

program offerings to include a Doctor of Speech Language Pathology (SLPD). This report, prepared

by the Office of Strategic Research and Analysis, contains summaries of data describing the current situation and need for this degree in Georgia and the VSU service area. The University System of Georgia, Georgia Department of Labor, and published literature provided resources to assist the evaluation of need, current providers, and capacity for a Speech Language Pathology doctorate degree program at VSU.

**II. Georgia Institutions Offering Graduate Degrees in a Communication Sciences and Disorders Related Fields**

Five institutions within the University System of Georgia have graduate programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders or related degrees. Table 1 contains University System of Georgia (USG) institutions which offer these programs.

**Table 1: Georgia Institutions Offering Graduate Level Communication Sciences and Disorders Related Degrees**

Type of Degree	Major	School/University
Master of Science	Communication Sciences and Disorders	Armstrong Atlantic State University
Master of Education	Communication Disorders	Georgia State University
Doctor of Philosophy	Communication Studies	
Master of Arts	Communication Sciences and Disorders	University of Georgia
Master of Education	Communication Sciences and Disorders	
Specialist in Education	Communication Sciences and Disorders	
Doctor of Philosophy	Communication Sciences and Disorders	
Master of Education	Speech Language Pathology	University of West Georgia
Master of Education	Communication Disorders	Valdosta State University

Source: USG Degrees and Majors (2009) <https://app.usg.edu/portal/page/portal/DMA> and private institution websites.

In addition to institutions in Georgia listed in Table 1, neighboring institutions award these degrees: Florida State University (Tallahassee), 80 miles from Valdosta, offers a Doctor of Philosophy, a Master of Science, and an Advanced Master in Communication Sciences and Disorders. The University of Florida (Gainesville), 114 miles from Valdosta, offers a Doctor of Au2ation



Table 3: USG Degrees Conferred by Year, 2007 2009

Program (Institution)	CIP Code 09.0101/51.0201/ 52.0203	Total



Table 5: Projections Data from the National Employment Matrix, 2008 to 2018

Occupational Title	Employment, 2008	Projected Employment, 2018	Change, 2008 18		Detailed Statistics
			Number	Percent	
Speech Language Pathologist	119,300	141,400	22,100	19	<a href="#">[PDF]</a>

Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook 2010 11, <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos049.htm>

## IX. Georgia Labor Demand and Wages

Current wages for occupations in which graduates with a doctorate in Speech Language Pathology could work were extracted from the *2008 Georgia Wage Survey*, published by the Georgia Department of Labor, and are displayed in Table 6. Wages for the South Georgia area are typically less than the Georgia average.

Table 6: Georgia Wage Survey (October 2009)

Occupation	Entry Wage (\$ per hour)	Average Wage (\$ per hour)	Median Wage (\$ per hour)	Middle Range	
				25 <sup>th</sup> %	75 <sup>th</sup> %
Speech Language Pathologist	19.96	30.35	28.97	23.26	36.59

Source: Georgia Department of Labor, <http://explorer.dol.state.ga.us/mis/Current/wagesurveycurrent.pdf>

## X. Capacity at VSU to Accommodate this Program

The program will be entirely hosted by the VSU Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders; it will be necessary to either hire additional faculty members or redirect current faculty to teach in this program. Table 7 is an analysis of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders' seat and room capacity for Fall 2006 2009. According to this cursory review, an average of 77.2% of the total seats offered are actually being filled. With an average of 74.4% of available seats in classrooms being offered, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders could possibly fill courses to room capacity, thus freeing some instructors could teach in the doctorate program. Therefore, the department may find it necessary to hire faculty to accommodate this new program and/or find another building or room to accommodate the increased number of students in the program.

**Table 7: Semester Course and Room Capacity Analysis for COMD and CSD Courses**

Fall Semester	Number of Seats Taken	Number of Total Seats Available	Room Capacity	Percent of Seats Taken	Percent of Room Capacity Offered
2006	547	736	1029	74.3%	71.5%
2007	656	746	1077	87.9%	69.3%
2008	536	755	963	71.0%	78.4%
2009	570	755	963	75.5%	78.4%

Source: VSU Office of Strategic Research and Analysis, July 2009.

Table 8 contains the possible costs associated with initiating a Doctorate in Speech Language Pathology (SLPD) degree program. The analysis is based on a new faculty member being hired, and 12 new students each year for years one through five. Also, the average credit hours calculated for each student was nine. As illustrated, if one assistant professor is hired at the CUPA median salary for SLPD, the institution would generate a (a)Tj/TT31Tf1.360TD0Tche

Table 8: Cost/Benefit Analysis for a Doctorate of Speech Language Pathology Degree

Expenses (per academic year):	Yr 1 (FY11)	Yr 2 (FY12)	Yr 3 (FY13)	Yr 4 (FY14)	Yr 5 (FY15)
Personnel					
Course Release	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Permanent Faculty	\$ 55,750	\$ 55,750	\$ 55,750	\$ 55,750	\$ 55,750
Temporary Faculty (1/2 of a FT)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Program Coordinator/Secretary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Benefits	\$ 22,513	22,513			

XI. Summary

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