also research awards from the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Council of Academic Programs CSD (CAPCSD). Foreign student are encouraged to check with your Embassy to determine if your country has funds to support your research here in the US. You and your faculty sponsor can also look for external funding in the area of your research interest.