

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is the procedure for applying for the next fall admission year?

- *For information on applying to our graduate program for the next fall admission year, please carefully review the instructions on the [Communication Sciences and Disorders \(CSD\) website](#).*

2. About CSDCAS –

What is CSDCAS?

- *The Communication Science and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS, <https://mycsdcas.org/inquiryform>) is an independent third party provider who is not associated with the California State University (CSU) application system.*

All required documents for M.A. applicants will be submitted directly only to [CSDCAS](#). No hard copy of application materials will be accepted at CSUF-Dept. of Communication Science and Disorders.

Why CSDCAS? What does it do?

- *The CSDCAS website will allow you to submit required materials where the CSUF-CSD graduate committee will access and review your files. You will only need to do one time submission of application materials, your files are then accessible to other participating ASHA accredited CSD programs of your own choice. In other words, CSDCAS enables applicants to conveniently apply to multiple institutions.*

Is there an application fee involved utilizing CSDCAS?

- *Yes. The CSDCAS is a fee-based service. To use their services, it requires you to pay a separate application fee. There is a fee waiver program available for those who meet the incoming level. Refer to CSDCAS (<https://mycsdcas.org/inquiryform>) website for the details.*

If I have questions about CSDCAS, who do I contact?

- *You will first carefully review [CSDCAS FAQs](#), and contact [CSDCAS Customer Service](#) (available Monday thru Friday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM EST): Phone – (617) 612-2030; e-Mail –csdcasinfo@csdcas.org*

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3. When is the deadline to apply for the current admission semester?

- *The application deadline is **January 15th (8:59pm, PST)** for the following Fall semester of each academic year. Please visit the [Admissions and Records](#) website for application instructions.*

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I am applying to the MA program through CSDCAS, but have not completed or submitted my application yet. Can I begin the process of having the required documents sent to CSDCAS?

- *As long as you have initiated the application process through [CSDCAS](#), you can begin requesting to have the required documents sent to [CSDCAS](#) so that they will be received by the deadline of **January 15th (8:59 pm, PST)** of the admission year.*

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4. Is the required "statement of purpose" from the [CSU APPLY](#) application the same as the essay question that is required on the CSDCAS application?

- *The request of “**statement of purpose**” shown on the CSU Apply application does NOT apply to Communication Sciences and Disorders applicants. The required response is ONLY for the [CSDCAS](#). **You will enter ‘not applicable.’ to skip the request.***

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5. Are GRE, CBEST, or any other scores required to be submitted for the graduate program application?

- *Both the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and California Basic Education Skills Tests (CBEST) scores are NOT required for applying to the M.A. program at CSUF.*

However, applicants for the post-baccalaureate program are required to submit passing CBEST scores.

The CBEST cannot be replaced by GRE. However, it may be waived if you have taken other basic skills test similar to CBEST, click the [Commission on Teacher Credentialing for the guidelines](#).

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6. Do I send materials or documents for my application directly to the department?

NO. For both M.A. and post-baccalaureate programs, nothing is due to or will be processed at the Department level.

For M.A. applicants---

All your application materials (including personal statement, letters of recommendation, & transcripts) are due to ONLY CSDCAS. Nothing is due to CSU APPLY other than paying the \$70 fee to complete your application. The application deadline is the same as for CSDCAS, [January 15th of the admission year](#). [Please do not confuse with the university's general deadline for other programs.]

Any documents received in the department office will NOT be considered or reviewed.

For post-baccalaureate applicants---

Your passing CBEST scores are required and due to CSU APPLY.

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7. If I do not have a background in Communication Sciences and Disorders or have been out of school for more than two years, whom I can ask for writing the letters of recommendation for me.

- *If you do not have an undergraduate degree in CSD, you will make every effort to obtain letters from faculty or lecturers who you took CSD classes with, and/or former professors who are familiar with your academic work. [Two letters must be from CSD faculty or adjunct faculty](#) who can speak to your academic potential for success.*

You will also need a third letter from an SLP or a professional/employer in other related field (e.g., doctor's office, physical therapy, special education classroom, etc.) who you have worked or volunteered with, and can speak to your work ethics and clinical experience or the potentials.

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8. Does the admission committee review applications in the order of which they were received and/or do they accept applicants on a rolling basis admission?

- NO for M.A. applicants ---

The graduate admission committee does not admit applicants on a rolling basis. Following the submission deadline, all applications are reviewed at the same time, regardless of when you completed or submitted your application. [For submission after the posted deadline or for an incomplete application, your application will not be considered.]

- YES for postbac applicants ---

The post-baccalaureate application is on a rolling basis. Your application will be reviewed once the Admissions and Records Office completes their verification process.

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Once I have completed and submitted my application through CSDCAS, when can I expect to hear a response as to whether or not I have been accepted into the graduate program?

Below is the tentative timeline for our application process and admission offers

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|---------------------------------|---|
| January 15 | Application Deadline (no later than 8:59 pm, Pacific Standard Time) |
| February 6th | Reviews of the Applications (by a graduate committee of 3 faculty) |
| March 1st | Invitation to Open House (only the top 100 applicants) |
| March 5th | Submission of proof for CSD course waivers |
| 1st to 2nd week of March | Open House (TBA) |
| Mid-March | Admission offers (will be extended to 25 applicants) |
| March 20th | Required initial response to the admission offer |
| April 15th | Final deadline to accept the admission offer |

For those who are admitted --

you will first be contacted by email and/or phone to take a required survey regarding your intent (YES-NO-Undecided) and other information (CBEST scores, COMD 404, 25 observation hours).

If you are among the top 100 applicants who are invited to the Open House but not admitted, nor on a short-waitlist initially, please be patient with us. Based on previous years' experience, there will be a few openings around the final decision date of April 15th.

If you are not invited to the top 100 applicants --

a decision letter regarding our selection consideration will be sent to you via CSDCAS.

Due to a high volume of applications, your letter will not be available until the Admissions and Records Office completes the processing of your CSU APPLY application. For most cases, a denial letter will be sent to you in June. Please contact [Admissions & Records Office](#) for this, as I am not involved in that process.

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9. Can references be submitted electronically?

- *Yes. Indeed, all references must be submitted electronically through CSDCAS. A hard copy of reference will NO longer be accepted by the university, and will not be reviewed by the Graduate Committee. Please follow the instructions for submitting your references by logging into your CSDCAS account.*

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10. About GPA and Course Requirements -

Do I need to compute and submit my GPA?

- *No. All you need to do is follow instructions given by CSDCAS to enter all of your courses' information (course title, units, and grade).*

How will my GPA be computed for graduate application consideration?

- *In addition to all CSD courses, only one sign language class (if taken; this is not required) and any CSD related classes will be computed automatically by the CSDCAS system.*

For any repeated CSD class, the CSDCAS will use an average grade in the GPA computation.

Whom do I send my official transcripts to?

- *You are required to submit a set of official college level transcripts **only to CSDCAS** at the following address:*

CSDCAS Application Center
P.O. Box 9113, Watertown, MA 02471

The CSUF [Admissions and Records Office](#) will access the CSDCAS website to evaluate your transcripts and decide your admissibility to the university, while CSDCAS will verify the grade entered for each of your courses and compute your GPA to be reviewed by the graduate committee.

Should I wait for my grade report of the fall term before sending in my transcripts?

- ***NO.** You should send in your transcripts ASAP or at least 4-6 weeks prior to the deadline of January 15th to avoid any delay in verification of your application at the CSDCAS Office. In the case that classes taken during fall term are counted toward the required **eight CSD and one statistics**, you **MUST stay on the top to assure your fall grades will be posted by January 15th** – reporting it and contacting CSDCAS if necessary.*

Will my application be considered if I will only complete less than eight CSD by the deadline of January 15th or will not have taken a statistics class by summer?

- **NO.** *An applicant has taken less than eight CSD courses, or has not taken a statistics class will not be considered in the review process.*

Is completing eight CSD and one statistics class sufficient for my application to be considered?

- **NO.** *You will also need to have four other CSD courses posted on your transcripts to be completed prior to fall semester of the admission year.*

Please refer to the application requirements and M.A. application checklist posted on [Communication Sciences and Disorders \(CSD\)](#) website for the details.