Our Research Faculty

DANIEL H. ASHEADE, Ph.D., Professor
FRED H. BRSS, Ph.D., Professor
JIM BODFISH, Ph.D., Professor
STEPHEN M. CAMARATA, Ph.D., Professor
MICHAEL DE RIESTHAL, Ph.D., Associate Professor
MELISSA DUFF, Ph.D., Associate Professor
RENEE GIFFORD, Ph.D., Professor
TROY A. HACKETT, Ph.D., Professor
LINDA J. HOOD, Ph.D., Professor
BENJAMIN HORNBY, Ph.D., Associate Professor
GARY JACOBSON, Ph.D., Professor
ROBIN JONES, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
SASHA KEY, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor
ANTJE MEFFERD, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
ERIN PICOU, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor
RAMNARAYAN RAMACHANDRAN, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
TODD A. RICKETTS, Ph.D., Professor, Director of Graduate Studies
RICHARD ROBERTS, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
C. MELANIE SCHELLE, Ph.D., Associate Professor
ANNE MARIE THARP, Ph.D., Professor and Chair
MARK T. WALLACE, Ph.D., Professor
STEPHEN WILSON, Ph.D., Associate Professor
 TIFFANY WOYNAROWSKI, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
HATUN ZENGIN-BOLATKALE, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor
Degree Program

The Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center offers Ph.D. students one of the finest research facilities in the world. It contains educational and research space specifically designed to accommodate the Ph.D. program, with more than 20,000 square feet dedicated to graduate studies in communication disorders. The facility also houses service delivery programs for audiology, speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, deaf education, swallowing and feeding programs, and otolaryngology.

The program emphasizes preparation for research and teaching careers in communication sciences and disorders. Prior to the dissertation, students complete two research projects, a teaching practicum and approximately two years of coursework both inside and outside the department, tailored to individual needs and interests. The Ph.D. degree normally requires 72 graduate credit hours. A maximum of 24 semester hours of graduate-level transfer credit can be applied toward the degree.

Admissions and Application

Students with backgrounds in such areas as communication disorders, deaf education, biomedical sciences, psychology, psycholinguistics, and neuroscience are encouraged to apply.

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the Ph.D. degree program can be accessed through the department’s webpage. All applicants are encouraged to contact Melissa Duff, Associate Professor, at Melissa.c.duff@vanderbilt.edu.

Online Application

The Ph.D. program has been developed for full-time residential students only. Applications are accepted only for fall enrollment (classes beginning in late August), with the deadline for fall semester applications being January 15. Ph.D. applicants can apply online by going to Vanderbilt’s Graduate School program website.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences invites, as our guests, a limited number of Ph.D. applicants to Nashville for a two-day program designed to provide a more intimate visit with current faculty and students. To arrange a visit, please email our Program Manager, Christelle Luchsinger at christelle.luchsinger@vanderbilt.edu.

Financial Aid

The Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences provides tuition and stipend to all accepted Ph.D. students. In addition, Vanderbilt University’s financial aid office assists students with financial aid and loans. For additional information log onto the Department of Financial Aid’s website.

On-campus Visits

On-campus visits for prospective Ph.D. 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. In addition to individual campus visits, the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences invites, as our guests, a limited number of Ph.D. applicants to Nashville for a two-day program designed to provide a more intimate visit with current faculty and students. To arrange a visit, please email our Program Manager, Christelle Luchsinger at christelle.luchsinger@vanderbilt.edu.