Our Research Faculty

FRED H. BESS, Ph.D., Professor
JIM BODFISH, Ph.D., Professor, Vice Chair, Research
STEPHEN M. CAMARATA, Ph.D., Professor
MICHAEL DE RIESTHAL, Ph.D., Associate Professor
MELISSA DUFF, Ph.D., Associate Professor
RENÉ 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, Vice Chair, Graduate Studies
RICHARD ROBERTS, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Vice Chair, Clinical Operations
C. MELANIE SCHUELE, 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

Ph.D. in Hearing and Speech Sciences

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

medschool.vanderbilt.edu/hearing-speech/
vanderbiltbillwilkersoncenter.com

Vanderbilt University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status in any student program or activity administered by the University or with regard to admission or employment.

Questions regarding Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 should be referred to the Office of Compliance, 4600 Village at Vanderbilt, 1500 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212. Phone (615) 343-7206, Fax (615) 343-9138.

2019
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.

Typically, students enroll in 48 credit hours during the first two years of the program. After the first two years of study and successful completion of the written and oral comprehensive examinations, students are admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. The remainder of the program is devoted to approval of the dissertation prospectus and completion of the dissertation research.

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 Science’s Program Manager, Christelle Luchsinger at 615-322-5003 or 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

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. If you wish to visit the department, please email the Director of the Ph.D. program directly:

Dr. Melissa Duff, Associate Professor
Melissa.c.duff@vanderbilt.edu