HEARING AND SPEECH SCIENCES

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

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The focus of the Undergraduate Program in Hearing and Speech Science is to prepare students for graduate study by providing the foundation courses needed to continue their education in either speech-language pathology or audiology. These courses include basic sciences, anatomy and physiology, math, statistics, as well as courses specific to the study of human communication.

Programs

Major

Minor

Advising

Due to the small size of our department and the need to take courses in a specific order, advising for HESP undergraduate majors is MANDATORY prior to registration each semester. Students will be notified by e-mail of their registration date or they may check their registration status by going to Testudo (https://www.testudo.umd.edu) and clicking on "Appointment and Registration Status". Students should schedule an advising meeting no sooner than one week prior to their registration date, as this prevents students from having to return for another appointment due to closed classes. Advising appointments may be made by going to https://hespadvisingcalendar.umd.edu/. Advising is always available to students regarding academic and major choices, career planning, and/or academic concerns.

Opportunities

Undergraduate Research Experience:

Undergraduate research experience is invaluable for students in the Hearing and Speech Sciences Department. Direct interaction with a faculty member and participation in a research lab enhances the undergraduate educational experience. Students are encouraged to become involved by exploring research topics listed by faculty members on the HESP website (https://hesp.umd.edu/undergraduate/how-get-involved/#id_research). Students may work with faculty members on a one-to-one basis as a volunteer research assistant or receive credit for their experience. The number of credits that a student may earn is determined by the faculty researcher. Typically the student is expected to work 3 hours for each credit received in a semester. Unless the student is involved in true independent research, they should enroll in HESP499 with the Pass/Fail grade option. Please note that individual professors may have special requirements for participation in the program. You will need to contact the professor that you wish to work with before enrolling in HESP499 to obtain their permission and their individual section number needed to register. The University limit for 499 credits is six.

Internships

Internships (even if they are not directly related to Hearing and Speech) are an excellent way to obtain experience in the workplace. Although internships are not a requirement of the HESP curriculum, students are encouraged to explore related experiences through the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Internship program. Information about these opportunities can be found on the BSOS website. (https://bsosundergrad.umd.edu/engagement/internships)

THE HESP Honors Program

The objective of the HESP Honors program is to encourage and recognize superior academic achievement and scholarship by providing opportunities for interested, capable, and energetic undergraduates to engage in independent study. A research project will be conducted under the supervision of a faculty mentor and will result in an Honors thesis. Students DO NOT have to be part of the University Honors Program to participate in the departmental program. Additional information as well as eligibility and application requirements, can be found on the HESP website (https://hesp.umd.edu/undergraduate/honors-hearing-and-speech-sciences-undergraduate-students).

Student Societies and Professional Organizations

There are two organizations that hearing and speech science majors are invited to join. They are the University of Maryland's Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language and Hearing Association (https://www.nsslha.org) (NSSLHA) and the Student Academy of Audiology (https://www.saa.audiology.org) (SAA). Both organizations are involved in fund raising, sponsoring educational speakers and participating in community service activities. Students can obtain leadership skills by serving as an officer in either organization.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

The Office of Student Financial Aid (https://financialaid.umd.edu) (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. Although there is no financial support for undergraduates provided by the department, there is an endowed scholarship that students who are interested in pursuing graduate study in Audiology, may apply for in their junior year. See information about the Karin E. Young Award (https://hesp.umd.edu/undergraduate/karin-e-young-memorial-endowment-award).

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DEPARTMENTAL FACILITIES

The Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences offers students numerous opportunities to interact with faculty in teaching, research and clinical experiences. Faculty welcome the participation of undergraduates in their research laboratories. The Hearing and Speech Clinic (http://hespclinic.umd.edu) as well as the Language Learning Early
Advantage Program (LEAP preschool (http://hespclinic.umd.edu/leap-preschool.html)) in Lefrak Hall provide students the opportunity to see the interaction between clinical and research efforts.