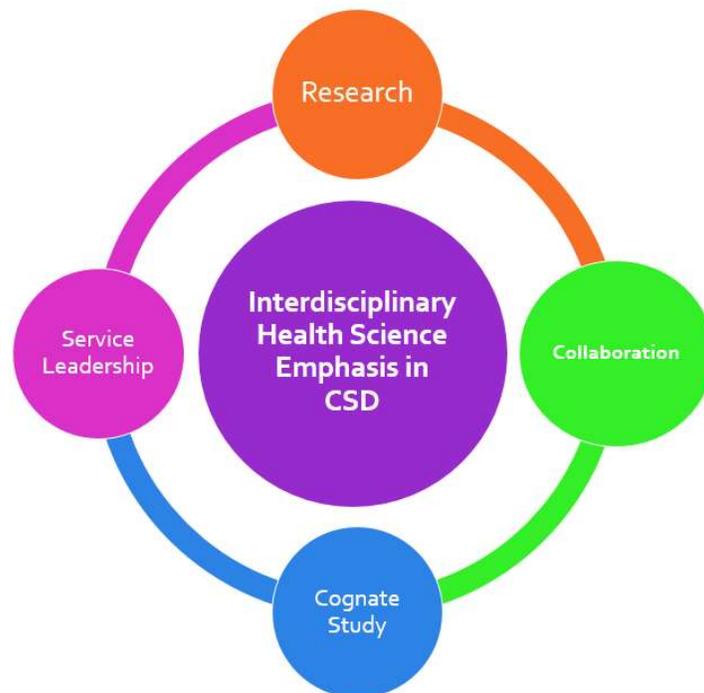


# Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (IHS) Emphasis

## Elmhurst University Graduate Program

### Communication Sciences and Disorders

Speech – Language Pathologists interact on a daily basis with a wide range of other professionals, from occupational therapists and physical therapists, to nurses and others in the allied health professions. The interdisciplinary health emphasis is designed for students whose special interests and background drives their desire to integrate their knowledge base in communication sciences and disorders with related health fields, arriving at novel and innovative solutions to challenges faced in rehabilitation medicine. The emphasis is designed for students who wish to align their preparation with potential future leadership roles in health service fields, and so desire to develop the necessary research, collaboration, clinical, and service leadership skills. The IHS emphasis is thus an enhancement and extension designed around the following four components: research, collaboration, cognate study, and service leadership.



## Description and Objectives:

The emphasis will foster student's knowledge and skills in the following four areas:

1. **Research:** Through mentored processes with CSD and other faculty, students will gain practical skills in interdisciplinary research strategies. IHS students will begin meeting with the IHS leadership in the fall of their first year of the program.
2. **Collaboration:** Students will gain firsthand experience in establishing extra-disciplinary collaborative partnerships with others in the rehabilitation and allied health professions, as well as partnerships with community organizations. Collaborative partnerships will be integral to the research, clinical, and service activities of IHS students.
3. **Cognate Study:** Following discussion with their IHS mentor, students will identify an area of specialized cognate study that will inform and facilitate a widening and deepening of knowledge base while integrating that knowledge with traditional areas of study in CSD. Cognate study will be typically achieved through literature readings, as well as consultation from other University faculty, based on the topic of study. Cognate study for credit is not required, although some students may elect to do so.
4. **Service Leadership:** Through mentored processes, students will demonstrate growth in areas of leadership through service. Leadership skills assessment and mentoring will bring students to an increasing understanding of their leadership strengths and style, leading to opportunities for leadership growth. Students will practice service leadership principles and behaviors throughout the course of their master's program, at various points of opportunity including facilitation of support groups, engagement with broader University service initiatives, research presentations, and other service opportunities within the CSD department. Students will be required to complete one service leadership activity per semester and engage in mentoring with their IHS advisor.

## Supporting Coursework

Interdisciplinary and Inter-professional concepts and engagement are emphasized across coursework for all students, however, IHS emphasis students engage in mentored processes that extend the core curriculum and facilitate an in-depth understanding of problem solving in health care settings across traditional disciplinary boundaries. The following courses in particular support the IHS emphasis:

- CSD 507: Research Methods
- CSD 515: Language Disorders in Adults
- CSD 518: Cultural and Linguistic Issues in Communication Sciences and Disorders
- CSD 590/530: Master's Research
- CSD 592: Independent Study in Speech Language Pathology
- Completion of a Master's Thesis or Report is required for all graduate students in CSD. Students pursuing the IHS emphasis will complete their research with a focus on interdisciplinary topics in agreement and collaboration with their faculty mentor as well as extra-departmental faculty consultants.

## Service Leadership Opportunities

- Attend and provide leadership to support groups that meet in the greater Chicagoland area (e.g., laryngectomy support, spasmodic dysphonia support, and others)
- Chicago Aphasia Network (CAN): Provide communication partner support at local coffee chat meetings for aphasia survivors and their families
- Student-Initiated Servant Leadership (SISL): organize and launch your own service event
- Networking: Periodic opportunities to network with other allied health graduate students, and professionals at conference, University events, and research symposia

## Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Emphasis Coordinator

Dr. Laura Froeschke has experience spanning over 25 years in hospital and rehabilitation settings, and so brings a rich background of interdisciplinary experience to Elmhurst University. Dr. Froeschke earned her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences in 2015, and has since focused her mentoring of students towards forward-thinking and innovative research products. Her graduate students have consistently disseminated to oral and poster presentations at both state and national conferences, including the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. Dr. Froeschke's own research is at the intersection of cognition, linguistics, and neural control of voice, with her current focus on focal laryngeal dystonia. She has deep roots in public health and intercultural service delivery, with her initial work in stroke symptom recognition among Latino populations. Dr. Froeschke provides leadership and direction to the IHS emphasis, and demonstrates a passion for seeing students at the forefront of solution-finding in the rehabilitation sciences.

## Admission Process and Candidate Selection

The IHS emphasis is open to all CSD graduate students, but is limited in its space. Individuals who have particular interest in working in medical rehabilitation settings and/or assuming leadership roles in those settings in the future should strongly consider this emphasis. In addition, individuals who have prior background interests or formal training in a non-CSD major at the undergraduate level should strongly consider this emphasis. Applicants who are pursuing the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Emphasis should include an additional paragraph to their personal statement titled **"Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Emphasis: Statement of Intent,"** describing in the personal essay of their CSDCAS application how their experience, academic, research, and service interests will contribute to their IHS portfolio of activities.

For questions, please contact:

Brenda K. Gorman, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
[brenda.gorman@elmhurst.edu](mailto:brenda.gorman@elmhurst.edu)

or

Laura L.O. Froeschke, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
[laura.froeschke@elmhurst.edu](mailto:laura.froeschke@elmhurst.edu)