

## Dear CD graduate applicants:

Thank you for applying to CSUF, Department of Human Communication Studies, Communicative Disorders master's program. **The review of CD graduate school applications has now come to the end.** As of May 5, 2016, thirty-three acceptance offers have been extended to those who are admitted. For all other applicants, you will be receiving a decision letter regarding your application from University Admissions and Records (As & Rs) Office in the next few weeks.

For this review cycle, we received 488 applications, including 22 incomplete or late or undelivered. 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 17% based on 194 applications with a GPA of 3.7 and above; and it is 10.3% based on 320 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 320 completed applications, 60% of them with a CD- GPA of 3.7 and above (29.3% with 3.9 and above, and 9.6% with 4.0). The average GPA of our admitted graduate students this year was 3.88. For the past 10 years, this average GPA has been ranged between 3.85 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 CD prerequisites.** As indicated in admission requirements (posted on our CD Webpage and in the Department automatic reply to CD Mentor online application), you must have completed at least eight CD prerequisites (with a grade in hand as of Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>) and one statistics to be qualified for Fall 2016. The GPA is computed based on only the courses in Communicative Disorders.
- 4. Incomplete application/Inadmissibility.** You must have applied to both CSDCAS and CSU Mentor. 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 (at least 2 from CD faculty/instructors), (c) both CSU Mentor and CSDCAS application 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 CSU Mentor application* and *the announcement posted on CD Webpage*. Applications posted at either CSDCAS or CSU Mentor 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 CD webpage.
- 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 at least two letters from CD faculty/instructors, or your letters of recommendation failed to yield 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 CSU Mentor, 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 CD master's program for the next admission cycle, you are strongly advised to check the CSU Mentor and CD Webpage in September, and stay updated when the registration is re-open in October for Fall 2017. 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 CSU Mentor, and (c) stay up-to-date with the deadline by checking our CD Webpage when new application period becomes available.

*(p.s., if you are from CSUF, please know that you are armed with great knowledge and skills. I am confident that you will do well in other schools. If you took a class with me, you may recall that I defined SLP as 'self-loving/caring professionals.' Please be sure to be gentle to yourself and continue to find your own niches during this difficult time. Believe in yourself, and know that your cultural and/or linguistic backgrounds or your exposure to multicultural environment here in California are highly valued by many out-of-state universities. If you keep your option open and remain determined in achieving your goals, it's just a matter of time! When that day comes, don't forget to keep Dr. Tsao posted. If you need any further guidance, do not hesitate to email me or stop by my office hours.)*

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

Sincerely,

*Ying-Chiao Tsao*

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