The Communication Disorders Program is dedicated to excellence and best practices for delivering speech, language, hearing, cognitive, and swallowing services to diverse populations. The mission of the Communication Disorders Program is to provide leadership to positively impact the lives of persons with speech, language, hearing, cognitive, and swallowing disorders. This mission is accomplished through the preparation of individuals who will provide services in a variety of settings by facilitating their development from student to scholar to professional. The mission is actualized through functional, collaborative, and accountable best practices in teaching and learning; administration, supervision, and leadership; research and creative activities; and community service.

For more information on the bilingual strand of the communication disorders program, please contact:

**Bilingual Concentration Coordinator**

Dr. Deborah Rhein  
Phone: 575-646-4313  
E-mail: drhein@nmsu.edu

The bilingual concentration of NMSU’s Communication Disorders program was developed with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education grant # H325K080309. Continued development of the bilingual strand is obtained via U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education grant # H325K130404.

For information about applying to the general communication disorders graduate program, contact:

**Communication Disorders Program Director**

Dr. Linda Spencer  
Phone: 575-646-4339  
E-mail: spencer1@nmsu.edu
Applying to the Bilingual Concentration

In the narrative portion of the application, students should indicate interest in the bilingual concentration. Students must first be accepted into the general communication disorders graduate program before being accepted into the bilingual concentration.

Once accepted into the general program, those who are interested in the bilingual concentration will have to demonstrate oral language proficiency in a language other than English.

Students will be required to achieve a minimum rating “Intermediate High” on an Oral Proficiency Index (OPI) as specified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). This test, which is administered independently of the university, has a fee and is administered through the Language Testing International (LTI). All information, including fees and scheduling options for the language testing can be found at www.languagetesting.com.

It is not necessary to have completed the OPI when applying to the general communication disorders program.