Emily Zezas is an undergraduate majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She is interested in speech production and perception, as well as developmental and acquired disabilities involving speech (e.g., apraxia of speech, stuttering, autism).

She joined CAPS to complete an honors project designed to examine the time course of speech motor-sequence learning. The Laboratory for the study of Cognition, Action, and Perception of Speech (also known as CAPS), led by Dr. Matthew Masapollo, studies the nature and development of human speech production and perception, and the nature of the signal properties that underlie successful speaker to perceiver communication. Our overarching goal is to build an integrated understanding of the physiology, acoustics, and perception of speech in order to develop theoretical models of speech processing and mechanistically driven rehabilitation protocols for those negatively affected by developmental and acquired disabilities involving speech (e.g., stuttering, apraxia of speech, autism). Our current research areas focus on the learning of speech in infants, normal speech in adults, and the breakdowns of speech in communication disorders. By combining state-of-the-art functional neuroimaging and electromagnetic articulography with behavioral measures, CAPS is helping to elucidate the governing mechanisms involved in speech motor control and perceptual function.

Emily currently serves as Vice President of The NSSLHA chapter at the University of Florida. The NSSLHA hosts a range of activities such as monthly meetings, service opportunities, social events, and fundraisers for the annual G. Paul Moore Symposium held in the spring as well as a Heroes for Hearing Benefit Concert to support cochlear implant patients. The National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association is a pre-professional membership association for students interested in the study of communicative disorders.

She hopes to one day work as a medical speech pathologist. Emily enjoys volunteering with kids through organizations like GatorPals, Camp Boggy Creek, and Surfers for Autism. In her free time, Emily is a member of the UF Sirens—an all-female a cappella group on campus—and loves rock climbing, hiking, cooking, and watching musicals.