

Graduate Program

The master's degree is considered essential for the professional training needed for effective practice in deaf education or speech-language pathology. The master's degree generally involves about two years of full-time study.

Admission Requirements. Students with bachelor's degrees in communicative disorders or a related field may apply for consideration. They must demonstrate the ability to excel at an advanced level. For consideration, submit the following: (1) proof of a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 units of any coursework and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in CDDS coursework; (2) three letters of recommendation; (3) a letter of intent; and (4) Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.

Consideration for admission may include but will not be limited to the following: (1) students with outstanding clinical potential, (2) deaf and hard of hearing students, (3) students with disabilities, and (4) students with multicultural or bilingual experience.

Applicants who have specific deficiencies or need coursework may be accepted with conditionally classified status. Students must apply to the department for fully classified graduate standing as soon as any conditions of acceptance have been met. No more than 10 units of graduate work taken under conditional classification can be used to meet the requirements of the master's degree.

Admission Procedures. Applications for the graduate program in communicative disorders are accepted until October 1 for the spring semester and February 1 for the fall semester. Applications received after these dates are considered the following semester. Application is a two-step process that involves submitting the following:

1. To the University

- An Application of Admission and the Supplemental Application for Graduate Admission (forms *A* and *B* in the CSU application booklet)
- Official transcripts from all universities and colleges other than California State University, Fresno
- Official GRE scores

2. To the Department

- Departmental application
- Official transcripts from all universities attended (California State University, Fresno students may supply the unofficial transcripts issued by Admissions and Records.)

- Official GRE scores
- Three letters of recommendation (These letters should be written by instructors or other persons familiar with communicative disorders.)
- Letter of intent

The departmental application, including information about the letter of intent, and letter of recommendation forms are available from the department. Students cannot be accepted into the graduate program until all materials are received by the university and the department. Students are encouraged to take their GRE *early* during their senior year to avoid delays in acceptance for graduate work.

Advancement to Candidacy. Each student in a master's degree program must file for advancement to candidacy. See *Admissions and Master's Degree Programs, Division of Graduate Studies*.

Graduate-Level Writing Competence. California State University, Fresno requires that students have graduate-level writing abilities before being advanced to candidacy for the master's degree. Students can demonstrate these abilities by passing the writing component of CDDS 200 and obtaining written clearance from the instructor. If GWR clearance is denied, students may appeal to the course instructor. Please see the CDDS *Graduate Handbook* for more information.

Statistics. Any 3-unit, one semester statistics course (lower division, upper division, or graduate level) is required to complete the Master of Arts in Communicative Disorders. Students are encouraged to take the course during their senior year. Exceptions may be made with the consent of their faculty adviser.

Grade Requirements. To be eligible to receive the master's degree, a student must have maintained a *B* average with no more than two *C* grades on the approved Program of Study. Once a student has received three *Cs* at any point in the graduate program, he or she will automatically be disqualified from the graduate program.

Master of Arts Degree Requirements

Communicative Disorders Major Units

Deaf Education Option

CDDS 200, 201, 202, 255, 262, 263, 264, either 3 units in electives* and CDDS 268 or 9 units in electives* **30**
Culminating Experience **6**

Thesis or project (6)
 Comprehensive Examination (6)
 CI 225 and LEE 173 or LEE 177
Total **36**

Speech-Language Pathology Option
 CDDS 200, 202, 204, 207, 210, 213, 214, 215, 216, 220 **30**
Culminating Experience **6**
 Thesis or project (6)
 Comprehensive Examination (6)
 CDDS 218, 292
Total **36**

*Approved electives are as follows: CDDS 290; CI 230; LEE 172, 214; LING 244; SPED 179, 219, 233, 235.

Other coursework is developed with the adviser to reflect such factors as students' desires regarding thesis or project, individual needs and desires for training, meeting certain state or national requirements, etc.

Student Teaching and Internship. Students are required to take their final student teaching and internship (e.g. CDDS 257, 258, 267, 268) during the last two semesters of their approved Program of Study and within the last 12 units of graduate coursework. Earlier final student teaching and internships are not permitted in the Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies Department.

Clinical Training. All students are involved in supervised clinical practicum experience during their graduate training. At least 400 clinical hours are required prior to receiving the M.A. A minimum of 300 of these hours must be at the graduate level. These hours are gained at the University Speech and Hearing Clinic and in at least two other settings (internship, student teaching, residency program, etc.)

Culminating Experience. A culminating experience is required of all California State University, Fresno students earning master's degrees. This requirement is accomplished by completing a thesis, project, or comprehensive written exam. Only a limited number of students may be permitted to undertake a thesis or project, depending on the availability of faculty or committee members. Selection of students for a thesis or project is determined by their consistent demonstration of academic superiority in coursework and evidence of outstanding writing skills and research papers. Up to 6 units of credit can be earned for a thesis or project. These units may be applied toward