

AAC Leadership Project

A doctoral fellowship program in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) designed to develop high-quality researchers, teachers, scholars, and future leaders in the field of AAC.



The Penn State program is **recognized nationally and internationally** as one of the **top research programs** focused on the needs of children who require AAC. This is an exciting opportunity for you to **develop your competencies as a future researcher/university faculty in AAC** and to thereby **make a difference** in the lives of children with complex communication needs and their families.

Our **vibrant community of academic and clinical faculty** has more than 60 externally funded grants, over 300 publications in peer-reviewed journals, over 500 conference presentations, and **extensive experience in evidence-based practice in AAC**.

Ph.D. students participate in a **comprehensive curriculum** addressing issues related to AAC:

- Core **courses dedicated to AAC**, including advanced topics in AAC, interdisciplinary approaches to evidence-based practice, neuroscience, child language development, and diversity and global issues in AAC;
- **Hands-on lab experiences** with state of the art AAC assistive technologies;
- Related **coursework in statistics, methodology, and elective areas** of language, neurology, grant-writing, etc.;
- Completion of at least **three mentored research projects**, structured to result in conference presentations and publications;
- Training in research-based methods of college teaching, including **classroom teaching and mentorship** of research and/or clinical experiences of pre-service students.

aac.psu.edu

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PennState
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Department of Communication
Sciences and Disorders

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