

# Audiology and Communication Sciences

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## Research

The integration of research into the curriculum is a distinctive feature of the PACS graduate programs. All students receive research training through course work and the completion of an independent research project. Additional opportunities to pursue individual research interests are also available, including via Grand Rounds, colloquia, brown bag seminars, journal clubs and similar opportunities. In addition, elective summer research opportunities, which include a stipend, are also available for interested and qualified AuD students.

The affiliated Department of Otolaryngology's Harold W. Siebens Hearing Research Center provides focused research in two primary areas. The Fay & Carl Simons Center for the Biology of Hearing and Deafness is made up of a group of investigators within the department who study the cellular and molecular mechanisms of auditory signal transduction, sensory cell death, and regeneration and development. Ongoing and new studies within this group are adding to our understanding of the molecular and cellular processes of the development of neural connections, hearing loss and the potential for future treatments. In the Center for Childhood Deafness and Adult Aural Rehabilitation, researchers are achieving a better understanding of how communication disorders can be measured, treated and overcome.

Additional areas of research focus within the department include the study of normal vestibular function and vestibular disorders, hearing aids, cochlear implants, auditory brain stem implants, age-related and noise-induced hearing loss, and the education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.