Application and Admission to the Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders Program

(Admissions are processed for Fall only)

Admission to classified graduate status is on a competitive basis. Priority is given to students who possess the exact coursework equivalent of the Sacramento State undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. The minimum requirements for admission are listed in the catalogue: https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/health-human-services/communication-sciences-disorders/ms-in-communication-sciences-and-disorders/

Admission Requirements

- The Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Sacramento State emphasizes theory before practice. Students must understand that admission priority is given to students whose undergraduate curriculum is the most equivalent to Sacramento State’s Communication Sciences and Disorders Undergraduate Curriculum.

- An undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Speech Pathology and Audiology or Communicative Disorders.

- Students must have completed the required major prerequisite coursework as delineated in the Undergraduate Program Catalog description for Communication Sciences and Disorders at Sacramento State before beginning graduate-level coursework in Communication Sciences and Disorders. https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/health-human-services/communication-sciences-disorders/bs-in-communication-sciences-and-disorders/

- Students must have successfully completed or be currently enrolled in a university-level physics or chemistry class at the time of application. (see below)

- Students must have an overall GPA of 2.75 and a 3.00 GPA in the major.

- Domestic applicants with foreign documents and international students (F-1 or J-1 visa applicants) must consult the Office of Graduate Studies and Global Education/International Admissions Department for specific application instructions. These students must also submit TOEFL scores. Consult the Department website for department-specific TOEFL scores.

- Successful passage of all three sections of CBEST.

- GRE scores obtained in the last 5 years.

- Three letters of recommendations.

- Oral and written essay.

- Resume of related work, volunteer and multicultural experience and any scholarships, awards or other commendations.

- Documentation of completed observation hours.

- Students must consult the Department website for additional current admission requirements and procedures.
Our departmental deadlines correspond with CSUS deadlines and can be found on the Graduate Studies [https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/](https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/).

Students that meet the minimum qualifications for the program are ranked for graduate admission based on the following:

- GPA in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Speech Pathology or Communicative Disorders coursework and GRE scores (see below)
- Letters of Recommendation
- Amount of related work, volunteer, and multicultural experience
- Scholarships, Awards, and Other Commendations
- Quality of Oral and Written Essay Response
- Amount of coursework completed in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Speech Pathology or Communicative Disorders consistent with coursework completed by students with a BS in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Sacramento State
- Clinical Potential
Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders
Admission Requirements: Physics and Chemistry

Do I need to have taken Physics or Chemistry in order to apply to the Sacramento State Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders degree program?

Yes. The Sacramento State Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders degree program requires applicants to have successfully completed or be currently enrolled in a university-level physics or chemistry class at the time of application. (If currently enrolled at time of application, coursework must be successfully completed in order to begin program if admitted.)

Per ASHA’s recently Revised Certification Standards (please see https://www.asha.org/Certification/Certification-Standards-Change-in-2020/), all individuals applying for the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) after December 31, 2019 will be required to complete a college-level course in physics or chemistry.

Types of coursework/exams that the Sacramento State Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders degree program has defined as fulfilling the Physics/Chemistry requirement.

- Courses must be taken from an accredited institution (Community College, University).
- Courses do not need to include a lab unless required by the course/university.
- Courses may be taken Credit/No Credit or for a grade.
- The best college/university coursework option is a course that is recognized as fulfilling the General Education (GE) requirements for the Sac State Bachelors degree.
- The Chemistry CLEP exam is an acceptable alternative to coursework. Passage of the exam with a score of 50 or higher is required. Official proof of passage will need to be submitted to the department.
- Completed Advanced Placement (AP) coursework in Physics or Chemistry with scores of 3 or higher is an acceptable alternative to college/university coursework. Official proof of passage will need to be submitted to the department.

What is Basic Physics? Broad survey of physics principles to enable students to appreciate the role of physics in everyday experiences in today’s society and technology. The science that deals with matter, energy, motion, and force.

The following is a list of possible content areas:
- Basic physical principles for non-majors
- Basic principles of mechanics
- Basic principles of sound
- Basic principles of thermodynamics
- Basic principles of optics
- Basic principles of electricity and magnetism

What is Basic Chemistry? Selected concepts and topics designed to give students an appreciation for how chemistry impacts everyday life, especially energy and the environment. The study of substances.

The following is a list of possible content areas:
- Atomic structure
- Chemical bonding
- Radioactivity
- Behavior of gases and solutions
- Behavior of acid and bases
- Hydrocarbons
- Functional groups and important biological molecules
- Chemical principles in human or animal physiology
COHORTS

Accepted applicants are admitted into the program and *randomly assigned* into two groups (cohorts).

The first cohort, referred to as “Fall Starts” begins clinic in the fall and can expect to graduate in a minimum of 4 *semesters* (coursework and internship experiences will be completed in the spring semester of the second year; however, degrees are typically *conferred at the end of August*).

The second Cohort, referred to as “Spring Starts” begins coursework in the fall semester and clinic in the spring semester. This group can expect to graduate in a minimum of 5 *semesters* (coursework and internship experiences will be completed in the fall semester of the third year; however, degrees are typically *conferred at the end of January*).
Three Step Admission Process

**** The Applicant's name MUST be consistent across all components of the application.****

(Failure to do so may result in the applicant's packet being rejected as incomplete.)

Students with Bachelor's Degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Speech Pathology and Audiology or Communication Disorders should complete the following steps:

STEP ONE

Applicants must apply to California State University Sacramento. Please visit [https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/future-students/application-information.html](https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/future-students/application-information.html) for detailed instructions.

Applicants are not required to submit a Statement of Purpose through this process because they will be submitting a specific essay through CSDCAS (see Step Two). Applicants should simply type “Essay submitted directly to department” in the personal statement category. Applicants should select MS as their Degree Objective and indicate that they are applying to a Credential Program this term (CR-LSH Credential) as students completing the Master's Degree will be eligible to apply for the Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential.

** Please note: Applicants only need to submit ONE set of official transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended to Graduate Studies at Sacramento State, even though the Graduate Studies website indicates that two sets should be submitted. This is because you are submitting the other official set to CSDCAS as part of your department level application. Applicants do not need to submit official transcripts to Sacramento State Graduate Studies for coursework completed at Sacramento State. Applicants do not need to resubmit to Sacramento State Graduate Studies any official transcripts that are already on file with Sacramento State unless there is additional work that has been completed. Applicants must, however, submit ALL transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended to CSDCAS.

STEP TWO

Applicants must apply directly to the CSAD Department through the CSDCAS web-based application at [https://portal.csdcas.org/](https://portal.csdcas.org/). (Portal opens open October 1, 2019). Once the applicant creates an account and profile with CSDCAS, the application can be accessed frequently in order to complete the required portions of the application.) Application will include electronic submission of (a) An official certificate demonstrating the successful passage of all three sections of the CBEST, (b) a hard copy of the written essay, AND (c) official cumulative record of 25 hours of observations of therapy.

After the student has created and completed the CSDCAS application, which is accessed through the CSDCAS homepage, it may be e-submitted to CSDCAS for processing and submission to our department. Please pay particular attention to the deadline for application e-submission, which is listed on the Sacramento State information page in the CSDCAS SLP program description (February 15, 2020). **Your application must be e-submitted by this date.** This is also the date that ALL official transcripts for ALL prior coursework and all letters of recommendation and payments must be received by CSDCAS. CSDCAS will continue to process this type of information after this date, but Sacramento State will not view applications after March 1, 2020.
CSDCAS Applicants should note the following

- CSDCAS Student Customer Service information
  Customer Service is available Monday thru Friday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM Eastern Time Phone – (617) 612-2030 E-Mail – csdcasinfo@csdcas.org

- Applicants will need to list ALL coursework from ALL transcripts AND any semester/quarter work planned or “in progress” under Academic History. Applicants who are actively completing coursework MUST list this coursework and any planned coursework in the Academic History section.

- Applicants must also list any grades earned through December 31, 2019 and submit the corresponding transcripts to CSDCAS per the instructions found at https://help.liaisonedu.com/CSDCAS_Application_Help_Center/Sending_Your_Official_Transcripts_and_Test_Scores_to_CSDCAS/Sending_Official_Transcripts_to_CSDCAS/1_US_and_English_Canadian_Transcripts

- CSDCAS does provide one “academic update” timeframe in which applicants may update coursework completed since the original application e-Submission (this update must be completed within the timeframe specified by CSDCAS and prior to the application due date). Academic Update is intended for students who have e-submitted their applications prior to receiving grades for listed coursework Summer or Fall Terms).

- Only courses that are actually “in progress” or planned (the current spring semester or semesters to follow) should be left without grades on the CSDCAS application after the application due date. Please estimate approximate undergraduate program completion date by listing all “planned coursework.”

- All official transcripts MUST be sent to CSDCAS at the address below, additional sets of official transcripts must be submitted to Graduate Studies at Sacramento State:
  CSDCAS Verification Department
  P.O. Box 9113
  Watertown, MA 02471

- 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 Communication Sciences and Disorders, 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.

- The Department’s Graduate Record Examination (GRE) requirement may be fulfilled by achieving:
  - A minimum combined score of 291 on the verbal and quantitative portions of the test
  - OR...
  - A minimum score of 4.5 on the analytical writing (AW) portion of the test.
  Note: GRE scores must be obtained in the last 5 years. If the applicant has a GPA of 3.50 or higher in the major, the GRE requirement will be waived. Students will receive higher ranking toward graduate admission if their scores are 5 or more points (or .5 for AW) above the minimum requirements on the GRE. Students submitting GRE scores MUST indicate their GRE scores on the CSDCAS application AND have the score sent by ETS to CSUS CSDCAS for verification (Code 0702). Do not have the scores sent directly to Sacramento State.

- Successful completion of a minimum of 25 clock hours of supervised observations is required. These observations are arranged and coordinated through CSAD 145 and CSAD 146 for students completing the undergraduate degree at Sacramento State.

- Applicants may be asked to submit evidence of Extracurricular and Volunteer Activities, Honors and Awards listed on their CSDCAS application. Relevant work or volunteer experience you have had, such as teaching, tutoring, health care work, experience with children, and so on, as well as information related to any honors or awards you may have received is required for your application.
• Applicants must submit an original essay using a maximum of 5500 characters (no spaces) to the following specific essay questions on their CSDCAS application. Be sure to respond directly to each prompt, listed below:

  o Essay part 1: Provide a brief, but specific listing of your multilingual abilities and/or your experiences with culturally and linguistically diverse groups and users of sign language.

  o Essay part 2: How would your background, work/volunteer experiences, and experiences with culturally and linguistically diverse populations contribute to your ability to work with each of the following client profiles?
    1. A 4-year old bilingual child with unintelligible speech and delayed receptive and expressive language,
    2. An adolescent diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
    3. An adult who has acquired receptive and expressive communication difficulties following a stroke.

• If the applicant with a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Speech Pathology and Audiology or Communication Disorders is not a Sacramento State graduate, he/she should see the CSAD undergraduate program description in the Sacramento State Catalogue for additional requirements. Contact the Office of Graduate Studies (https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/) to confirm curriculum currency. Admission priority is given to students whose undergraduate curriculum is equivalent to Sacramento State’s CSAD Undergraduate Curriculum (All pre-requisites and ALL CSAD prefix coursework).

• Domestic applicants with foreign documents must consult the Office of Graduate Studies (https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/future-students/applicants-foreign-documents.html) for specific application instructions. International students (Those on or who intend to apply for F-1 or J-1 visas) must consult the Office of Graduate Studies and Global Education/International Admissions Department for specific application instructions. Domestic applicants with foreign documents and international students whose native language is not English must also submit TOEFL scores. Communication Sciences and Disorders department specific required TOEFL scores are as follows: Paper-based 560/Computer-based 220/Internet-based 100.

CSDCAS applications are due at midnight Eastern Standard Time (EST) on the date listed.

NOTE: A midnight CSDCAS submission deadline equates to a 9:00 p.m. submission deadline in California.
STEP THREE

Applicants must submit hardcopies of:
(a) an official certificate demonstrating the successful passage of all three sections of the CBEST,
(b) a hard copy of the written essay,
(c) official cumulative record of 25 hours of observations of therapy, AND
(d) a 10 minute video recording of him or herself orally expanding on and explaining his or her answer to the written essay prompt in step two.

Video

BOTH the oral and written responses are required and should be 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 USB Drive (NOT A CD OR DVD) 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
• USB Drive (NOT A CD OR DVD) must be viewable on a computer via Windows media Player and/or QuickTime

Please mail these items (postmarked no later than February 15, 2019) in one packet to the address listed below (Packets hand-delivered will NOT be accepted):
(a) an official certificate demonstrating the successful passage of all three sections of the CBEST,
(b) a hard copy of the written essay,
(c) official cumulative record of 25 hours of observations of therapy, AND
(d) a 10 minute video recording of him or herself orally expanding on and explaining his or her answer to the written essay prompt in step two.

Mail To:
Darla K. Hagge Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Graduate Coordinator
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
California State University, Sacramento
6000 J Street MS 6071
Sacramento, California 95819
Direct all questions regarding the Master’s Program and application process by email to:

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