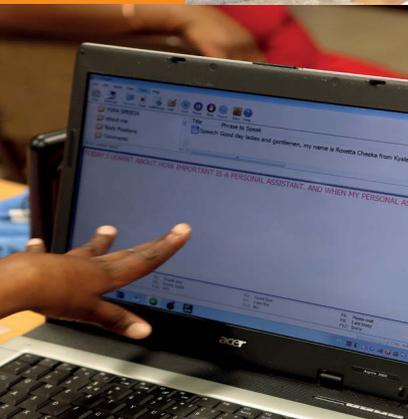




UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Humanities

Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC) Postgraduate Degrees

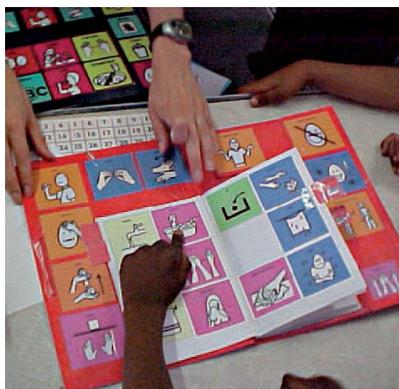


www.up.ac.za

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

Mrs Serudu is worried about her 7-year-old son, Sibusiso. She has noticed that he is developing more slowly than the neighbour's boy of the same age. Although he can sit and walk, her major concern is that Sibusiso is not talking well. He only says "eee" to indicate "yes", calls her by saying "Mama" and shows his empty plate when he has finished eating. She thinks that he understands more than what he is able to say.

For many therapists, providing services to children with severe communication disabilities like Sibusiso, can be daunting. To ensure that such children have access to appropriate and affordable intervention, the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC) at the University of Pretoria has developed the honours and master's degree programmes in Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Both are distance learning degrees although it is compulsory for students to attend the week-long onsite contact periods arranged on the Hatfield Campus of the University twice each year. The CAAC also offers a 2-year, distance learning master's degree in Early Childhood intervention as well as a consultation service for children and adults who have severe communication difficulties.



For more information, contact:

The Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication
University of Pretoria

Email: saak@up.ac.za, Fax: 086 510 0841, Tel: 012 420 2001

www.caac.up.ac.za

Honours Degree in Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Course code: 01242131

Not being able to speak is devastating. It destroys the independence of those who suffer from it and puts them at great risk of being abused or neglected ... a silent victim is the perfect victim!

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) strategies play an important role in facilitating communication. A variety of AAC strategies are available, including unaided strategies and aided strategies. The former are based on the use of gestures, signing, pointing, facial expressions and other learned behaviour, while the latter employ low tech media such as communication boards and books to display objects, pictures, symbols or written words, or high tech devices that generate speech output.

For whom is the degree intended?

The degree has been developed for therapists and teachers who wish to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of AAC.

Requirements for prospective students

To qualify for admission, prospective students need to have a relevant 3-year bachelor's degree, be working in the field of severe disabilities, satisfactorily complete an admission assignment and have internet access at home, as educational material is primarily delivered online.

Degree structure

This is a 2-year, part-time, blended learning degree programme (online & in situ contact sessions). Day-to-day communication is conducted via email. Study guides and readings are online available as study aids and it is compulsory for students to attend the week-long lecture series presented on the Hatfield Campus of the university each year.

| Modules for first year of study | | Credits |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| AAK713 | Introduction to AAC | 10 |
| AAK701 | AAC Symbol systems | 20 |
| AAK702 | AAC assessment procedures | 20 |
| AAK712 | Research methodology (1) | 10 |
| Modules for second year of study | | |
| AAK703 | AAC communication technology | 15 |
| AAK715 | Implementation of AAC | 25 |
| AAK714 | Research methodology (2) | 20 |
| Total credits | | 120 |

Additional information, applications and registration

The closing date for applications is 30 November of the year preceding the study. For international students, it is 31 October of the preceding year of study.

Please note that contact with the programme manager is essential before application!

Academic information

For more information on the degree, applications or registration, please contact the programme manager on: Email: saak@up.ac.za, Tel 012 240 2001, Fax 086 510 0841, www.caac.up.ac.za

Financial information

For information on fees, bursaries and loans related to the degree programme, contact the University of Pretoria Client Service Centre. Email: csc@up.ac.za, Tel 012 420 3111, www.up.ac.za/fao

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)



The way human beings communicate distinguishes them from other species. Each of us has a unique identity which is reflected in the way we express our thoughts, feelings, desires, dreams and ambitions. In a sense, the way we communicate reflects our DNA. Inability to express oneself in words can be devastating, whether the cause is congenital or traumatic. At its worst, it means that life is sealed up inside.

At the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC), we hold weekly team consultations to find communication solutions for people who have little or no functional speech. In collaboration with a client's family and service providers (therapists, doctors, teachers), we explore communication methods and the use of devices to engender or to supplement speech, and match these with the client's abilities, needs and context. We also offer training on specific aspects of AAC, tailored to the needs of specialised groups such as ICU nurses, therapists, teachers and doctors.

For more information contact:

The Centre for AAC • University of Pretoria

Email: saak@up.ac.za, Fax: 086 510 0841, Tel: +27 12 420 2001

www.caac.up.ac.za

Master's Degree Augmentative and Alternative Communication (M AAC)

Course Code: 012252131 (Research); 01252132 (Course work)

Are you involved in interventions with individuals with severe speech disabilities?

Do you wish to gain more specialized knowledge and skills in communication intervention and become an AAC specialist?

If so, the Master's Degree in Augmentative and Alternative Communication is for you!

What does this degree offer?

- The opportunity to obtain a strong theoretical foundation in AAC-related issues;
- The opportunity to gain cutting edge AAC knowledge equipping you to become internationally competitive;
- The opportunity to receive input from professionals with different backgrounds (teachers and therapists) with professional training in AAC;
- The opportunity to conduct research on an AAC-related area of interest.

Requirements for prospective students

To qualify for admission, prospective students are required to have a Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology or a BA(Hons) with specialisation in AAC, or any other relevant honours degree. Candidates may be required to write an admission examination. Students must have full and consistent access to their own computers as well as broadband internet and email facilities since educational material is primarily delivered online.

Degree structure

This is a 2-year, blended learning degree programme (online & in situ contact sessions). It is compulsory for students to attend the week-long onsite contact periods arranged on the Hatfield Campus of the University twice each year. Students can choose between the research oriented and course work oriented options offered in this degree.

Research option:

AAK 890 (Dissertation): Students are required to complete a dissertation on a topic related to the field of augmentative and alternative communication, selected in collaboration with (a) supervisor/supervisors.

Course work option:

| | |
|---------|--|
| AAK 811 | Theoretical constructs in AAC |
| AAK 895 | Minidissertation |
| AAK 812 | Implementation science in AAC (assessment, intervention and devices) |

Additional information, applications and registration

The closing date for applications is 30 November of the year preceding the study.

For international students, it is 31 October of the preceding year of study.

Please note that contact with the programme manager is essential before application!

Academic information:

For more information on the degree programme, applications or registration, please contact the programme manager on:

Email: saak@up.ac.za, Tel: 012 420 2001, Fax: 086 510 0841, www.caac.up.ac.za

Financial information

For information on fees, bursaries and loans related to the degree programme, contact the University of Pretoria Client Service Centre

Email: csc@up.ac.za, Tel: 012 420 3111, www.up.ac.za/fao

Early Childhood Intervention in South Africa

All too often medical professionals, teachers and counsellors are faced with the daunting task of providing early childhood intervention (ECI) for children who are at risk due to developmental delays. They can often not see their way forward because the challenges and obstacles they face seem to be so overwhelming. The following case study typifies the overwhelming task that awaits any interventionist. However, just because cases such as these are complex and challenging does not mean that we do not have the obligation to support families and assist them to achieve the best possible outcomes for their children.

CASE STUDY: BABY B

A baby girl, 13 months old, is found abandoned in an informal settlement just outside of Witbank. She is admitted to hospital with severe malnourishment and weighs on 4.5 kg. She struggles to gain weight and it is suspected that she is also HIV positive. There is little information about her parents but she has been visited on occasion by a neighbour. Baby B receives occupational therapy to address significant developmental delays but is a quiet little girl and does not interact very well. Her future is unsure. There is no social worker on the hospital staff to give her the care she deserves.



Fragmentation, duplication and the lack of an integrative approach to ECI at all levels, compromises the quality of healthcare service delivery in South Africa. This is exacerbated by manpower constraints as too few professionals qualify each year to be able to provide for the vast number of children who require early intervention services in our country. It is therefore imperative that we think creatively and make use of available resources in the most effective manner possible.

A “transdisciplinary” teamwork approach to early childhood intervention has been proposed by leading researchers in the field as a means of addressing the constraints on intervention in our country. This approach requires professionals, family members and members of the community to work together, collaborating closely and sharing roles, responsibilities and information.

Unfortunately, ECI undergraduates have not always been equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary for them to be able to work effectively and sustainably as team members in the field, where resources come under such pressure. Against this background, the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication at the University of Pretoria has developed the multi-professional Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Intervention (MECI), to ensure that students are better qualified to address challenges in the field in a more comprehensive manner.

This degree is the culmination of the collaboration that has evolved between disability stakeholders, government departments and various departments at the University of Pretoria. It is a distance learning, coursework master’s programme and is presented primarily via the world wide web. Students are also required to attend two onsite contact periods each year, on the University of Pretoria’s Hatfield Campus.

If the above scenario is familiar to you and you feel that you would like to acquire added knowledge and skills in the field of ECI, please contact:

The Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, University of Pretoria

Email: saak@up.ac.za, Tel: +27 12 420 2001, Fax 086 510 0841

Master's Degree

Early Childhood Intervention (M ECI)

Administered through the Faculty of Health Sciences

Course code: 10258240

This degree equips professionals from various disciplines with specialised knowledge and skills in the field of early childhood intervention, enabling them to function optimally in a changing and challenging social context by:

- Working in teams with other professionals and community members to facilitate social development.
- Understanding their own roles in the team of early childhood professionals
- Developing comprehensive strategies for intervention
- Critically evaluating accountability in service provision and its appropriacy and sustainability.

For whom is the degree intended?

Medical practitioners, therapists, teachers, educational psychologists, nutrition specialists and social workers who work with children from birth to six years of age, and their families.

Requirements for prospective students

To qualify for admission, prospective students need to have an honours degree or an equivalent 4-year degree. Students must have full and consistent access to their own computers, as well as broadband internet and e-mail since educational material and lectures are primarily delivered on-line.

Degree structure

This is a 2-year blended learning degree programme (online & in situ contact sessions). It is compulsory for students to attend the week-long onsite contact periods arranged on the Hatfield Campus of the University twice each year. The degree is presented primarily via an online, web-based medium with support material like CD-Rom. Group work is required in collaboration with students from other professions.

| First year: | Second year: |
|--|---|
| Module 801: Critical Theoretical Analysis in ECI, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theoretical framework and issues in Early Childhood Intervention• ECI in the community: Team building and management• Family- focused community intervention in ECI• Applied Research in ECI | Module 860 - 868: Profession specific elective module Module 874: Evaluation and Intervention Module 873: Measurement in ECI Module 872: Collaborative problem- solving |

Additional information, applications and registration

The closing date for applications is 15 January of the proposed year of study. For international students, it is 1 December of the preceding year.

Please note that contact with the programme manager is essential before application!

Academic information:

For more information on the degree programme, applications or registration, please contact the programme manager on:

Email: saak@up.ac.za, Tel: 012 420 2001, Fax: 086 510 0841 • www.caac.up.ac.za

Financial information

For information on fees, bursaries and loans related to the degree programme, contact the University of Pretoria, Client Service Centre

Email: csc@up.ac.za, Tel: 012 420 3111, www.up.ac.za/fao

PhD in AAC, Severe Disabilities and Early Childhood Intervention

Course code: 01264613

For whom is the degree intended?

This is a multi-professional degree tailored to accommodate students from varied disciplines such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology and special education. Background in AAC, severe disability or early childhood intervention is essential.

The training approach is collaborative and students and lecturers engage in ongoing interaction on the web, as well as during the week-long onsite contact periods arranged on the Hatfield Campus of the University twice each year. Interaction with international experts is an integral part of PhD training, exposing students to a broad range of methodologies and approaches to research in their respective fields.

Additional information, applications and registration

The closing date for applications is 21 November of the preceeding year of intended study.

Please note that contact with the programme manager is essential before application!

Academic information:

For more information on the degree programme, applications or registration, please contact the programme manager on:

Email: saak@up.ac.za, Tel: 012 420 2001, Fax: 086 510 0841

Web: www.caac.up.ac.za

Financial information

For information on fees, bursaries and loans related to the degree programme, contact the University of Pretoria Client Service Centre

Email: csc@up.ac.za, Tel: 012 420 3111, www.up.ac.za/fao

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL DEGREE COURSES OFFERED BY THE CAAC ARE ACCREDITED

**TO SPEAK TO ONE OF THE PROGRAMME MANAGERS PLEASE
CONTACT (012) 420 2001 OR FAX 086 510 0841
SAAK@up.ac.za**