The Department of Communication Science Disorders is pleased to offer the following research project for the summer of 2016. Interested students are urged to contact the faculty member(s) directing the project that most interests them. By contacting the faculty member, you can discover more about the project, learn what your responsibilities will be and, if possible, develop a timetable for the twelve-week research period.

PROJECT TITLE: Studies in speech and language

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Project Description

Speech-sound disorders (SSD) and developmental expressive language disorders affecting intelligibility commonly occur in young children. This research study explores the potential clinical usefulness of a computer-automated method for analyzing child speech samples for acoustic characteristics that reflect complex speech production. The specific aims of this project are to (1) characterize change in speech complexity with age in typically developing children using this computer-based method, (2) evaluate the predictive power of acoustic parameters to identify children with speech disorders, and (3) to validate the automated measure with accepted clinical measures of phonetic and syllable structure complexity. Undergraduates working with this project will explore sub-projects focused on speech assessment in clinically-defined subpopulations of children exhibiting expressive language disorders (e.g. Down’s syndrome, apraxia, ADHD, among others), characteristics of typically-developing children, and/or novel uses of standard clinical assessment tools.