Master’s in Education of the Deaf (MDE)

OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEARING AND SPEECH SCIENCES
VANDERBILT BILL WILKERSON CENTER
FOR OTOLARYNGOLOGY
AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCES

mc.vanderbilt.edu/graduatestudies
vanderbiltbillwilkersoncenter.com
The Vanderbilt University Graduate Program in Hearing and Speech Sciences was established in 1951. It is the largest graduate program in the School of Medicine and one of the largest graduate programs at Vanderbilt University. Our Master’s in Education of the Deaf degree is known for its unique approach with hands-on professional development.

**Degree Program**

The Vanderbilt Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences offers a Master's in Education of the Deaf degree (MDE), which prepares students to become teachers of children with hearing loss. The one to two year program emphasizes the training needed to develop spoken language and auditory skills for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The MDE program stresses an interdisciplinary, family-centered educational approach. This unique approach to teacher training integrates the disciplines of audiology, speech-language pathology, and deaf education. Several special education courses are offered through the Department of Special Education on the Vanderbilt University Peabody campus. The program’s physical location within the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center provides students with easy access to all of the resources offered by the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences and the Department of Otolaryngology, and includes resources offered within the National Center for Childhood Deafness and Family Communication (NCCDFC), the Preschool for Children with Autism, the Vanderbilt Cochlear Implant Program, Newborn Hearing Screening Program, and research laboratories focusing on childhood hearing loss.

**National Center for Childhood Deafness and Family Communication**

Vanderbilt students have the opportunity for professional development through the Mama Lere Hearing School at Vanderbilt in the NCCDFC. This auditory oral school for children who are deaf or hard of hearing is known for its outstanding work in the areas of speech development, auditory training, cochlear implant habilitation, and language and reading.

Students in the MDE program also participate in both urban and rural practicum placements (e.g., itinerant, self-contained, resource, and mainstream classrooms) in the greater Nashville area. Off-campus practicum placements provide a variety of rich experiences with children using spoken language and/or sign language.
Admissions and Application

All applicants to the MDE program at Vanderbilt University must have an undergraduate degree in education of the deaf, special education, early childhood education or general education and must have teacher certification. The program will be one year in length (three semesters including summer plus Maymester) for those coming in with a background in deaf education and two years (five semesters including summer plus Maymester) for those without background.

MDE students in the two year program who arrive without a background in deaf education can receive an endorsement in Special Education Hearing PreK-12, an addition to their initial license.

Online Application

The MDE Program at Vanderbilt University has been developed for full-time residential students only. Applications are accepted only for fall enrollment, with the deadline for fall semester applications being January 15.

MDE applicants may apply for the MDE degree online by going to the School of Medicine’s website at: apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please email the Department of Hearing and Speech Science’s Education Specialist, Penny Welch at penny.welch@vanderbilt.edu.

Financial Aid

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine supports a financial aid department that is committed to assisting students with financial aid and loans. For additional information log onto the Department of Financial Aid’s website at: vanderbilt.edu/financialaid/

Phone: 615-322-2145
E-mail: medfinaid@vanderbilt.edu

On-campus Visits

On-campus visits for prospective MDE students are scheduled by appointment on Monday and Friday mornings. These take approximately 3 hours, depending on the applicant’s interests and the availability of faculty, staff and students. To arrange a visit, please email our Department Education Assistant, Kevin Smith, at kevin.smith.1@vanderbilt.edu.

Director of the Vanderbilt Master’s in Education of the Deaf (MDE) Program:

Lynn Hayes, Ed.D.
Associate Professor
lynn.hayes@vanderbilt.edu
This program involves interdisciplinary Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences Faculty

REÑÉ GIFFORD, Ph.D., Professor
LYNN HAYES, Ed.D., Associate Professor
DANA KAN, Ph.D., NBCT, Assistant Professor
ERIN PICOU, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor
C. MELANIE SCHUELE, Ph.D., Associate Professor
ANNE MARIE THARPE, Ph.D., Professor and Chair
SAMPLE TWO YEAR CURRICULUM

YEAR 1 (FALL)
Teaching Children with Hearing Loss to Listen & Speak (Development)
Introduction to Amplification for Infants & Children
Child Language Acquisition
Student Teaching & Field Experience
American Sign Language I

YEAR 1 (SPRING)
Educational Assessment for Children with Hearing Loss
Curriculum & Methods for Deaf Children
Psychology & Culture of the Deaf
Aural Rehabilitation for Infants & Children
Student Teaching & Field Experience
American Sign Language II

YEAR 1 (SUMMER)
Educational Programming and Service Delivery for Children with Hearing Loss
Language and Literacy in Deaf Children
Children with Hearing Loss & Multiple Disabilities
Internship/Externship in Deaf Education
Student Teaching & Field Experience

YEAR 2 (FALL)
Research Methods
Advanced Issues in Family Intervention
Management Procedures for Academic & Social Behavior
Early Childhood Special Education
Student Teaching & Field Experience

YEAR 2 (SPRING)
Seminar in Deaf Education
Cochlear Implants for Children
Speech & Language: The Exceptional Learner
Student Teaching & Field Experience

SAMPLE ONE YEAR CURRICULUM

YEAR 1 (FALL)
Articulation Disorders & Phonetics
Advanced Issues in Family Intervention
Teaching Infants and Children with Hearing Loss to Listen & Speak
Introduction to Amplification for Infants & Children
Student Teaching & Field Experience

YEAR 1 (SPRING)
Aural Rehabilitation for Infants & Children
Educational Assessment for Children with Hearing Loss
Curriculum & Methods for Deaf Children
Cochlear Implants for Infants & Children
Research Methods in Special Education
Student Teaching & Field Experience

YEAR 1 (SUMMER)
Children with Hearing Loss & Additional Disabilities
Language and Literacy in Deaf Children
Internship/Externship in Deaf Education
Student Teaching & Field Experience