

Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

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

Course Number: _____ **or Degree Plan(s):** MSSLP

The program MSSLP wishes to add "A grade of "C" or better in all CSD coursework and in all ASHA required courses (biological science, physical science, social/behavioral science, statistics)." to our admissions requirements.

Note. The removal of the GRE requirement was approved by the Councils last year but was not removed from the catalog. It is included in this catalog change.

All other catalog changes reflect only an addition of the online component to the MSSLP degree plan.

		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	TEC	AUAC/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	AUAC	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

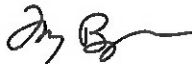
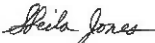
Notes

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

	Department/School(s)	April 16, 2025
Chair Signature		Date
Chair/Program Director Signature		Date
	College Academic Council(s)	
		04/29/2025
Chair Signature		Date
Chair Signature		Date
	Dean(s)	
		04/30/2025
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

Graduate

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 Master of Science (M.S.) education program in speech-language pathology residential and satellite location at Abilene Christian University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.~~

The Master in Science (MS) education program in speech-language pathology {residential, satellite location, and distance education} at Abilene Christian University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

The mission of the Communication Sciences and Disorders department 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 program is also offered via online distance education, where the student can complete coursework and clinical experiences in their current location. Students enrolling in the online modality will be required to complete several residencies requiring travel to the Dallas campus. The applicant will complete an application for their campus preference in the CSDCAS application.

Abilene Residential

The Abilene campus presents the coursework 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.

Dallas Residential

The Dallas campus presents the coursework 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 clinical rotations across 2 summers, taking 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.

Online

Expected length for completion of the online program of study is six up to nine semesters. A minimum of four residencies are required. Clinical practicum will be completed through multiple avenues. These may include therapy provision in the student's locality, simulated therapy, telehealth therapy, and short residency requirements. Online students must complete two full-time clinical rotations of 8-10 weeks in length. A leave of absence from work may be necessary to meet the clinical training requirements.

Additional program information and policies are found in the program handbook.

Admission Requirements

Enrollment for the 2-year course sequence is limited to applicants who will be full-time students. Students who expect to complete a degree within two years may enroll for the two-year course sequence (residential or online). 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 or the online option.

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

1. A completed application through CSDCAS and a completed ACU application for admission with a nonrefundable application fee.
2. 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.
3. A cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

- ~~4. A minimum GRE score of 288 (combined verbal and quantitative).~~
- ~~4. A grade of "C" or better in all CSD coursework and in all ASHA required courses (biological science, physical science, social/behavioral science, statistics).~~
5. 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.
6. Complete a 300-500 word personal essay (prompt in the CSDCAS application).
7. A current resume that includes information regarding: college education and activities to date, employment to date, and university, community and/or church involvement. High school activities should not be included.
8. A two-year commitment is required from all applicants accepted in the residential 2-year course sequence/timeline. A three-year commitment is required from applicants accepted in the 3-year course sequence/timeline. Online students may choose either a two-year or three-year sequence of study. For the online program of study, it is expected the student complete degree requirements in no more than nine semesters. For certification, ASHA requires at least 400 clock hours of therapy. These hours must be completed prior to graduation.
9. All application materials must be received by CSDCAS the preceding February 1 for the fall semester. The application portal opens on July 15 each year. Applications received and verified by CSDCAS will be reviewed with an admission decision within seven weeks of verification and submitted letters of recommendation. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. An application is considered incomplete if any of the required elements have not been received by CSDCAS.

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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.