

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 HORNSBY, 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 THARPE, Ph.D., Professor and Chair

MARK T. WALLACE, Ph.D., Professor

STEPHEN WILSON, Ph.D., Associate Professor

TIFFANY WOYNAROWSKI, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

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, 3100 Village at Vanderbilt, 1500 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212. Phone (615) 343-7266, Fax (615) 343-9138.

VANDERBILT  School of Medicine

Hearing and Speech Sciences

Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
1215 21st Avenue South, Suite 8310
Nashville, TN 37232-8342

615.936.5104

VANDERBILT  School of Medicine

Hearing and Speech Sciences



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](https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/hearing-speech/vanderbiltbillwilkersoncenter.com)

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.

Ph.D. training is integrated with the sponsored research programs of faculty members. The aim of the program is to prepare students to become teacher-scholars within basic or applied areas related to communication sciences and disorders.

Individuals considering applying for the Ph.D. are strongly encouraged to contact a department faculty member in their area of interest before applying. This allows the Ph.D. applicant and faculty member to discuss that faculty member's interest in becoming a mentor for the student. To determine faculty interest areas, please access our current webpage.

In addition to the broad scope of research conducted within the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences, faculty maintain close ties with other departments on Vanderbilt's campus, including Otolaryngology, Psychology, Psychology and Human Development, Neuroscience, Computer Science, Engineering, and Special Education. Faculty from these departments are frequently members of doctoral students' dissertation committees.

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 615-936-5103 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

