

## **SPOL Program Description**

The Program offers the Master of Science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and is nationally accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). AAMU is one of only eight Historically Black Institutions which offers a nationally accredited program in speech-language pathology.

The field of Speech-Language Pathology involves the identification, assessment and treatment of a wide variety of communication disorders (congenital, developmental, and acquired) in both children and adults. Such disorders may include phonological (articulation), language, voice, fluency (stuttering) and hearing problems. Speech-Language Pathologists also participate in the assessment and management of clients with swallowing difficulties. Speech-Language Pathologists work in a variety of locations including hospital, community health centers, schools, universities, other special institutions, and in private practice.

The wide varieties of disorders and treatment approaches pertinent to our field require a working knowledge of neuroanatomy, behavioral science, speech/language development, effective teaching strategies, methods for motivating people, and excellent communication skills. Therapists with a bachelor's degree can perform important duties in some settings, but a master's degree is essential for achieving professional independence, and some duties demand a doctoral degree.

This degree program contains both academic and clinical components. It is a two year program if students have an undergraduate degree in CSD, and a three year program if the undergraduate degree is in another area.

Our graduate students and senior level undergraduate students gain experiences providing speech and hearing services in the campus-based AAMU Speech and Hearing Clinic and in externship sites across the state. The AAMU Clinic is a teaching clinic and has been serving the public since the late 1960s. Students complete a minimum of 400 clinical clock hours supervised by ASHA certified, Alabama licensed faculty members and external supervisors. Our clinic serves clients of all ages from within the community as well as the University campus.