If you are looking for a career that blends science with the ability to help others, then Communicative Disorders is a great program to consider. Communicative Disorders is offered as an undergraduate, as well as a graduate program, at River Falls. Now is an excellent time to enroll in this program, as there is a national shortage which creates a high demand for Communicative Disorders graduates. To be employed in the field, students should expect to earn a minimum of a master’s degree.

Communicative Disorders graduates enter their careers as speech/language pathologists and audiologists. Employment is available in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers, government agencies, early childhood centers and in the sales industry.

At River Falls, Communicative Disorders students learn fundamentals of human communication. Courses cover psychological, neurological, linguistic and cultural studies, just to name a few. Students can expect to take such courses as anatomy and physiology, as well as options such as American Sign Language (ASL).

Field Experience
Communicative Disorders students have access to fantastic opportunities to gain field experience in their major at River Falls. Students can observe therapy services at rural, suburban and urban schools within 30 miles of our campus. A speech-language and hearing clinic is also located at UW-River Falls. Undergraduate students are paired with graduate students to collect data at the clinic and assist in therapy and evaluation sessions with clients. Interested in studying abroad while in college? The Communicative Disorders staff will help facilitate observation sites internationally as well.

Students will gain critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the Communicative Disorders program. Expect interactive classrooms and the ability to work closely with faculty. There are many opportunities for undergraduate research as well through work in the aphasia, augmentative communication, speech science, electrophysiology and hearing aid labs.

Get Involved
Students connect with their Communicative Disorders peers through the campus National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) chapter. The club regularly attends the state conference in the field. The URF NSSLHA chapter also includes service work with organizations such as the Special Olympics and Turning Point, a domestic violence shelter in River Falls.

Both undergraduate and graduate Communicative Disorders students gain field experience at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic, located right on campus. Clients travel from throughout the St. Croix Valley for observation and therapy at the clinic, which was established in 1963.

The clinic is located in the Wyman Education Building on campus. Approximately 50 individuals attend the clinic each week. Client experiences may range; including multiple sclerosis, stroke, traumatic brain injury, cleft palate and autism. Services are offered in the following areas: articulation/phonology, accent reduction, stuttering, voice, language, hearing, feeding and swallowing, cognitive and social aspects, as well as augmentative/alternative communication.

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