

# 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](http://mc.vanderbilt.edu/graduatestudies)  
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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



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/](https://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](mailto: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/](https://vanderbilt.edu/financialaid/)**

Phone: 615-322-2145

E-mail: [medfinaid@vanderbilt.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lynn.hayes@vanderbilt.edu)

## **This program involves interdisciplinary Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences Faculty**

**RENÉ 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

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# Sample Curriculum

## 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



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

615.936.5104

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