**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 2017.

For this review cycle, we received 523 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 13.5% based on 206 applications with a GPA of 3.7 and above; and it is 7.7% based on 361 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 361 completed applications, 57% of them with a CSD- GPA of 3.7 and above and 11% 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 between3.80 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 crow 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 CSUMentor online application), you must have completed at least eight CSD prerequisites (with a grade in hand as of Feb. 1st) and one statistics to be qualified for Fall 2017. 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. 1st.  ***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 1st** 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.

1. **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 CSUMentor and CSD Website in September, and stay updated when the registration is re-open in October for Fall 2018. 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.

 (*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

Ying-Chiao Tsao , Ph.D./CCC-SLP

Graduate Adviser and Associate Professor

CSUF-HCOM/Communication Sciences and Disorders