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# Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

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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:

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# Master's Degree

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication (MAAC)

### Course code: 01252133 (Research), 01252134 (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 BCommunication Pathology, 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	Credits
<b>AAK 890</b> Dissertation: AAC Students are required to complete a dissertation on a topic related to the field of augmentative and alternative communication, selected in collaboration with supervisor(s).	180

Coursework option	Credits
<b>AAK 811</b> Theoretical constructs in AAC	45
<b>AAK 895</b> Mini-dissertation: AAC	90
<b>AAK 812</b> Implementation science in AAC	45
<b>Total credits</b>	<b>180</b>

### Additional information, applications and registration

International students need to apply by 30 September, SA students by 31 October of the year preceding the study.

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

### Financial information

For information on fees, bursaries and loans related to the degree programme, contact Client Service Centre, Email: [csc@up.ac.za](mailto:csc@up.ac.za), Tel: 012 420 3111, [www.up.ac.za/fao](http://www.up.ac.za/fao)

### Academic information

For more information on the degree programme, applications or registration, please contact the programme manager on: Email: [saak@up.ac.za](mailto:saak@up.ac.za), Tel: 012 420 2001 Fax: 086 510 0841, [www.caac.up.ac.za](http://www.caac.up.ac.za)