



## COMMUNICATION DISORDERS GRADUATE PROGRAM

Master of Arts Degree | Speech-Language Pathology  
245 Wallace Building  
Eastern Kentucky University  
521 Lancaster Avenue  
Richmond, KY 40475  
<http://www.cd.eku.edu>

### GRADUATE ADVISING GUIDE

2022 Admissions

The Master of Arts in Communication Disorders (CD) is a two-year, full-time program leading to eligibility for certification/licensure in Speech-Language Pathology by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology. As of June 2020, the Master of Arts in Communication Disorders will not provide eligibility for Kentucky Teacher Certification in Communication Disorders.

Preprofessional undergraduate preparation is considered prerequisite to the advanced preparation in this field at the graduate level of study. This prerequisite preparation includes coursework in speech-language pathology and audiology, as well as supporting coursework in areas such as psychology, linguistics, mathematics, statistics and the natural sciences.

#### **Advising**

Graduate advisors (and other CD faculty) will meet with any student whenever requested, whether the need is academic or personal. However, if you do not inform us that an appointment is wanted, we may not be aware of your need to see us. To make an appointment, faculty may be contacted in several ways, such as stopping by our offices, seeing us after class, calling our office phones, leaving a written message in our mailbox in Wallace 245, leaving a note on our door, leaving a message by voice mail or email, or calling the Main Office at 622-4442. If you leave a message, provide your name, phone number, best time(s) to call you, and reason for the appointment.

#### **NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT POLICIES AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

##### **CD Graduate Admission Requirements and Procedures**

To be eligible for admission into the graduate program in CD, applicants must have a bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders or Speech-Language Pathology. In order to be considered, the student must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 overall. Applicants must provide three letters of recommendation. Applicants must also provide an essay of approximately 500 words discussing personal and professional goals. See the Graduate Admission Policy on the CD website for additional information. In addition to these CD admission requirements, applicants must meet the general admission requirements of the Graduate School. The most qualified applicants will be admitted. The program may accept up to 30 new students each year. Admission to or completion of EKU's undergraduate program in CD does not guarantee acceptance into EKU's graduate program in CD. Apply online at [www.gradschool.eku.edu](http://www.gradschool.eku.edu). Application Deadline: February 15.

##### **Degreeworks Report for the Master's Degree**

The student must meet with her/his graduate advisor each semester to ensure progress toward meeting the exit requirements for the CD Program. Degreeworks formalizes the specific degree requirements for the student. Each student's Degreeworks can be accessed online. Read the "Program Planning" section in the Graduate catalog for further details.

### **GPA of 3.0 and Grade of "C"**

A GPA of 3.0 must be maintained throughout the student's enrollment in graduate study. A grade of "C" or higher is required for all graduate courses and prior to placement in any field-based practicum experiences. A student earning more than two "Cs," one "D," or one "F" will result in dismissal from the program. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is required at the beginning of the semester in which a student wishes to graduate. Students must apply for graduation prior to the beginning of the semester in which they wish to graduate.

### **Diagnostic & Treatment Clinical Clock Hours**

Students must provide documentation of 25 clinical observation hours in order to complete 375 clinical clock hours before graduating. This meets the hours required for ASHA certification and KY licensure. Experiences for accruing clock hours in at least three different settings are offered through CSD 874 (EKU Clinic), CSD 897 (public school externship), and CSD 898 (medical-based externship). Up to 50 documented undergraduate clock hours may be counted toward the 375 total.

### **Clinical Practica Requirements**

Students must purchase a Professional Liability Insurance policy offered by ECU prior to participation in practicum (CSD 874, 897, 898) and maintain this coverage throughout their enrollment. A TB test is also required annually prior to practicum experiences.

### **Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Cheating**

Acquisition of knowledge and ethical behavior are equally important aspects in the student's development to become a professional in this field. Giving attention to both of these aspects is in the best interest of the student and in the best interest of the public to be served by that student upon graduation. Therefore, this Program supports ECU's policy on Academic Integrity as described in the University Handbook for Students: <https://studentconduct.ecu.edu/academic-integrity-statement>.

The Program also supports the concept of "co-responsibility" for anyone who knowingly assists in any form of academic dishonesty. The CD faculty will follow University procedures (see the Handbook) to impose sanctions for any student who participates in any form of academic dishonesty. Unethical behavior will not be tolerated.

### **Class Attendance**

Regular and punctual attendance is expected in all CD courses and practicum activities. Allowance is made for illness, emergency, and other excused absence. Students should notify the instructor in advance of an absence, if possible. Unexcused absences will jeopardize grades. Refer to the course syllabus for specific rules regarding attendance for a particular CD (or any other university) course.

### **Grievances or Complaints**

The university policies and procedures for reporting of grievances or complaints can be found online: <https://studentsuccess.ecu.edu/studenthandbook>. In addition, complaints concerning the graduate program can be reported to the Council on Academic Accreditation for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology at <https://caa.asha.org/programs/complaints/>.

### **Comprehensive Examinations/Thesis Track**

Students will complete one of the following requirements for the M.A. in CD: Thesis or Written Comprehensive Examinations. Information about these tracks is provided in the CD Program Student Handbook.

### **PRAXIS**

Prior to graduation, the student must have taken one test in the Praxis series. Praxis 5331, the Specialty Area in Speech-Language Pathology test, is required for ASHA certification and state licensure in speech-language pathology. The test must be completed by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the final Spring Semester. Visit this website: <http://tes.ecu.edu/test-information> for information concerning test registration.

### **Externship and Student Teaching Prerequisites**

To be eligible to participate in either externship (medical or school), a student must demonstrate appropriate professional practice competencies. Please refer to the Professional Practice Competencies for Clinical and Educational Practice rubric.

To be eligible to participate in all externships (CSD 897 and 898), students must have maintained a GPA of 3.0, have completed required coursework with a "C" or higher, and submitted an application for externships. Professional liability insurance is also required. An interview, site visit, and/or certain health examinations/vaccinations may also be required by the externship facility before accepting the student. The application period is announced in the Spring Semester of first year. CSD 897 sites include public school settings. CSD 898 sites include hospitals, rehab centers, private practices, home health agencies, and residential facilities.

<b><u>PROGRAM SEQUENCE</u></b>	<b><u>REQUIRED HOURS</u></b>
<b><i>First Year</i></b>	
<b><u>Summer</u></b>	
CSD 873 Advanced Artic & Phonology Disorders	9-12
CSD 878 Diagnosis of Communication Disorders	
CSD 880 Research Methodology in Communication Disorders	
*Approved Elective (3 hours)	
<b><u>Fall</u></b>	
CSD 867 Advanced Language Disorders	12
CSD 874 Grad Practicum	
CSD 875 Neurogenic Language Disorders	
CSD 877 Advanced Fluency Disorders	
<b><u>Spring</u></b>	
CSD 874 Grad Practicum	9-12
CSD 876 Advanced Voice Disorders	
CSD 879 Dysphagia	
*Approved Elective (3 hours)	
<b><i>Second Year</i></b>	
<b><u>Summer</u></b>	
CSD 720 Augmentative & Alternative Communication Systems	
CSD 863 Motor Speech Disorders	9-12
CSD 874 Grad Practicum	
*Approved Elective (3 hours)	
<b><u>Fall - Professional Semester I</u></b>	
CSD 870 Professional Issues in CD	9-12
CSD 898 Medical Externship in CD <i>or</i> CSD 897 School Experiences in Comm. Dis. (6 credit hours)	
*Approved Elective (3 hours)	
<b><u>Spring - Professional Semester II</u></b>	
CSD 897 Student Experiences in Comm. Dis. <i>or</i> CSD 898 Medical Externship in CD (6 credit hours)	6-9
*Approved Elective (3 hours) or * CSD 899 Research Project/Thesis Option	
<b>Total Program Requirements (MA Degree)</b>	<b>63</b>

**\*Approved Electives**

Regularly offered electives (9 hours required) include: CSD 725 Literate Language, CSD 730 Therapeutic Relationships in Comm Disorders, CSD 861 Comm Disorders in Atypical Populations, SED 801 Adv Early Childhood Assessment, SED 802 Adv Early Childhood Intervention Programming, and CSD 885 Cognitive Rehabilitation. Other elective options *may* be from areas such as: CDF, EDF, EPY, NUR, OTS, PSY, SED, or other related field. CSD 899 Research Project/Thesis Option (3 hours) counts as only one elective regardless of the number of times taken.

**Career Development Office**

The Career Development Office can help you plan a job search, develop a resumé, prepare for interviews, etc. Take advantage of the excellent, award-winning services they offer!

I have received a copy of this advising sheet and its information has been explained to me by my advisor and/or the CSD Program Coordinator.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_