

Program: Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (5-year program)**Department: Special Education Language and Literacy**

Faculty: Chairpersons: Anthony (Co-Chair), Bwire (Co-Chair), Del Nero, Foxworth, Hall, Lopes-Murphy, Monaco, Pancsofar, Peel, Petroff, Phillips, Rao, Singer, Smith L., Smith M., Wu.

About the Department:

[The Department of Special Education, Language, and Literacy](#) aims to build the right foundation to teach diverse learners, whether students are aspiring or experienced teachers. All programs—at the undergraduate, graduate, and certificate levels—provide students with a specialized repertoire of skills and strategies to teach in their area of choice: special education, deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, reading, and English as a second language. The department has a major in Speech Pathology and Audiology for students who intend to pursue graduate study in that area at another institution, as well as graduate courses in English as a Second Language, leading to an K-12 ESL certification or masters. Upon completion of their program, students are eligible for K-6 Elementary certification and K-12 Teacher of Students with Disabilities or Teacher of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Degrees & Certificates Awarded

Undergraduate Degrees and Minors

- [Speech Pathology and Audiology Major](#)
- [Speech Pathology and Audiology Minor](#)
- [Deaf Studies Minor](#)

Upon completion of the graduate portion, typically one additional year (summer, fall and spring semester), students earn the following:

Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs

- [Special Education](#)
- [Teaching English as a Second Language](#)
- [Teacher of the Blind/Visually Impaired](#)

Five-Year Programs

- Early Childhood Deaf Education (P-3)
- [Early Childhood Special Education \(P-3\)](#)
- [Education of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing \(K-6\)](#)
- [Special Education \(K-6\)](#)

The integrated Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree in [Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)/Elementary Education is designed for students who have completed high school and are first-time college students and for transfer students from community colleges or four-year programs who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree. The program is based on the School of Education's conceptual framework for preparing exemplary professionals, as well as the requirements of the State of New Jersey for licensure as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, and as an elementary school teacher, K-6.

At the undergraduate level students have a dual major; one of the following liberal arts or sciences majors is a second major to complement the first major in education of the deaf and hard of hearing: art; English; mathematics; history; biology; Spanish; music; psychology; sociology; women's, gender, & sexuality studies; or iSTEM. Students with senior status (24 earned course units) and a GPA of 3.0 or higher may take a maximum of three graduate level courses. These graduate courses do not count toward the BS degree but will be counted toward the MAT. Students are eligible for a bachelor's degree without teacher certification upon completing all requirements of The College of New Jersey, of the School of Education, and of each of their majors. To be admitted into the graduate portion of the program, students must have earned the BS degree, met basic skills requirements outlined by the state of New Jersey, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The full-time graduate course of study begins in the semester following the award of the BS degree, continues into the following academic year, and requires enrollment in Summer coursework. The graduate program culminates with the student earning a master's degree and eligibility for certifications as Teacher of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing Oral/Aural, Teacher of the Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing Sign Language Communication, and Elementary School Teacher in Grades K -6.

Any student seeking additional endorsements or teaching certificates beyond what is specifically awarded by their academic program should contact the State of New Jersey Department of Education directly for details about any additional courses or standardized tests that may be required.

Program Requirements:

Potential future change for candidates beginning the program 2025-26 will be forthcoming. Typical completion timelines are about 4-5 years.

- Students must complete the College Core requirements as defined by The College of New Jersey. This includes a course in US history; a course in children's literature; a course in music, art or theatre; MAT 105 or MAT 106, and a lab science. Students must complete a second major from the list provided above.

- Students must complete the following coursework at the undergraduate level: DHH 105, DHH 303, DHH 350, DHH 423, MST 202, MTT 202, RAL 220, RAL 225 or WGS 225 or ECE 102, SLP 102, SLP 304, SPE 203, RAL 320.
- All Deaf Education majors are required to show proficiency in American Sign Language (ASL). Satisfactory evidence of proficiency is completion of the 103 level of language study (equivalent to three semesters). Students who are beginning the study of American Sign Language as a new world language should enroll at the 101 level. All Deaf Education majors who are continuing the study of ASL based on courses taken at another institution must take the TCNJ ASL Placement Test for placement in the appropriate course level. Native users of ASL must also take the placement test. The TCNJ ASL Placement Test is an in-person interview which requires that an appointment be made for the test. Appointments can be made by emailing mphillip@tcnj.edu
- Students must complete the following coursework at the graduate level in order to be eligible for teacher certification: DFHH 522, DFHH 530, SPED 535, DFHH 690, ELEM 695, EDUC 513, EDUC 614, RDLG 579, ELEM 520, and an approved course in English as a Second Language. The Deaf Education program does not double count graduate courses toward both a TCNJ undergraduate degree and a TCNJ graduate degree. See [Graduate Bulletin](#) for further information.
- Prior to placement in a field experience, students must:
 - Demonstrate basic skills competency prior to applying for Clinical I must attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
 - Earn a minimum grade of B- in clinical internship
 - Complete Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Prevention (HIB) training in accordance with NJ Bill No. 3466
 - Complete Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) prior to student teaching or required to obtain a New Jersey Department of Education criminal background check before participating in any field experiences
- Students must complete a minimum of 32 undergraduate course units while fulfilling all requirements of both majors and of the College Core program to be eligible for the BS degree. Graduate courses completed during the undergraduate course of study do not apply toward the BS degree.

In compliance with the State of New Jersey's regulations, a student must have:

- Earned a grade of "B-" or higher in RAL 220
- A grade point average of 3.0 prior to enrolling in DHH 423
- Earned a grade of "B" or higher in DHH 423
- Demonstrate overall satisfactory performance on the Teaching Performance Assessment in DHH 423. This means that no concerns have been identified in the student's teaching performance by the instructor, field supervisor, or cooperating teacher.
- Students must evidence satisfactory performance in the Educators Disposition Assessment administered in RAL 220, RAL 320, DHH 105, DHH 350, DHH 423, DFHH 690, ELEM 695. Student dispositions are also assessed

throughout the program and will be used as a criterion for admission and retention in the program. It is expected that dispositional standards, particularly in the area of professionalism, should be upheld by students throughout the program, both within and outside of their coursework and in accordance with the TCNJ Student Conduct Code

- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher prior to being admitted to the graduate portion of the program.

In order to be eligible to request permission to take more than 4.5 course units, a student must have completed 8 course units at TCNJ (4 course units for transfer students) and have at least a 3.3 GPA.

- During the senior year, students may enroll in a maximum of 3 graduate level courses if they have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Students must repeat a required departmental course in which a grade of D or F has been received. Such a course may be repeated only once.
- Students unable to meet State or departmental criteria as noted in the College Bulletin will be dismissed from the program. Dismissal will be made at the end of a Fall or Spring semester.

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for the five-year program in the education of the deaf or hard of hearing. Minimum grades are noted in parentheses.

- Retention in the program is based on the following academic performance standards in these “critical content courses”: ASL 101 (B), ASL 102 (C), ASL 103 (C), DHH 105 (B), DHH 303 (B), DHH 350 (C), DHH 423 (B), RAL 220 (B-), MST 202 (B-), and MTT 202 (B-). Students must also receive at least a C in all breadth distribution courses in Visual and Performing Arts, U.S. History, and Lab Science. Also see the retention requirements for individual majors in the Schools of the Arts and Communications; Humanities and Social Sciences; Engineering; and Science.
- Retention in the program requires that students demonstrate satisfactory performance on the School of Education’s assessment of Teaching Performance as measured in RAL 220, DHH 350, and DHH 423.
- Retention in the program requires that students demonstrate satisfactory performance on the School of Education’s assessment of Educators Disposition Assessment administered in RAL 220, RAL 320, DHH 105, DHH 350, DHH 423, DFHH 690, and ELEM 695. It is expected that dispositional standards, particularly in the area of professionalism, should be upheld by students throughout the program, both within and outside of their coursework and in accordance with the TCNJ Student Conduct Code. The candidate must be rated as proficient or higher in all of the dispositional criteria.

- Transfer into the program from another program within the College is based upon the following performance standards in foundation courses such as FYS (B).
- In order to take MTT 202, students must earn a minimum grade of C- in MAT 105 or 106.
- Graduation requires completion of all courses and requirements in the deaf education major; completion of all courses and meeting all standards in the second major; fulfilling all College Core requirements; and the completion of a minimum of 32 undergraduate course units.
- At the end of their 4th year, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for admission to graduate study at TCNJ. Additionally, in order to take graduate level classes during the fourth year, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Minimum grade of "B" or higher in all graduate level courses.

The Department of Special Education, Language and Literacy maintains the right and has the responsibility to dismiss students from the major who have not made satisfactory progress completing the major components of the program which includes successful ratings on the Teaching Performance Assessment and the Educator Dispositions Assessment as well as fulfilling all other department requirements or expectations.

Transfer Student Standards

The program is sequential in nature and structured with courses offered only during certain semesters. Potential students are advised that this may prolong their programs. Continued advisement is essential to timely program completion.