

Minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences: Departmental Honors Guidelines

For students pursuing a minor degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences, the Departmental Honors Program offers the opportunity to develop research and communication skills in preparation for a graduate or professional career.

Requirements for Departmental Honors in Speech and Hearing Sciences

To receive departmental honors in Speech and Hearing Sciences a student, by their final semester, must:

- complete all requirements for their major and the SHS minor degree,
- complete ST 305 or ST 310 (can be instead of or in addition to ST 210),
- successfully complete a senior honors thesis (including a minimum of 2 sections of SHS 499),
- have at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA (all courses),
- and must have at least a 3.5 GPA in all Speech and Hearing Sciences minor coursework.

Senior Honors Thesis

Purpose. The Senior Honors thesis is an independent research project. It is designed to give qualified undergraduates an opportunity to experience all aspects of conducting research such as designing a study, reviewing the literature, collecting data, performing statistical analyses, and writing a research paper. It is also hoped that this process will allow undergraduates who are considering an advanced degree to develop stronger and more individualized relationships with several faculty mentors while they are enhancing their knowledge in a focused area within Speech and Hearing Sciences. It is expected that students who complete the requirements for Departmental Honors, including the thesis project, will receive a special designation on their degree (i.e., Speech and Hearing Sciences with Honors). It is also hoped that this process will enhance the likelihood that USA Speech and Hearing Sciences majors will be accepted into advanced degree programs.

Qualifications

To register for SHS 499, Senior Honors Thesis, students must meet the following qualifications:

- must be minoring in Speech and Hearing Sciences,
- must, at the time of registration, have a cumulative and Speech and Hearing Sciences minor GPA of 3.5 or better (requests for exceptions to this requirement must be submitted in writing to the departmental chair), and
- must have completed or be concurrently enrolled in ST 305 or ST 310.

A student must complete at least two sections of SHS 499 for a minimum of 6 semester hours, but may receive credit for up to 9 semester hours. Applicants need not be previous or current members of the Honors College.

Thesis Process. The student will be guided by a thesis committee consisting of at least two faculty members. One faculty member is the thesis chair and will supervise the research project. The student should expect to meet frequently with the thesis chair. The second faculty member is an outside reader. The committee will meet at least twice, once to review and approve the thesis proposal and a second time to review and approve the completed thesis. The student will make an oral presentation of the project at both meetings. The first to present the thesis proposal and the second to defend the completed thesis project.

The student can expect to make multiple revisions to the thesis document. The student is expected to allow the second reader at least one full week to review the document prior to the thesis defense date. This process works best when the student begins to design and implement the honors project early in his/her junior year (or even before). After approval, a final copy of the thesis with appendices will be retained in the department.