

## Dear CSD graduate applicants:

Thank you for applying to CSUF, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders master's program. As of April 15, 2021, we have completed our Fall 2021 admission process, and twenty-five applicants have 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 around mid-June of 2021. If you have not received your letter, it could be because your application is still being processed in the Admissions and Records office. (The review of your application was done based on the materials you submitted to CSDCAS)

For this review cycle, we received 541 applications. Many of you had 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 13.6% based on 199 applications with a GPA of 3.7 and above; and it is 6.6% based on 408 completed applications.

Your application may have been denied due to one or more of the following reasons:

- 1. Competitive GPA.** For this review cycle, of 408 completed applications, 48.8% of them were with a CSD- GPA of 3.7 and above and 10.8% with a 4.0 GPA. The average GPA of our admitted graduate students this year was 3.85. For the past 20 years, this average GPA has ranged between 3.81 to 3.95.
- 2. Competitive work experience.** Many of you came with ample clinical, fieldwork, and/or research experience relevant to the field of Speech-Language Pathology; and some simply stand out from the crowd with very extraordinary experiences.
- 3. Insufficient CSD prerequisites.** As indicated in admission requirements (posted on our CSD Website and in the Department automatic reply to CSU APPLY online application), you must have completed at least eight CSD prerequisites (with a grade in hand as of January 15th) and one statistics, will complete 12 CSDs by summer of 2021; of these 12, nine of them are equivalent to CSUF's CD prerequisites. (FYI. Your GPA is computed based on only the CSD courses)
- 4. Incomplete application/Inadmissibility.** You must have applied to both CSDCAS and CSU APPLY. On the 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 CSU APPLY and CSDCAS applications must have "completed" by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- 5. Late submission.** The deadline of **January 15<sup>st</sup>** was posted online -- in both the *department response to CSU Mentor application* and the *announcement posted on CSD Website*. Applications posted at either CSDCAS or CSU APPLY after the deadline were not considered.
- 6. Inaccurate application.** Occasionally, one or two students may have applied to the 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 the CSD website.
- 7. Lack of a strong personal statement.** 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 or 1 from the field supervisor; or your letters of recommendation failed to provide strong support for your application.
- 9. Insufficient extracurricular activities.** You either had none/ little clinical or work experience related to healthcare/education; hardly participated in extracurricular activities or community volunteering work.
- 10. Program size limit.** You may have submitted all required materials on time, met the required minimum criteria, completed online registration through CSU APPLY, and had 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 yearly limit, your application was unfortunately not accepted.

If you remain interested in our CSD master's program for the next admission cycle, please note the application deadline has moved forward to **January 15, beginning 2022**, and you are **strongly advised to check the CSU APPLY and CSD Website in September for updates**, and stay updated when the registration is reopened in October for Fall 2021. There may be 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 only CSDCAS**, and apply to **both CSDCAS and CSU APPLY**, and (c) stay up-to-date with the deadline by checking our CSD website when the new application period becomes available.

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

Sincerely,

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