



PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders Program

Letter of Intent Instructions

Instructions: Respond to **ALL writing prompts and questions**. Save your application as a PDF and upload to the [UNM graduate application site](#)

- 1) *PhD program mission statement:* The University of New Mexico's doctoral program in Communication Sciences and Disorders is an individualized, mentor-based program. Our program is designed to develop researchers and scholars, including those interested in clinical practice research as well as the scholarship of teaching and learning. Areas of specialization include communication and swallowing sciences and disorders, and related areas of faculty expertise. Students in our program are exposed to a broad range of research methodologies (including both qualitative and quantitative methods) with in-depth study within each student's area of specialization, enhanced by campus-wide interdisciplinary grounding and training. Our graduates will be leaders in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders, thoroughly prepared for employment in the academic and professional fields of the future. The University of New Mexico, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, offers a unique multicultural and multilingual research environment.

With our mission in mind, describe

- a. Why you would like to obtain a PhD,
 - b. Why you are more specifically interested in UNM's PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and
 - c. How your strengths, goals, and prior experiences will help you succeed in the program. Be sure to include a discussion of any past research experiences. You may also indicate how any special circumstances, challenges, or life experiences (including social, economic, cultural, familial, educational, or other) have impacted you. **2 pages maximum** (single spaced; Times New Roman or Calibri 12 point font). Additional assistance for writing letters of intent can be found [here](#).
- 2) The mission of UNM's Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences is to serve the unique needs of the state of New Mexico by increasing the participation of culturally diverse populations in our disciplines, preparing our students to be leaders in a multicultural and multilingual society, and collaborating with other disciplines. Our department respects and values all individuals across race, culture, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, and medical/cognitive/physical challenges.

Please explain (a) how you demonstrate cultural competence/humility (such as awareness of one's own cultural worldview, attitudes toward cultural differences, knowledge of different cultural practices and worldviews, and cross-cultural skills, and (b) how you would advocate (or have already advocated) for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in the field of communication sciences and disorders. **2 paragraphs/1 page maximum** (single spaced; Times New Roman or Calibri 12 point font) .

- 3) The PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders is a mentor-based program. Please indicate your preference for a primary mentor, and summarize the conversations you've had with your proposed [mentor](#) to date. Be sure to include a description of why you think this particular mentor aligns well with your PhD goals.
- 4) List any languages you speak in addition to English and describe your level of proficiency
- 5) Are you a first-generation college student, qualified for a Pell Grant as an undergraduate, or are from a historically underrepresented group in our discipline including Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latinx, LGBTQIA, Native American, or a person with a learning/communication difference?

YES NO I Prefer not to say