



Department of Human Communication Studies  
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July 14, 2016

**Subject: Pathway to a Master's Degree in Communicative Disorders for Students with Bachelor's Degrees in Communication Disorders or the Equivalent**

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in our graduate program in communicative disorders. Our program has been accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) since 1969. Entrance into the field of speech-language pathology requires completion of a master's degree in the field and at least 400 hours of supervised clinical practicum experiences. Minimum requirements for entrance into the master's degree program include a bachelor's degree in communication disorders or the equivalent.

The program has many more qualified applicants each semester than it can admit. The next semester that you may enter the program will be Fall 2017. Beginning of 2014, there will be only fall admission per year, which 28 students will be admitted. The first date you can apply for is October 1 for the next fall semester. I urge you to submit all of your application materials as early as you possibly can as we do not accept late applications regardless of the circumstances, and it is difficult to verify that your file is complete if you wait until the last few weeks when there is a crush of application materials for the department to catalog.

The CSU Fullerton M.A. Communicative Disorders program will begin processing applications using an online service entitled Communication Science and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS). This online application is required in addition to the mandatory application submitted at CSUMentor (<http://www.csumentor.edu/AboutMentor/>). The CSDCAS (<http://www.capcsd.org/csdcas/>) is administered by an independent third party provider and is not associated with the California State University or the CSU Mentor application system. The CSDCAS is a fee-based service that enables applicants to conveniently apply to multiple institutions. All applicants to CSU Fullerton's M.A. program in Communicative Disorders **MUST** submit an application to **BOTH** CSU Mentor and CSDCAS. ***Hard copy of application materials will no longer be accepted.***

**Completed applications for FALL 2017 ADMISSION must be received by February 1, 2017.** It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure the COMPLETION of each application in **BOTH** CSDCAS and CSU Mentor by the posted deadline. **Neither incomplete applications nor late submissions will be reviewed.** Follow the following 3 steps to complete your application process:

**Step 1 – Apply to CSU Mentor** (<http://www.csumentor.edu/AdmissionApp/>)

Apply to CSU Mentor and pay the application fee by **5pm Feb. 1st, Pacific Standard Time**. In order to meet the deadline, you will have to ask for your transcripts at **least 4-6 weeks** in advance. The university requires CSU Mentor application in order to assess your overall admissibility to the university. For CSU Mentor, you can apply online using the following sub-steps:

1. Go to [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)
2. Select “Apply Online.”
3. On the next page, select “Graduate Admissions Applications.”
4. On the next page, select the large light blue box that includes the semester you plan to begin the program (e.g., Fall 2017).
5. On the next page, either create a new account or enter your user name and password.
6. On the next page, select “CSU Fullerton Graduate” from the drop-down menu then click on “Start New Application.”
7. After you log in, you will be taken to a page with the heading “2016-2017 Graduate Application for Admission.” Go to the bottom of this page and click on “Begin Application for CSU Fullerton Graduate.”
8. On the page with the heading “Enrollment Information,” you will find a number of drop down menus, which are completed as follows:
  - a) Term applying for: Select the term you wish to begin (e.g., Fall 2017).
  - b) Main campus/Off-campus center: Select “**Main campus.**”
  - c) Major/Program objective: Select “**Communicative Disorders.**”
  - d) Indicate any option, emphasis, or concentration within this field: **Leave menu blank.**
  - e) Degree objective: Selection “**M.A.**”
  - f) Education credential objective (may be in addition to major/program objective). Teacher, other service credential program: Select either “*Applying to a credential program now,*” or “*Not interested in a credential program.*”  
 We urge all applicants to pursue the credential as well as the master’s degree because it will afford you the greatest possible career opportunities. If you do not obtain the credential at this time, you may not be able to obtain it in the future because requirements change and you may not be able to meet the requirements later after you have earned your master’s degree. You may, however, elect to add the credential to your objectives at any time in the future as long as you do it while you are still pursuing your master’s degree. If you wish to be admitted to the credential program at the same time you are admitted to the master’s program, you must submit passing CBEST scores (in the sections of reading, math, and writing) prior to matriculating at CSUF graduate school.
  - g) Credential objective name: Select “*Language, speech, and hearing*” or ignore this item if you selected “*Not interested in a credential program*” for the previous item.
  - h) All subsequent choices you need to make will be individual, and they will be self-explanatory.
9. Although the CSU Mentor online application may instruct you to submit your transcripts directly to Admissions and Records Office, this will not be applicable to Communicative Disorders applicants.
10. Similarly, you do not need to submit documents such as personal statement or essay, GRE scores, or letters of recommendation to CSU Mentor.

**Step 2 -- Follow the link (<https://csdcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>) in the Department auto-reply, when you apply to CSU Mentor; it will take you to CSDCAS.**

You will create an account and submit required application materials (a letter of intent, same as a personal essay/personal statement, three letters of recommendation, and a copy of your official transcripts from all institutions). Follow all other instructions required by CSDCAS.

CSDCAS Customer Service available Monday thru Friday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM  
 ESTPhone – (617) 612-2030; E-Mail – [csdcasinfo@csdcas.org](mailto:csdcasinfo@csdcas.org)

**Step 3 – Complete your applications to BOTH CSU Mentor and CSDCAS.**

You will be accountable for making sure that your application is “complete” by checking your CSU Student Portal and your CSDCAS Account. Your application will NOT be reviewed if either process is not completed.

If you have questions about CSDCAS process, check their FAQ (<https://portal.csdcas.org/csdcasHelpPages/instructions-and-faq/>) or contact CSDCAS Customer Service (available Monday thru Friday from 9AM to 5PM, EST) at (617) 612-2030, or email them at [csdcasinfol@csdcas.org](mailto:csdcasinfol@csdcas.org).

If you have questions about the application process with CSU-Fullerton, please refer to **CSUMentor FAQs** (<http://www.csumentor.edu/Expert/>) and/or **CD FAQs** posted on CD Website (<http://communications.fullerton.edu/hcom/hcom-cd-ma.php>) for any additional questions you may have. For any other questions, please feel free to send an email to Dr. Tsao at [ytsao@fullerton.edu](mailto:ytsao@fullerton.edu).

Admission decisions are based primarily on (a) GPA in the major (including up to two courses in *American Sign Language*, if you have taken; this is not required), (b) evidence of significant exposure to or experience (either volunteer or employment) with persons who have communication or other related disabilities such as autism, learning disabilities, or even physical disabilities, and (c) evidence of ability to be successful clinicians with a linguistically and culturally diverse population. Evidence for "b" and "c" should be indicated in the letter of intent/personal essay and supported by your letters of recommendation.

It is understood that applicants may be completing the last four of the prerequisites courses and one 3-unit stand-alone statistics class at the time they apply to the master's degree program, **but *their acceptance is contingent on confirmation of a B.A./B.S. degree in the major or successful completion of all courses prior to matriculating in the master's degree program.***

If you have any questions or concerns about the pathway to become a speech-language pathologist, the best way to reach me is to email me at [ytsao@fullerton.edu](mailto:ytsao@fullerton.edu). I will reply to you within a week's time. For me to work efficiently on a high volume of inquiries and meet everyone's need, no personal appointment is available. I wish you success in your future!

Sincerely,

*Ying-Chiao Tsao*

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