

Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I = Information Item R = Respond In Writing

Course Number:

or Degree Plan(s):

ms:CSD Revise admission requirements.

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TEC	AUAC/Grad	Provost
	Campus-Level Academic Review¹						
	Change to a Course Include signatures from all chairs/program directors for cross-listed courses. ¹						
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I	I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I	I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I	I	I
4.	Content (change of course outcomes)	A	A	A	I	I	A
5.	Number of credit hours	A	A	A	A	A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I	I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A	A	A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I	I	I
9.	Course restriction (e.g., majors only, junior standing)	A	A	A	A	A	A
10.	Level change (U to G or G to U)	A	A	A	A	A	A
11.	Cross list course	A	A	A	A	A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A	A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A	A	A
	Change to a Degree Plan						
14.	Educational Program — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A
15.	Educational Program — Adopt/revise admission requirements	A	A	A	A	A	A
16.	GPA — Revise program-required GPA	A	A	A	A	A	A
17.	Minor — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TBC	AIAC/Grad	Provost	Campus Faculty	Senior VPAA	President
	Full Review									
	Change to Catalog Information (for Campus)									
18.	General requirements for Bachelor's and Associate Degrees	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
19.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
20.	Requirements for graduating with honors	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
	Change to a Degree Plan									
21.	Educational Program — Add or Discontinue ^{2 3}	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
22.	Educational Program — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I
23.	Minor — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
24.	Minor — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	-	A	I
25.	Degree — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
26.	Degree — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I

		Dept./School	College	Dean	AIAC	Provost	UGEC	University Faculty	Senior VPAA	President
	Change to General Education Requirements for Undergraduates (System)									
27.	Change course outcomes of an included course	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
28.	Add or drop a required course from the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	A	A	I
29.	Add or drop a course from a menu within the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	-	A	I
30.	Comprehensive revision of General Education Requirements	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I

Notes

² Any change to a cross-listed course requires the signature of both department chairs or program directors overseeing the course to ensure that the courses stay in sync. This includes courses taught at other campuses (e.g. BIBL 101 and BIBO 101).

³ For undergraduate majors, a minimum of 30 hours is required. These programs must have a minimum of 6 elective hours, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible. Master's programs must include a minimum of 30 hours, and doctoral programs must include a minimum of 30 hours beyond the master's.

⁴ When a department/school or dean proposes closing a program, approval routing follows the typical process beginning with the department/school. An administrative proposal by the provost or senior vice president for academic affairs would follow the "provost-proposed" routing on the chart.

Updated 8/1/2023

Brenda K Bender

Department/School(s)

D

Chair Signature

Date

Chair/Program Director Signature

Date

College Academic Council(s)

Sheila Jones
Sheila Jones (Nov 30, 2023 15:27 CST)

Nov 30, 2023

Chair Signature

Date

Chair Signature

Date

Dean(s)

[Signature]

Nov 30, 2023

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Teacher Education Council

Signature

Date

**Campus Academic Council:
Abilene Undergraduate or Abilene Graduate**

Signature

Date

Provost

Signature

Date

University General Education Council

Signature

Date

University Faculty

Abilene Faculty Senate Chair signature

Date

Dallas Faculty Council Chair signature

Date

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Signature

Date

President

Signature

Date

**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Request for Changes to Admission Requirements
MS-SLP degree**

Executive Summary

The CSD Department is requesting a revision to the admission requirements for the MS-SLP degree program; adding a 3-year course sequence/timeline for degree completion. The 3-year timeline is scheduled to be implemented by the Dallas location in Fall 2024. Distributing the degree requirements across the longer timeline provides an option for students who need reduced course loads to pursue graduate studies and manage other responsibilities such as supporting a family.

All degree requirements stay the same as the traditional 2-year course sequence/timeline: 52 credit hours, pass a comprehensive exam. Students in the 3-year course sequence will carry 7-10 credit hours in fall/spring semesters [with the exception of the final semester]; qualifying as full-time students and thereby financial aid. Students are required to complete coursework and clinic across 2 summers – 4-5 credit hours each summer. A comparison of the 2-year and 3-year course sequence is included as an appendix to this request; however, the department is not seeking approval of the course sequence, just approval of the admission criteria.

In review of the admission criteria, it was found that additional information needed to be updated and those revisions are included in this request. Below is the revised language for the MS-SLP admission criteria.

Graduate

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Professor

Denise Barnett, Associate Professor
Brenda Bender, Associate Professor*
Jennifer Binkley, Assistant Professor
Lory Chrane, Instructor
Brooke Clark, Instructor*
April Davis-Jones, Instructor*
Monica Garcia, Instructor
Michelle Peek, Assistant Professor*
Hollie Reese, College Assistant Professor
Dara Rodriguez, Instructor*
Ellen Shutt, Instructor*

*These instructors are primarily located in Dallas.

Introduction

Abilene Christian University's Communication Sciences and Disorders Department offers a Master of Science (MS) degree in Speech-Language Pathology. This is a 52-hour non-thesis program consisting of 44 hours of academic preparation and 8 hours of clinical practicum. Passing a comprehensive examination is required. A student may complete an approved research project in lieu of comprehensive examinations.

The Speech-Language Pathology graduate program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA).

The mission of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills for effective ministry to persons with communication, cognitive, and swallowing disorders from a Christ-centered perspective. Students and faculty are involved in the provision of diagnostic and treatment services to the community; research into the causes, prevention, and effects of communication disorders; and advocacy for persons with communication disabilities. The training program endeavors to produce speech-language pathologists with professional competency and conduct consistent with the highest national standards.

Abilene Christian University's MS degree in Speech-Language pathology is offered on both the Abilene and Dallas campuses. Classes at both campuses are offered in a traditional face-to-face format. The Applicant will complete an application for their campus preference in the CSDCAS portal.

The Abilene campus presents the course work in a traditional 2-year sequence/timeline. Enrollment is limited to applicants who are full-time students. A Bilingual Emphasis Program is also available on the Abilene campus for students who already have advanced proficiency in a second language. This program will enable them to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary

to practice as bilingual speech-language pathologists and includes focused coursework, clinical experiences, and mentoring by a licensed bilingual speech-language pathologist.

The Dallas campus presents the course work in a traditional 2-year sequence/timeline as well as a 3-year sequence/timeline. Applicants interested in intensive coursework and clinical training should apply for the 2-year course sequence. Students complete 12-15 credit hours each long semester which includes a community based clinical rotation. Applicants wanting to pursue a graduate degree but needing to work 20 hours per week or more (full-time employees) should apply for the 3-year course sequence. Students in this course sequence will carry 7-10 credit hours in fall and spring semesters [with the exception of the final semester]. Students are required to complete coursework and clinic across 2 summers – 4-5 credit hours each summer. Students on the 3 year sequence are required to complete 2 full-time clinical rotations of 8-10 weeks in length . A leave of absence from work may be necessary to meet clinical training requirements. Students on the 3-year sequence are considered full-time students per the university catalog even though they are taking fewer credit hours per semester than 2-year sequence students.

Admission Requirements

Enrollment for the 2-year course sequence is limited to applicants who will be full-time students. Applicants who need to work 20 or more hours per week and who are interested in pursuing a graduate degree in speech-language pathology should apply for the 3-year course sequence/timeline.

The admission requirements for the MS program in Speech-Language Pathology are:

- A completed application through CSDCAS and a completed ACU application for admission with a nonrefundable application fee.
- An official transcript(s) in English (or translated to English) of all previous colleges attended. The transcript must indicate an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university or equivalent.
- A cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Three letters of recommendation:
 - At least two of the recommendations must come from professors/faculty in the field and relate to the applicant's potential academic success.
 - Applicants who have worked in a full-time capacity may utilize their supervisor for one of these recommendations.
 - CSDCAS will also provide a rating scale.
- Complete a 300-500 word personal essay (prompt in the CSDCAS application)
- A current resume that includes information regarding: college education and activities to date, employment to date, and community/church involvement. High school activities should not be included.

- A two-year commitment is required from applicants accepted in the 2 year course sequence/timeline. A three-year commitment is required from applicants accepted in the 3 year course sequence/timeline.
- All application materials must be received by CSDCAS the preceding February 1 for the fall semester. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. An application is considered incomplete if any of the required elements have not been received by CSDCAS.

Only completed applications, verified by CSDCAS, will be reviewed by the CSD faculty. A personal interview will be required. Additional information regarding the nature of the interview will be provided when an interview is scheduled.

The Communication Sciences and Disorders Admissions Committee makes holistic judgments based on the evaluation of an applicant's ability and readiness for graduate work. The Committee may recommend probationary admission for an applicant who does not meet all admission criteria but is deemed to have the potential for success and contribution to the program mission.

APPENDIX A: Course Sequence

MS SLP – Residential degree
sequence/timelines

Year/ Semester	2 year residential Course sequence	3 year residential Course sequence	3 year Clinic sequence Plan for students working as SLP-A in school setting
YEAR 1 Fall 1	CSD 601 - SSD CSD 610 - Lang Disord School age CSD 659 Diagnostics CSD 620 Research Methods CSD 693 Clinical practicum [screening & evaluation] 13 credit hours	CSD 611 Lang Disord Early childhood CSD 659 Diagnostics CSD 620 Research Methods CSD 693 Clinical practicum (1) 10 credit hours	SLP-A site – 1 days/week in role as Grad Student Focus is Evaluations. SimuCase as assigned. See notes at end of document Clinic – screenings and evals
Spring 1 Semester 2	CSD 607 AAC CSD 611 Lang Disord Early childhood CSD 613 Dysphagia & related disorders CSD 614 Cognitive/Comm Disorders CSD 623 Autism Spectrum Disorders CSD 693 Clinical practicum [public schools] 15 credit hours	CSD 601 - SSD CSD 610 - Lang Disord School age CSD 693 Clinical practicum (1) 7 credit hours	SLP-A 2 days/week in role as Grad Student Focus is Evaluations, re-evals, ARDs, parent conferences, Initiating treatment for new students, etc. See notes at end of document
Summer 1 Semester 3	CSD 603 Motor Speech Disorders CSD 693 Clinical practicum [Medical setting, adult or ped; can be out of area] 4 credit hours	CSD 607 AAC (2) CSD 623 ASD (2) [Summer courses online] CSD 693 Clinical practicum (1) 5 credit hours	Full-time, pediatric placement – outpatient clinic – home health
TOTALS - year 1	32 credit hours [32 of 52 credit hrs]	22 credit hours [22 of 52 credit hrs]	

The residential 3-year course sequence/timeline is intended to facilitate students who need to work more than 20 hours per week while attending classes and completing clinical requirements. The course sequence remains a lock-step program where students are expected to take courses in the sequence outlined below:

YEAR 2 Fall 2 Semester 4	CSD 602 Aphasia CSD 604 Voice Disorders CSD 661 Special Problems CSD 694 Adv. Clinical practicum [Medical setting, adult or ped]] 11 credit hours	CSD 613 Dysphagia (4) CSD 661 Spec Prob [hybrid] CSD 694 Adv. Clinical practicum (1) 8 credit hours	Clinic – IPE/IPP in dysphagia, FEES, etc. SimuCase for adult evaluation
Spring 2 Semester 5	CSD 608 Multicultural Issues CSD 670 Professional Issues CSD 694 Adv. Clinical practicum [Final placement; can be out of area] 9 credit hours + comp examination May Graduation	CSD 614 - Cog/Comm CSD 603 - Motor Speech CSD 694 Adv. Clinical practicum (1) 7 credit hours	Cont. gaining clock hours at SLP-A site 2 days/week SimuCase for adult evaluation/treatment Teletherapy [after hours]
Summer 2 Semester 6		CSD 608 - Multicultural [online] CSD 694 Adv. Clinical practicum (1) 4 credit hours	Full-time adult placement SNF, out-patient clinics
Year 2 TOTALS - Program	20 credit hours [52 of 52 credit hrs]	19 credit hours [41 of 52 credit hrs]	
YEAR 3 Fall 3 Semester 7		CSD 604 (3) - Voice CSD 602 (3) - Aphasia CSD 694 Adv. Clinical practicum (1) <i>[postpone to Summer 3 if 3rd f/t rotation needed]</i> 6 or 7 credit hours	Clinic – voice lab [endoscopy, pt intake, etc.] Teletherapy for LSVT

Spring 3 Semester 8	CSD 670 (3) - Prof Issues CSD 694 Adv. Clinical practicum (1) 4 credit hours + comprehensive exam May Graduation	SLP-A 2/days per week
Summer 3	CSD 694 Adv. Clinical practicum (1) [credit hour postponed from Yr 3-Fall3] Optional based on clinical rotations/clock hour totals December Graduation	3rd full time clinical placement; Repeat population/site, Eligible for acute care rotation or out-of-region, international
Year 3 TOTAL S Program	11 credit hours [52 of 52 credit hrs]	

Notes –

1. All students must have prerequisite courses as specified by ASHA Certification Standard IV-A: biological science, physics or chemistry science, statistics, social science, speech science. ACU requires audiology and aural rehabilitation as prerequisite courses.
2. 2-year sequence students can move to a 3 year sequence; but 3 year students cannot move to 2 year sequence.
3. 3-year sequence requires 2 full-time clinical placements, scheduled for the summer. A 3rd full-time clinical placement is expected but not required.
4. Annual agreement between student, program, employer for entering the program and using the employment site as a rolling clinical placement for clinic 2 days/week – specifically spring semesters..
5. A clinical plan would be established in the first semester with clinical rotation expectations – updated each semester and adjusted as needed [e.g., if student's employment changes and additional clinical opportunities are possible].