

**Jim Tsiamtsiouris**

I had a number of goals in mind when I began The Graduate Center's Ph.D. Program in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. One of these goals was to complete the requirements for the degree within 5 years. I am happy to report that this goal was achieved.

In retrospect, I believe the following factors played a big role in allowing me to finish the program within a reasonable amount of time. My first three years were devoted to full-time work toward completing the course and examination requirements. In addition, I identified my research interests within the first year and worked closely with various faculty members. As a research assistant, I gained knowledge and skills that were instrumental during the dissertation stage. Part of this knowledge consisted of learning about faculty interests and work-styles and matching these with mine.

In sum, the Ph.D. Program in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences gave me an excellent foundation in research, and this was attained within a 5 year period.