The program leading to the degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders is designed to prepare the student to function independently as a speech-language pathologist. To accomplish that objective, it is necessary that the student develop knowledge and/or competencies in several areas:

1. normal speech, hearing, and language development and behavior;
2. nature, evaluation, and management in various work settings of the disorders of speech, hearing, and language in children and adults; and
3. investigative procedures in communication disorders.

Completion of a master's degree is required prior to earning certification in speech-language pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and prior to earning a license from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for employment in public schools. Almost all employment in speech-language pathology requires the master's degree. The master's degree program in speech-language pathology at this University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. There is no program in audiology at UW-Eau Claire.

Practicum experiences are planned to serve the needs and interests of graduate students in communication sciences and disorders. They obtain a variety of clinical experiences through the Center for Communication Disorders on campus and the department's many affiliated practicum sites. Under the supervision of qualified University personnel and qualified on-site speech-language pathologists at affiliated practicum sites elsewhere, students have the opportunity to work with clients ranging in age across the lifespan with all types of communication disorders. The affiliated practicum sites vary, including hospitals, clinics, community agencies, and schools.

To be considered for admission, an applicant must meet the following minimal criteria:

1. a baccalaureate degree, from a regionally accredited university;
2. a minimum of 30 earned semester credits in specific communication sciences and disorders coursework prior to matriculation into the graduate program;
3. a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 from each post-secondary degree earned, and a minimum GPA of 3.25 in communication sciences and disorders coursework;
4. a grade of B or above in any graded practicum experience; and
5. submission of all required application materials prior to the application deadline.

These application materials include: application to the CSD department, university application with official undergraduate transcripts, three letters of recommendation and GRE scores.

The fact that a student has met the minimal criteria listed above does not guarantee admission to the program. Enrollment in the graduate program is limited to a maximum number of students determined annually by the program faculty. In recent years, the number of students admitted annually has been 18 to 25. Applications for admission are reviewed only once per year for each program.

UW-Eau Claire’s master’s program in CSD is offered in two modalities: residential and online. Both require successful completion of at least 54 CSD graduate credits.

Full-time residential MS program

Application materials for our full-time program are due January 1st every year and students begin the program in the fall. This program requires that each student complete the following academic courses in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the graduate level, unless equivalent courses have been taken previously:

Fifty-four required semester credits, including:

- Required Courses (Twenty-five credits):
  - CSD 648 Aphasia and Related Disorders 2
  - CSD 706 Language Assessment 3
  - CSD 715 Research in Communication Sciences and Disorders 2
  - CSD 716 Essential Applications for Graduate Studies in Communication Sciences and Disorders 1
  - CSD 725 Counseling in Communication Disorders 2
  - CSD 726 Organic Voice and Speech Disorders 3
  - CSD 729 Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Assistive Technology for Speech-Language Pathologists 3
  - CSD 732 Pediatric Dysphagia 1

- Clinical Practicum
  - Select six credits from the following: 6
    - CSD 769 Graduate Clinical Practicum
    - CSD 770 Clinical Practicum in Communication Disorders II
    - CSD 771 Clinical Practicum in Communication Disorders III

- Externships
  - Select two externships (12 credits combined), which may be located in schools and/or rehabilitation settings: 12
    - CSD 780 Externship in Communication Disorders-Educational Settings
    - CSD 781 Externship in Communication Sciences and Disorders---Non-School Setting

- Electives
  - Select at least four credits from the following: 4
    - CSD 731 Seminar: Child/Adolescent Language Intervention
    - CSD 732 Seminar: Child/Adult Speech Intervention
    - CSD 799 Thesis
Additional Electives from the above list or from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSD 521</td>
<td>Aural Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD 526</td>
<td>Voice and Resonance Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD 552</td>
<td>Fluency Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSD 558</td>
<td>Phonological Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSD 578</td>
<td>Introduction to Sign Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSD 610</td>
<td>Communication Changes and Disorders of the Older Adult</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSD 611</td>
<td>Facilitating Communication in Preschool Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD 640</td>
<td>Neurological Aspects of Communication &amp; Cognition</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSD 685</td>
<td>Serving Diverse Populations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSD 695</td>
<td>Directed Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSD 730</td>
<td>Seminar: Language Theories</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSD 749</td>
<td>Birth to 21 Methods in Communication Disorders 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSD 750</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Methods in Communication Disorders 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD 793</td>
<td>Seminar: Selected Topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSD 797</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Prior to the externship, the student must complete the methods course for that setting (CSD 749 and/or CSD 750).

In total, there are 18 required clinical practicum credits in the graduate program, including externships and practicum enrollments. The remaining credits in the graduate program may be from a list of designated elective courses shown above. Typical program duration encompasses four semesters and the summer session midway through the program. Students must enroll in a full-time schedule, unless special permission is granted by the Communication Sciences and Disorders graduate faculty to work toward the degree on a part-time basis. Students may elect either a thesis or non-thesis option. All students must successfully complete an oral comprehensive examination prior to graduation. Thesis students will complete an oral examination of their thesis.