

CSD Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is the procedure for applying for the next fall admission year?

For information on applying to our graduate program for the next fall admission year, please carefully review the instructions on the [Communication Sciences and Disorders \(CSD\)](#) website.

2. About CSDCAS –

What is CSDAS?

The Communication Science and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS, <http://www.capcsd.org/csdcas/>) is an independent third party provider who is not associated with the California State University (CSU) application system.

All required documents for M.A. applicants will be submitted directly only to [CSDCAS](#). No hard copy of application materials will be accepted at CSUF-Dept. of Communication Science and Disorders.

Why CSDCAS? What it does?

The CSDCAS website will allow you to submit required materials where CSUF-CSD graduate committee will access and reviewed your files. You will only need to do one time submission of application materials, your files are then accessible to other participated ASHA accredited CSD programs of your own choice. In other words, CSDCAS enables applicants to conveniently apply to multiple institutions.

Is there application fee involved utilizing CSDCAS?

Yes. The CSDCAS is a fee-based service. To use their services, it requires you to pay a separate application fee. There is a fee waiver program available for those who meet the incoming level. Refer to CSDCAS (<http://www.capcsd.org/csdcas/>) website for the details.

If I have questions about CSDCAS, who do I contact?

You will first carefully review [CSDCAS FAQs](#), and then contact **CSDCAS Customer Service** (available Monday thru Friday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM EST): Phone – (617) 612-2030; E-Mail – csdcasinfo@csdcas.org

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3. When is the deadline to apply for the current admission semester?

The application deadline is **February 1 (5:00pm, PST)** for the following Fall semester of each academic year. Please visit the [Admissions and Records](#) page for application instructions.

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I am applying to the MA program through CSDCAS, but have not completed or submitted my application yet. Can I begin the process of having the required documents sent to CSDCAS?

As long as you have initiated the application process through [CSDCAS](#), you can begin requesting to have the required documents sent to [CSDCAS](#) so that they will be received by the deadline of **Feb. 1st** of the admission year.

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4. Is the required "statement of purpose" from the [CSU APPLY](#) application the same as the essay question that is required on the CSDCAS application?

The "**statement of purpose**" from the CSU Apply application does NOT apply to Communication Sciences and Disorders applicants. Instead, you will only need to submit response to that is required for the [CSDCAS](#) essay question.

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5. Are GRE, CBEST, or any other scores required to be submitted for the graduate program application?

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and California Basic Education Skills Tests (CBEST) scores are NOT required for applying to the M.A. program at CSUF. **However, passing CBEST scores will be required for those who apply to our post-baccalaureate program at the time of application.**

Students who are admitted to our M.A. program, if you plan to pursue a credential program along with your M.A. degree, a proof of passing CBEST is required for taking your school practicum—typically in the 2nd year of the M.A. program.

The CBEST cannot be replaced by GRE. However, it may be waived if you have taken other basic skills test similar to CBEST, click the [Commission on Teacher Credentialing for the guidelines.](#)

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6. Can I send materials or documents for my application directly to the department or deliver them in person?

With the exception of your CBEST scores required for the postbac applicants, any application materials will NOT be accepted nor processed in the Department office. All graduate application materials should be sent directly to [CSDCAS](#) for processing. Any documents that are received in the department office will be discarded and CANNOT be submitted for review.

For the **postbac applicants**, you must send your passing CBEST scores to the Dept. by **Feb. 1st**.

Dr. Ying-Chiao Tsao
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P. O. Box 6868, Fullerton, CA 92834.

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7. If I do not have a background in Communication Sciences and Disorders or have been out of school for more than two years, whom I can ask for writing the letters of recommendation for me.

If you do not have an undergraduate degree in CSD, please make every effort to obtain letters from faculty or lecturer who you took CSD classes with, and/or former professors who are familiar with your academic work. Two letters must be from CSD faculty or adjunct faculty who can speak to your academic potential for success.

You will also need a third letter from an SLP or a professional/employer in other related field (e.g., doctor's office, physical therapy, special education classroom, etc.) who you have worked or volunteered with, and can speak to your work ethics and clinical potentials

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8. Does the admission committee review applications in the order of which they were received and/or do they accept applicants on a rolling basis admission?

NO. *The admission committee does not admit applicants on a rolling basis. Following the submission deadline, all applications are reviewed at the same time, regardless of when you completed or submitted your application. Unlike M.A. application, the admissions for **postbac applicants** is indeed on a rolling basis. Your application will be reviewed once your application is complete. The admission decisions (acceptance or denial) typically are made around mid-April, and you should receive the decision letter by then. If not, you will first check the [Admissions and Records Office](#) to find out your application status, and then provide the update to Dr. Tsao.*

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Once I have completed and submitted my application through CSDCAS, when can I expect to hear a response as to whether or not I have been accepted into the graduate program?

*If you are admitted, you will first be contacted by email and/or phone toward **the end of March, and throughout April** of the admission year, following by an email confirmation. Due to a high volume of applications, only those who are admitted will be noticed.*

Nevertheless, a denial letter will be sent to the rest of applicants in May and June. In case that you have not received this decision letter by May or June, you will need to contact [Admissions & Records Office](#), as I am not involved in that process.

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9. Can references be submitted electronically?

Yes. Indeed, all references must be submitted electronically through CSDCAS. A hard copy of reference will NO longer be accepted by the university, and will not be reviewed by the Graduate Committee. Please follow the instructions for submitting your references by logging into your CSDCAS account.

10. About GPA and Course Requirements-

Do I need to compute and submit my GPA?

No. All you need to do is follow instructions given by CSDCAS to enter all of your courses information (course title, units, and grade).

How my GPA will be computed for graduate application consideration?

In addition to all CSD courses, only one sign language classes (if taken; this is not required) and any CSD related classes will be computed automatically by CSDCAS system.

*For any repeated CSD class, the CSDCAS will use **an average grade** in the GPA computation.*

Whom do I send my official transcripts to?

You are required to submit a set of official college level transcripts only to CSDCAS at the following address:

**CSDCAS Application Center
P.O. Box 9113, Watertown, MA 02471**

The CSUF Admissions and Records Office will access to CSDCAS website to evaluate your transcripts and decide your admissibility to the university, while CSDCAS will verify the grade entered for each of your course and compute your GPA to be reviewed by the graduate committee.

Should I wait for my grade report of the fall term before sending in my transcripts?

NO. You should send in your transcripts ASAP or at least 4-6 weeks prior to the deadline of Feb. 1st to avoid incomplete or late application that will not be considered. Just make sure that you have at least 8 CSD and one statistics courses with a grade posted on CSDCAS – this is one of the basic requirements for your application to be considered.

*In the case that the classes taken in fall term is counted toward the required 8 CSD and 1 statistics, you **MUST** stay on the top to assure your fall grades will be posted by Feb. 1st – reporting it and contact CSDCAS if necessary.*

Will my application be considered if I will only complete less than 8 CSD or will not have taken any statistics classes by the deadline of Feb. 1st?

NO. These are two of the basic requirements for all M.A. applicants. An applicant has taken less than 8 CSD courses, or have not taken a statistics class will not be considered in the review process.

If completing 8 CSD and 1 statistics classes is sufficient for my application to be considered?

NO. They are the only two of the basic requirements. You will also need to have 4 other CSD courses posted on your transcripts to be completed prior to fall semester of the admission year. Please refer to the application requirements and M.A. application checklist posted on Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) website for the details.