






PhD Enrollment Pathway Options

When considering a PhD degree program to pursue a career as a faculty-researcher in communication sciences and disorders, many students wonder if they need to have a clinical degree and ASHA certification. The answer is: it depends on your long-term career goals! The following table presents the different pathways for integrating clinical training into research training—and the pros/cons of each.

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
 <p>Enrollment Pathway</p>	Bachelor's Degree to Research Doctoral Degree	Bachelor's Degree to Combined Clinical and Research Doctoral Degree Program	Bachelor's Degree to Clinical Degree to Research Doctoral Degree
 <p>Complete Your Clinical Hours for Certification</p>	Not Applicable	Complete your clinical hours during the combined program	Complete your clinical hours before or during the research doctoral degree
 <p>Degree(s) Earned</p>	PhD	MA or AuD and PhD	MA or AuD and PhD
 <p>Pros</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes less time to complete • Allows you to focus exclusively on research doctoral program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows you to obtain both research and clinical training in one program • Generally takes less time than doing the programs sequentially • Expands potential job opportunities that require clinical experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows you to obtain clinical experience you can apply to teaching and research • Allows you to earn money as a clinician before and during the program • Expands potential job opportunities that require clinical experience
 <p>Cons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many master's- and bachelor's-level colleges or universities prefer to hire individuals with CCCs who can provide clinical supervision • Without clinical experience, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you may have less insight into the clinical process and • you may not be qualified to teach clinical coursework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires intense time and effort commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes more time to complete • Can be difficult to return to a student lifestyle after working for several years