Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

“Applying to the M.S. Graduate Program in CSAD at Sac State” for Fall 2020

Darla K. Hagge Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Graduate Coordinator
April 30, 2019
Key Terms

- **Speech Pathology & Audiology (SPA)** = Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSAD)
- **OGS** = Office of Graduate Studies
- **CSDCAS** = Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service provided by CAPCSD
- **CSU Application** = This is an online resource designed to help students and their families learn about the CSU system, select a CSU campus to attend, plan to finance higher education, and apply for admission
  (http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/futurestudents/graduateadmissions/applicationguidelines.html)
Big Change to the Process:

- Each applicant must demonstrate successful completion of a university-level physics or chemistry course as required by ASHA to obtain CCCs.
- Can be credit/no credit or letter grade
- Can include lab/no lab
- University-level course providing foundational principles of chemistry or physics
• What is a recommended number of hours to have shadowed an SLP in total?

• None
• Quality of experience
• Integrate into your application
  – Essay or video
• Sac State does not require GRE scores to be submitted if our major GPA is a 3.5 or higher. However, if we scored well on the GRE can we still send the score or will it not be looked at because it is not required? Thank you!

• **Your score WILL be viewed; please submit!**
• What should we include in a good personal statement?

• Up to the discretion of the student
• Visit the Career Counseling Center in Lassen Hall
• http://www.csus.edu/careercenter/students/career%20counseling/index.html
• Should academic references and work experience be entered on CSU application?

• Yes
• Do we need to wait to submit our transcripts until after this semester's grades come out, even if CSDCAS is saying that they want our transcripts ready four weeks before applications are due?

• **No. Submit twice, if desired.**
• How negative of an effect will getting more B grades than A have on your grad applications?

• Overall GPA in the major is a consideration
What are some things considered as "achievements"?

- **Awards/Commendations**
  - Dean’s List, Scholarships, Elected to NSLHA or another office, Golden Key or other Honor Society membership, Outstanding Student Awards, etc.

- **Leadership positions**
  - NSLHA, Employment, Volunteer Experiences

- **Work Volunteer: SPHP 146**
  - 16 week clinical experience including description of client(s)

- **NeuroService Alliance:**
  - Be specific! Trained Communication Partner, Assistant, Social Media Support,
  - List the specific program of NeuroSA: Communicating Through Art, Aphasia Book Club, Creating Access Through Technology, Communication Recovery Groups-Sacramento, Vocally Devoted, Keeping it Loud & Clear,

- **Sacramento State Literacy Connection:**
  - Be specific! Identify your role!
  - List the specific program: Storytime and/or Parent Training
On CSU website, the application asks for 3 faculty members to provide academic references. What if one of your recommenders is an SLP in the field and not a faculty member?

Applicants MUST submit three letters of recommendation, all of which must be submitted electronically through CSDCAS. Two of these letters MUST come from Professors in Speech-Language Pathology or Communication Disorders. The third letter may come from a Professor in Speech-Language Pathology or Communication Disorders, an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist, OR an employed professional in a related field. No exceptions. If more than three letters are submitted, three letters will be selected by the faculty for review. If less than three letters are received, the applicant’s packet may be considered incomplete.
Can we go over the process of turning in transcripts? Especially for those who transferred from a community college.

Please visit:

http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/futurestudents/graduateadmissions/transcripts.html
• Is the video, required for the Sac State application, made to go more into details with the personal statement? **Expand on your written essay**

• Can we go over the process of the video? What are some points that we need to avoid and some points we need to emphasize so we can turn in an excellent application? **Expand on your written essay**
Once I submitted paper resume to instructors for letter of recommendation, will the university send them a link to fill out the forms online or how does it work?

**CSDCAS sends an email with a link**

How about people outside of school system? are they getting a link through email? **Yes**

I have 2 instructors for letters of recommendations, for the 3rd one would instructor be better or a director of the volunteer program that I participate in? (working with kids)

**Who would write a stronger letter?**
• Please explain the video process for application.
• BOTH the oral and written responses are required and should be somewhat different: Please do not simply restate or read your written answer to the essay prompt.
• Be sure to state and spell your first and last name clearly at the beginning of the recording
• Label the flashdrive clearly with your first and last name AND Sac State ID
• Check and confirm the quality of both the video and audio recording before submitting
• Save to a flashdrive; confirm that the video is viewable on the flashdrive

Are transcripts from other schools directly forwarded to grad. school? **Transcripts are submitted to CSDCAS**

Transcripts that were already submitted to SacState through undergrad application. **See previous slide.**

There is no place on the general graduation application to mention the CBEST scores, is it ok not to include it there? **Yes**

On the page where it is asking what tests I took: I did not take the GRE because of a good GPA, will it let me apply to department for master's without GRE scores?

**Yes, if you meet the department’s minimum GPA in the major.**
Do we need to submit our Sac State transcripts for our CSUS application?

Transcripts already on file with CSU, Sacramento need not be resubmitted unless there is additional work to be reported. YOU DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT SACRAMENTO STATE TRANSCRIPTS.

See: http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/futurestudents/graduateadmissions/transcripts.html
• If we provide 4 letters of recommendation, do you take the best 3 or just 3 at random?

• Reviewers will not necessarily compare/contrast letters to determine “top 3” submissions.
• For CSU application, do we need to enter our work experience, academic references, and academic honors even though we are entering them on CSDCAS?

• Yes
• My understanding is that you have to close CDSCAS 2 weeks before the first graduate application is due. Once you close CDSCAS you can't open it up again, is that correct?

• Please visit the CDSCAS website.

• Are there pieces of the Sac State graduate application that we can work still on, if we have to close CDSCAS a couple of months early for another school?

• Video
• What is your recommended format/outline for CSU application for our personal statement? What topics should we address?

• **Discretion of the student**
• Do we need to send our final transcripts to CSDCAS and the universities we are applying to? Yes

• In addition to our application in the CSDCAS system, we need to submit a package to the department that includes our video saved to a flashdrive, our observation hours and our CBEST certificate with a hard copy of the written portion:

  1) Do we need to get a copy of our observation hours from Jeannette to resubmit them with our package or will you cross-reference what she has with our applications? Obtain a copy of your observation hours from the Front Desk.

  2) Is there a procedure that perhaps you are already familiar with for getting a hard copy of the written portion of our CBEST? Submit a document demonstrating successful passage of the CBEST.

  3) Do you prefer the video to be sent in on a thumb drive? Please follow the instructions posted on the webpage.
• I neglected to specify the Graduate division of CSUS for one of my transcripts. Should I order another one from that school to get the Graduate school specified on the address label or is the first one going to make it to the right place without any problem?

• Please check with Office of Graduate Studies (OGS)
• Should we include relevant volunteer/work experience from high school?

• Depends. How relevant or significant is the volunteer and work experience from high school?
• How long ago is too long to include work/volunteer experience on our application?

• This decision is up to the discretion of the applicant.
When applying through CSDCAS, do we also need to apply directly through the school we are applying to, or does CSDCAS cover all bases? If CSDCAS is the only application we need to submit to the schools that use this system, are there any further steps we need to take directly through the school that aren't included in the CSDCAS process?

• Check with each individual school that you are applying to.
If I am applying to graduate school next year should I still ask my professors for a letter of recommendation or wait until the year I do apply?

- Up to the discretion of the student
- Consider if a recommender’s letter could be stronger after another year of knowing/working with you.
Where can I find the SLP-Credential option on Cal State Apply? It doesn't seem to be located with the other credential listings...

Are both parts of the Personal Statement for CSUS required in one single essay?

• Refer to the CSU website for answers to these questions.
I'm getting discouraged and wondering: what are some less competitive masters programs to apply to in CA/US?

I am not in NSSLHA and some professors don't yet know my name, do I still have a chance of getting into the CSUS program?

- All programs are competitive
- Yes, you do!!!!!
Do we have to use CSDCAS and Cal State Apply when applying to Sac State? Or can we use one or the other?

- Our application process involves 3-steps including CSDCAS and CSU website.
If the applicant has a GPA grade of 3.5 or higher in the major, it is noted that the GRE requirement will be waived. However, according to the website it looks like an applicant will receive higher ranking toward graduate admission if their scores are 5 or more points above the minimum requirements on the GRE. If a person meets the GPA requirement and chooses not to take the GRE, will it negatively affect their application ranking? No. Should they take the GRE either way? If a student scores high on the GRE, it will strengthen their application packet. Will it have a positive impact on their acceptance? If the student receives high scores on the GRE. If not, there is no negative impact.
When entering volunteer experience, should we put our experience into multiple categories if it applies? For example, multicultural and work experience. **Up to the discretion of the applicant (but recommend to pick one category, if possible)**

What is the evaluations section of CSDCAS for? What is an evaluation request? **Letters of Recommendation are included at this location in the application packet.**

Would it be better to receive my 3rd letter of recommendation from my direct supervisor (a special education teacher) who has directly seen my work in the classroom and some of the special projects I have done, or from the Coordinator of Special Education who has viewed some of my classroom work, but all of the special projects I have worked on? **Up to the discretion of the applicant.**
How many schools would you recommend applying to? **Up to the discretion of the applicant, but my opinion is at least three (3).**

How important is the "conferences attended" section on the grad app? Are there any good alternatives for those who can't afford to attend the big conferences in LA? **All conferences attended indicate the habits of a life-long learner.**

How do I add National NSSLHA, CSHA, Phi Kappa Phi, etc into grad apps? Would those be under achievements in CSDCAS? **Up to the discretion of the applicant, but there is a “supporting information” section.**

For letters of recommendation, where one can be an employed professional in a related field, does any form of teacher qualify? Specifically, a preschool teacher? **Yes.**

If we haven't had long term experiences in one specific interest area how hindering is it to our grad application? **No. Emphasize your individual strengths!**

Will information from this workshop be sent for those who cannot make it? **There are two (2) workshops scheduled for this Fall, and yes, the power point presentation will be posted.**