



Department of Human Communication Studies

(657) 278-3617 / Fax (657) 278-3377

July 14, 2016

Subject: Pathway to a Master's Degree in Communicative Disorders for Students with Bachelor's Degrees in Other Fields of Study

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in our graduate program in communicative disorders.

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.

Your bachelor's degree is in another field. **Qualifications for admission to the master's degree program include the successful completion of 36 semester units of specific undergraduate coursework in communication disorders and one 3-unit stand-alone statistics class.** The list of twelve courses (36 units) that constitute the *Equivalency to the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communicative Disorders* is shown at the end of this letter. It takes three to four semesters to complete this coursework because one course builds on another; that is, the courses have prerequisites that must be met in order to maximize your chances for success. *Completion of this coursework does not guarantee subsequent admission to the master's degree program*; admission is on a competitive basis for a limited number of seats.

In order to take the 36 units of required undergraduate coursework you must be admitted to the university with an objective. The objective you will apply for is a ***Credential in Language, Speech, and Hearing***. You will not, however, obtain the credential unless you are subsequently admitted to the master's degree program and you complete that program successfully. In addition, you must have a GPA of 3.0 or above for the last 60 units of college course work. You will not be allowed to take the graduate-level courses required to complete the credential unless you are admitted to the master's degree program following the completion of your 36 units of undergraduate coursework.

Beginning of 2014, we admit students to the "equivalency program" only once a year in the Fall semester. The first date you can apply for the fall semester is October 1 of the previous year and your application should be complete by **February 1**.

The online application process for the “equivalency program” is as follows.

- a. Go to www.csumentor.edu
- b. Select “Apply Online.”
- c. On the next page, select “Graduate Admissions Applications.”
- d. On the next page, select the large light blue box that includes the semester you plan to begin the program (e.g., Fall 2017).
- e. On the next page, either create a new account or enter your user name and password.
- f. On the next page, select “CSU Fullerton Graduate” from the drop-down menu then click on “Start New Application.”
- g. 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.”
- h. On the page with the heading “Enrollment Information,” you will find a number of dropdown menus, which are completed as follows:
 - 1) Term applying for: Select the term you wish to begin.
 - 2) Main campus/Off-campus center: Select “**Main campus.**”
 - 3) Major/Program objective: Select “**Education (Credential Only).**”
 - 4) Indicate any option, emphasis, or concentration within this field: **Leave menu blank.**
 - 5) Degree objective: Selection “**None.**”
 - 6) Education credential objective (may be in addition to major/program objective). Teacher, other service credential program: Select “**Planning to apply to credential program this term.**”
 - 7) Credential objective name: Select “**Language, speech, and hearing.**”
 - 8) All subsequent choices you need to make will be individual, and they will be self-explanatory.
- i. Follow all other instructions on CSU Mentor. You must have all of your official transcripts sent directly to Admissions and Records Office, NOT to the Department of Human Communication Studies.
- j. The program does not use scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) to evaluate applicants.
- k. Letters of recommendation and personal statement are not required for admission at this time. You will submit both documents later when you apply for the master’s degree program. Do not submit them now.
- l. Admission to the equivalency program is contingent on passing the CBEST (California Basic Educational Skills Test). ***You will not be admitted until you have sent proof of passing the test.*** You may, however, initiate all other parts of your application prior to passing the CBEST if you so desire. Registration forms for this test are available at universities or by calling CBEST (916-928-4001). The detailed information, including information on out-of-state testing locations, is available at <http://www.cbest.nesinc.com/>.

*You are responsible for sending a photocopy of your passing CBEST scores in the sections of **reading, math,** and **writing** directly to me at the following address:*

Ying-Chiao Tsao, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor
Communicative Disorders Program
Department of Human Communication Studies CP 420-1
800 North State College Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92834-6868

It is important to apply early so that you can check with your online “**student portal**” to make sure that your online application has been received and processed, that Admissions and Records Office has received all of your college level official transcripts (including even only one class taken at a community college or other institute), and that the application has been forwarded to the department for review. To verify that the department has received the passing CBEST results that you sent to the department, you may check the “**Application Status**” link *posted on CD Website* (<http://communications.fullerton.edu/hcom/hcom-cd-ma.php>) around mid-January.

The **first semester** in the program, you should enroll in any two to three or all of the following four classes: HCOM 241, 242, 307, and 344. After you’ve been admitted, you will be invited to a group advisement session in which we will plan your entire program. This will take place either prior to or during your 1st semester. Further, you will be advised on the process for applying to the master’s program, and I will answer your questions. Please consider this advisement session to be mandatory, as individual advisement is not available, and you will need the information that is provided.

As you approach the completion of 36 units of prerequisite coursework and one 3 unit stand-alone statistics course, you may submit an application to the master’s degree program in communication disorders.

Check the Website (<http://communications.fullerton.edu/hcom/hcom-cd-ma.php>) for the following 3-step application procedures.

Step 1: Access the link (<https://csdcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>) and complete the CSDCAS application.

*The CSDCAS (<http://www.cspcsd.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. While all applicants to CSU Fullerton’s M.A. program in Communicative Disorders are required to submit an application to **BOTH** CSU Mentor and CSDCAS, **as a post-baccalaureate student at CSUF, you do not need to apply through CSU Mentor. Hard copy application materials will no longer be accepted!***

If you have questions about CSDCAS process, you may check their FAQ at: <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 csdcasinfo@csdcas.org.

Step 2: Go to LH 114 and complete the Change of Objective Form.

(If you have any questions, please call 657-278-7601)

The actual application process for the currently post-baccalaureate students involves completing a “*Change of Objective*” form (to be picked up at Admissions and Records Service Center, LH-114). On that form, you will change your objective from “Credential-Only” to “*Credential and Master’s Degree (Communicative Disorders)*.”

(However, if you are no longer enrolled in classes at CSUF at the time of application, you will have to apply through CSUMentor like everyone else.)

Step 3: Check the status of your CSDCAS application.

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.

Admission to the master’s program is, however, on a competitive basis considering grade point average in communication disorders courses, letters of recommendation, and letter of intent or personal statement (highlighting your personal qualities, relevant work experience, clinical and extracurricular experience, aptitude for working with a linguistically and culturally diverse population, academic history, and future career objectives). Successful completion of the “equivalency program” in no way assures that you will receive a Master of Arts Degree or a Language, Speech, and Hearing Credential. Only a limited number of students can be admitted to the master’s program each semester to complete these objectives.

If you have any questions about the pathway to become a speech-language pathologist, you will first refer to FAQs at CD Website (<http://communications.fullerton.edu/hcom/hcom-cd-ma.php>). If you have further unanswered questions, feel free to email to me at ytsao@fullerton.edu. The best way to reach me is through email, with which you will receive a reply from me 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

Ying-Chiao Tsao, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor
Communicative Disorders Program
Department of Human Communication Studies
Email: ytsao@fullerton.edu
Telephone: 657-278-5307

Equivalency to the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communicative Disorders

The following is a list of courses that constitute an equivalency to the bachelor's degree in communicative disorders. **You must have completed at least eight of these courses before submitting an application for the master's degree.**

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

- HCOM 241 Introduction to Phonetics (3)
- HCOM 242 Introduction to Communicative Disorders (3)
- HCOM 307 Speech & Language Development (3)
- HCOM 344 Anatomy & Physiology of Speech & Hearing Mechanism
- HCOM 350 Speech & Hearing Science (3)
- HCOM 352 Child Language & Phonological Disorders (3)
- HCOM 461 Audiology & Audiometry (3)
- HCOM 465 Aural Rehabilitation (3)
- HCOM 472 Voice & Craniofacial Disorders (3)
- HCOM 474 Neurology & Neurogenic Communicative Disorders (3)
- HCOM 475 Fluency Disorders (3)
- HCOM 476 Clinical Methods & Procedures (3)

- A stand-alone statistics refers to a full class of statistics.