Communication Sciences and Disorders

2019 - 2020
In this Guide:
Introduction........................................................................................................2
Application Timeline..........................................................................................2
Qualifications......................................................................................................3
Resources and Links............................................................................................5

Center for Career Development and Experiential Learning

Assistant Director of Career Development for the School of Science and Health Professions:

**Mr. Peter Ostrander**

Office: Baron-Forness Library Learning Commons, room 245

Email: 
Postrander@edinboro.edu

Phone: (814) 732-1235

Schedule an appointment
Communication Sciences and Disorders Guide to Graduate School

To continue in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders, there are three paths you can take when you graduate from your undergraduate program:

- **Enter workforce – Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)**
  - Cannot practice in all states as an SLPA with a bachelor’s degree. View the ASHA State-by-State Guide for more information.
- **Master Degree in Speech-Language Pathology**
- **Doctoral Degree in Audiology**

**Audiologist**
- Required Education: Doctoral Degree
- Entry Level Salary (Pennsylvania): $52,000
- Medial Level Salary (Pennsylvania): $75,000
- Projected Job Growth: 15% or Higher
- Projected Job Growth Openings: 1,000 (between 2016-2026)

**Speech Language Pathologist**
- Required Education: Master Degree
- Entry Level Salary (Pennsylvania): $50,000
- Medial Level Salary (Pennsylvania): $72,000
- Projected Job Growth: 15% or Higher
- Projected Job Growth Openings: 10,400 (between 2016-2026)

**TIMELINE & TIPS FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

*Please Note: Some schools will have early decision application deadlines. Plan accordingly.*

- **Fall semester/Junior Year:** Research Graduate Schools, begin GRE test preparation
  - January/February: Take GRE Practice Test
- **May/Junior Year:** Take the GRE
- **Summer Junior Year:** Visit graduate schools/begin collecting application requirements and deadlines for target schools.
  - Talk to Admission Representatives-don’t be afraid to call and schedule meetings to get information.
  - Prepare for graduate school admission interviews using BigInterview
- **Summer Junior Year:** Enter information into CSDCAS
- **August Senior Year:** Get transcripts into CSDCAS
  - Gather Letters of Recommendation (At Least 3)
- **September Senior Year:** Start Applying To Schools

Many final deadlines fall between October and January.

*In April you will be notified if you will be rejected, waitlisted, or granted an interview. Waitlist can go, depending on the school, all the way until August.*
Communication Sciences and Disorders Guide to Graduate School

Keep copies of graduate school applications and/or a spreadsheet of schools applied to for your records.

Check schools for admission requirements if you have an undergraduate degree other than Communication Disorders or Speech Language Pathology.

Application Process
Approximately 60% of graduate schools participate in Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS). The cost of using CSDCAS is $125 for the first school and $50 for all others.

Red Flags
Red flags are issues that could hinder your chances of a successful application to graduate school.
Some red flags are:
- Felony convictions
- Negative social media posts (including comments)
- Negative press
  - A juvenile offense that was published in the paper
- DUI’s or other drug/alcohol related offenses
- Institutional affairs actions
- Poor GPA / Too many withdrawals

Helpful Resources
ASHA EdFind
Listing of programs in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology

Advanced Review of Speech-Language Pathology
Comprehensive Study Book

Magoosh GRE Prep
Website with lessons on preparing for the GRE

QUALIFICATIONS

GPA
GPA will vary by program, by degree sought, and by year. Some programs will have a minimum GPA but the applicant pool will vary in competitiveness year to year as far as GPA. Some years an applicant pool will have a lower GPA than other years. Different schools will weight GPA differently as compared to GRE score (Koay, et al., 2016).

Speech Pathology GPA
- At least 3.60 (Average)
Audiology GPA

- At least 3.75 (Average)

If your academic record is less than perfect, focus on improving by your Junior and Senior years. Some admission committees will look more heavily at your academic record your Junior and Senior year than Freshman and Sophomore year. In these cases, having a strong upward trend in your grades may be helpful to your application.

Major GPA may also play a factor in some admission committee’s rulings on candidates

GRE

Generally depends on the graduate program.

General guidelines:

- Verbal: 48th Percentile
- Quantitative: 38th Percentile
- Writing: 93rd Percentile

Your ideal program may have different requirements. These are averages.

GRE Contents

1. Analytical Writing
   a. 45 minutes issue task
   b. 30 minutes argument task
2. Verbal
   a. 30 minutes
      i. Analyze written material, idea synthesis, relationships
3. Quantitative
   a. 2 sections – 35 minutes each
   b. 20 questions per section
      i. Mathematical concepts: algebra, geometry, data analysis

The GRE is most commonly delivered via computer but paper options are available. Different schools will weight GPA differently as compared to GRE score (Koay, et al., 2016).

Extracurricular

Participation in curricular activities can be helpful to your application. Consider some of the following activities to become more well-rounded as an individual and as an applicant:

- Joining ASHA as a student member
- Attending ASHA/PSHA conferences
- Speech Pathology club
- Greek life
- On campus clubs/organizations
- Athletics/Club Sports
Communication Sciences and Disorders Guide to Graduate School

- Study Abroad
- Volunteer work at a clinic or with early intervention

Letters Of Recommendation
Letters of Recommendation should be recent college professors but some programs will accept letters from supervisors. You should allow your recommendation letter writers plenty of time to complete these for you (at least 1-2 weeks). Remember that faculty are often writing dozens of letters each semester and are doing you a favor, so ask far in advance and always thank your recommenders!

Interviews
The interview process will be different depending on the field of communication disorder being entered. Consider these interview questions:
- Why do you want to be accepted in to this program?
- Do you have any work/volunteer experience related to this major?
- How would you resolve conflict?
- How do you balance volunteerism in school?

Interviews may be electronic or face to face. They can be group or individual. We encourage you to utilize the “Graduate Admissions” feature and practice mock interviews using Big Interview, the Edinboro University Career Center’s free interview software program that helps students learn and practice their interviewing skills.

RESOURCES

CSDCAS Applicant Portal

Student Academy of Audiology: The professional organization for audiology students

ASHA EdFind: Discover graduate programs across all areas of study

PRAXIS Speech-Language Pathology study companion and test prep

Magoosh: Affordable GRE Test prep resource