

## Dear CSD graduate applicants:

Thank you for applying to CSUF, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders master's program. **The review of CSD graduate school applications has now come to the end.** As of April 16, 2017, twenty-eight applicants received and accepted our admission offers. For all other applicants, you should have received a denial decision letter regarding your application from the University Admissions and Records in May or June of 2018.

For this review cycle, we received 559 applications. Many of you have a wonderful application; unfortunately, we have simply reached our program size limit. The decision has been tough and was made based on three graduate committee members' independent and careful reviews of your files. This acceptance rate is around 13.7% based on 204 applications with a GPA of 3.7 and above; and it is 8% based on 350 completed applications.

Your application may have been denied due to one or more of the following reasons:

- 1. Insufficient competitive GPA.** For this review cycle, of 350 completed applications, 58.3% of them with a CSD- GPA of 3.7 and above and 13.1% with 4.0 GPA. The average GPA of our admitted graduate students this year was 3.81. For the past 10 years, this average GPA has been ranged between 3.80 to 3.95.
- 2. Insufficient work experience.** Many of the applicants came with ample clinical, field work, and/or research experience relevant to the field of Speech-Language Pathology; and some simply stand out from the crowd with very extraordinary experience.
- 3. Insufficient CSD prerequisites.** As indicated in admission requirements (posted on our CSD Website and in the Department automatic reply to CSU APPLY online application), you must have completed at least eight CSD prerequisites (with a grade in hand as of Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>) and one statistics to be qualified for Fall 2018. The GPA is computed based on only the courses in CSD.
- 4. Incomplete application/Inadmissibility.** You must have applied to both CSDCAS and CSUMentor. On CSDCAS portal, one or more of the following required supporting materials were missing or unmet: (a) A letter of intent (also known as 'personal statement'), (b) three letters of recommendation (2 from CSD instructors and 1 from a supervisor in the field), (c) both your CSUMentor and CSDCAS applications must have "completed" by the deadline of Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. *Remember, it is your responsibility to check application status and make sure that the required documents are submitted on time.*
- 5. Late submission.** The deadline of **February 1<sup>st</sup>** was posted online -- in both the *department response to CSUMentor application* and *the announcement posted on CSD Website*. Applications posted at either CSDCAS or CSUMentor after the deadline were not considered.
- 6. Inaccurate application.** Occasionally, one or two students may have applied to wrong major or wrong program (e.g., post baccalaureate 'credential-only') or failed to follow the web instructions for application. All these requirements and instructions were posted on CSD website.
- 7. Lack of strong personal statements.** Your personal statements failed to speak to your uniqueness and/or highlight the outstanding qualifications you may have.
- 8. Lack of strong letters of recommendation.** You either did not have two letters from CSD instructors and 1 from the field supervisor, or your letters of recommendation failed to yield a strong support for your application.

9. **Program size limit.** You may have submitted all required materials on time, met the required minimum criteria, completed online registration through CSUMentor, and have strong letters of recommendation; and was indeed a wonderful candidate we would like to have. Unfortunately, due to high competition and the fact that our program size has reached its limit of 28 spots yearly, your application was unfortunately not accepted.

In case that you decide to re-apply to our CSD master's program for the next admission cycle, you are strongly advised to check the CSU APPLY and CSD Website in September, and stay updated when the registration is re-open in October for Fall 2019. There may have some changes in our application requirements. It is your responsibility to closely follow the instructions to assure that you (a) meet the posted requirements at both university and department levels, (b) submit all required supporting materials to CSDCAS, and apply to both CSDCAS and CSUMentor, and (c) stay up-to-date with the deadline by checking our CSD website when new application period becomes available.

**Good luck and best wishes to you all!**

Sincerely,

*Ying-Chiao Tsao*

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