

## ***CSUF Communication Sciences and Disorders Undergraduate Advisement Overview***

### **COMD B.S. Degree Requirements (\*Fall 2023 and later catalog years\*)**

To receive a B.S. degree in Communicative Disorders from CSUF, students need to complete a total of **120 units** including the following:

- a) **48 units: General Education (GE)**
  - **including 9 units of upper-division GE courses that must be taken in residence at CSUF or another CSU campus**
- b) **3 units: American Government** – CSU graduation requirement
- c) **42 units: COMD major requirements**
- d) **27 units: unrestricted free elective units** to earn the 120 units required for graduation (e.g., extra GE classes or COMD electives, classes to meet public school credential and/or ASHA certification requirements, classes for a second major, minor or the honors program)

For more information about the **COMD B.S. program** degree requirements, visit the university's online course catalog: <https://catalog.fullerton.edu/>.

### **Additional Course Requirements**

In addition to the above listed B.S. degree requirements, there are other coursework requirements that are not required for graduation but that must be completed by the end of a student's graduate degree program if they are planning to obtain the following two credentials: a) Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC) from ASHA (required for employment in hospitals, private practice and licensure for most states) and b) preliminary Speech-Language Pathology Services Credential in Language, Speech, and Hearing (SLPSC) required for work in California's public schools

**For ASHA certification:** At least one course in: 1) **statistics** (a course with "statistics" in the title), 2) **chemistry or physics**, and 3) **biological sciences**. Students can take lower-division courses and/or courses at a JC to fulfill these requirements.

For more information about ASHA certification requirements, go to:

<https://www.asha.org/Certification/2020-SLP-Certification-Standards/>

**For the California public school credential:** **PSYC 361** (Developmental Psychology) or **CAS 101** (Child Growth and Development) and **SPED 371** (Exceptional Individual).

These additional courses can be taken as part of other GE requirements or the 27 units of unrestricted electives required to meet the 120-unit degree requirement. It is recommended that students attempt to complete as many of these courses during their undergraduate degree program. Those not completed will either need to be taken in graduate school or in some cases, depending on the institution, may be required before being admitted to the graduate degree programs.

**When should I begin taking COMD major courses?** Admission to CSUF Communication Sciences and Disorders and other CSD graduate programs can be extremely competitive. To the extent possible, students should strive toward a strong GPA (e.g., 3.5 or above) in the major at the end of their undergraduate coursework to be in the best position to apply for future graduate program study. Taking COMD major courses too early can have an impact on your GPA for future graduate study. In order to be best prepared for courses in the major, it is recommended that students wait until they have completed at least 45 units of college coursework before taking their first COMD major class (after

their 3<sup>rd</sup> semester). Once students begin to take COMD major coursework, it is recommended that they take no more than 12 units of COMD courses per semester to maintain a high GPA.

**What types of classes should I be taking prior to starting my major courses if I am still a freshman or sophomore or am having difficulty getting major classes during my first semester as a new transfer student?** During your initial orientation or advisement meeting, you will be advised regarding non-COMD classes (GE requirements) that are important for freshman and sophomores to complete their first two years. See also the COMD program roadmap for freshman and sophomores for an example of the coursework sequence that students should consider following the first two years. For those students who decide to begin their major work during the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, only one COMD course (COMD 242) is recommended. For new transfer students, it is recommended that they take upper division GE courses in residence at CSUF and/or courses for ASHA certification and the public school credential if they have not taken equivalent courses at another institution.

**Which major classes should I begin to take first?** The major classes that are most important to take during the first two semesters of major coursework (after completing 48 units or 4 semesters of coursework) are: COMD 241, 242, 307, 344. These courses serve as prerequisites for most of the remaining major courses. For transfer students, it is recommended that you only take 2-3 of the above listed classes your first semester of major coursework. The other 1-2 courses should involve classes outside of the major. It is also strongly recommended that you take no more than 12 units of COMD courses per semester.

**Academic advising support for GE and COMD course requirements and Titan Degree Audit (TDA) or registration questions**

For academic advising questions regarding GE and major requirements or your academic plan, contact our COMD academic advisor, Dr. Michelle Merchain ([mmerchain@fullerton.edu](mailto:mmerchain@fullerton.edu)).

For questions regarding evaluation of COMD transfer course equivalencies or the COMD 495 internship course, please contact the COMD undergraduate faculty advisor, Dr. Minjung Kim ([minjungk@fullerton.edu](mailto:minjungk@fullerton.edu)).

You may also contact the **College of Communications Student Success Center** (College Park - CP 210, (657) 278-4926, [collcommadvising@fullerton.edu](mailto:collcommadvising@fullerton.edu), <https://communications.fullerton.edu/advising/>) for advising questions, registration issues, TDA/degree requirement questions, or campus referrals.

**For more information about professional careers in speech-language pathology and audiology**  
Go to [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) website.

**National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA)-National and Local Chapters**  
Go to <http://www.asha.org/students/> and <http://commstudents.fullerton.edu/nsslha/>

**Speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) info**

Students with a B.S. in Communicative Disorders or AA-degree equivalent from a state board approved program can work under the supervision of licensed/credential speech-language pathologists and audiologists as a SLPA. For more info, go to:

<http://www.asha.org/associates/SLPA-FAQs/>

[http://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/applicants/approved\\_programs.shtml](http://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/applicants/approved_programs.shtml)