Language is widely considered one of the most complex and uniquely human brain functions. With training in state-of-the-art research methods like neuroimaging and electrophysiology, you can be poised to make new discoveries regarding how the brain processes language and sound.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Speech and Hearing Science (Auditory and Language Neuroscience)

The auditory and language neuroscience concentration within the PhD program in speech and hearing science trains scholars in basic and applied research in the fields of auditory and language neuroscience. Students develop a strong foundation to conduct impactful neuroscience research related to healthy auditory and language abilities as well as the neural bases of communication disorders.

This program's faculty are in a unique position to provide this integrated training experience because of the program's focus on innovative approaches to the field of speech, language and hearing science; faculty backgrounds include engineering, neuroscience and psychology in addition to world-class expertise in speech-language pathology and auditory neural prosthetics.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Health Solutions
- **Location:** Tempe campus
Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Required Core (2 credit hours)
SHS 701 Scientific Writing and Presentation in Communication Sciences and Disorders I (1)
SHS 702 Scientific Writing and Presentation in Communication Sciences and Disorders II (1)

Concentration (12 credit hours)

Research (21 credit hours)
SHS 792 Research (12)
research methods and statistics (9)

Electives or Additional Research (28 credit hours)

Other Requirements (9 credit hours)
SHS 790 Reading and Conference Professional Seminars (9)
preliminary exam (0)
comprehensive exams (0)

Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)
SHS 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information
The concentration courses focus on issues related to auditory and language neuroscience. These credit hours may be accomplished in regular graduate-level (500+) courses or in special topic seminars and independent studies. The student's program committee guides selection of these courses, which may be focused on a broad base of areas related to auditory and language neuroscience.

Students should see the academic unit for approved concentration courses, professional seminars for SHS 790, research and electives. Other research and electives courses may be used with approval of the academic unit.

The preliminary exam research project is to be in the field of auditory or language neuroscience, or in both. Each student will give a formal presentation of their prospectus to their program committee. The defense for the preliminary exam research project includes a written document of the research project and an oral defense.

The comprehensive exams entail a written examination and an oral examination. The written exam takes one of the following formats: students write responses to questions posed by each committee member or students complete a written paper for each member of the committee.
For the proposed concentration, at least two of the three questions (or, topics for the written papers) posed by the committee members must be focused in the area of auditory or language neuroscience, or in both. The comprehensive examination committee evaluates the written paper and the oral defense during a closed meeting with the student.

When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program allows 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree to be used for this degree. If students do not have a previously awarded master's degree, the 30 credit hours of coursework is to be made up of electives and research.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Health Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's degree in a related field and do not wish to earn a clinical master's degree, or if they have earned a master's degree or equivalent in speech and hearing science, psychology, linguistics or a related discipline from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate study
3. application cover letter and personal statement
4. GRE scores
5. three letters of recommendation
6. resume or curriculum vitae
7. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.
Typically, applicants will have completed a master's or AuD degree or equivalent in speech and hearing science, psychology, linguistics or a related discipline. Applicants with a bachelor's degree in speech and hearing science, psychology, engineering or another related field, strong research interests, and a strong academic record also are considered.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines.

Professional letters of recommendation must be from three individuals who are familiar with the applicant’s academic record and should contain contact information for the recommenders.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

**Contact Information**

[College of Health Solutions](mailto:HLTHN 401AA) | CHSGrad@asu.edu | 602-496-3300

[Admission Deadlines](mailto:Admission Deadlines)